



North Stonington Public Schools

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Peter L. Nero
Superintendent of Schools

Deborah Martin
Business Manager

January 5, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In anticipation of a possible weather event, it is never an easy decision to delay, cancel or dismiss students early due to inclement weather. Over the last few years, we have experienced some difficult winters. In the past, we have had a couple of “super storms” such as Sandy and the winter snowstorm, Nemo. Those types of storms can affect communications to our staff and families.

When the decision is made to delay, cancel or dismiss students early, it is done after careful consideration. Many times significant storms are tracked for days prior, by the State of Connecticut and the Connecticut Department of Education (CSDE). They provide regular updates to superintendents. We also work very closely with the town’s Emergency Management Director and the Director of Public Works. While only a superintendent can cancel a district’s school day, (except when the Governor declares a state of emergency as he did by Executive Order for COVID-19) we always take the state and town advisement under serious consideration when discussing canceling school.

When the decision to cancel, delay or dismiss students early in the day is made, a chain of command is followed. We will begin a series of messaging to our families and staff utilizing our voice messaging service, PowerAnnouncement. We also provide information to our local media outlets (TV and radio). The electronic media offer instant text messaging that families can take advantage of by simply signing up at their websites. As superintendent, I am not immune to the same weather conditions that you experience. When my power is lost to my home, even with generated power, I lose the availability to access the internet and sometimes cell communications. If power and phone lines are down or if cell towers lose generator power for any significant length of time, we will do our best to communicate with you.

Per the CSDE, we are not allowed to use a “virtual day” when school is canceled for inclement weather. All cancelled days must be made-up prior to June 30th.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy winter season,

Sincerely,

Peter L. Nero
Superintendent of Schools