



TWINSBURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

11136 Ravenna Road • Twinsburg OH 44087-1022
Phone 330.486.2000 • Fax 330.425.7216

Kathryn M. Powers
Superintendent

Martin H. Aho
Treasurer

Chad C. Welker
Business Manager

Jennifer C. Farthing
Director of Curriculum

Tajuana Hunnicutt
Director of Pupil Services

Tim Sullen
Director of Human Resources

Andrea C. Walker
Director of Student Wellness

November 29, 2020

Dear Twinsburg Schools Family:

I hope your Thanksgiving holiday was nice. The purpose for this letter today is twofold. First, to report the COVID positive cases our District had over the long weekend and to provide you with important information regarding the District's response to inclement weather.

This weekend, the following individuals tested positive for COVID-19:

- One (1) On-Campus 1st grader; and
- One (1) certificated member of the staff who is assigned to the campus of Twinsburg High School (grades 2 – 3).

If your son/daughter or a member of our staff was in close contact with the student or staff members who tested positive for COVID-19, meaning having contact for fifteen (15) or more minutes at a distance of less than six (6) feet, you would have already received another notice with additional information.

As you probably already know, local meteorologists are forecasting snowy weather in the coming week. I'd like to take this opportunity to update you regarding our District's response in times of inclement weather. Our District administration, faculty, and staff understand that the decision to open or close our schools during inclement weather has a big effect on families. We also understand that our students are better served – both academically and socially – by being in school, whether that means on-campus or virtually. But, as always, our top priority is the safety of our students and our staff members.

HOW DO WE MAKE OUR DECISION?

Please understand that we make the decision to open or close the schools in bad weather based on a careful analysis of many relevant factors, which include:

- Information on road conditions from our transportation staff and from local law enforcement and road crews. We must give careful consideration to the most dangerous roads in the District; they can be treacherous even if your street looks clear;
- Amount of snow and ice accumulated;
- Whether precipitation will continue throughout the day;
- Temperature and wind chill. Wind chills during key walking and waiting for bus times are given special consideration;
- Weather predictions from both national and local sources;
- The timing of the storm;
- Building conditions including electricity and heat; and
- Parking lot conditions.

WHEN IS THE DECISION MADE?

We strive to make the decision to close or to delay the start of the school day by 5:30 a.m. or earlier so we can notify our families and the radio and TV stations. This is not an exact science so please keep in mind that unusual weather conditions may force us to make the decision after this time. Please stay tuned to the media and communication outlets.



WHAT ABOUT A TWO-HOUR DELAY?

A delay is called if we believe that conditions may clear enough for us to have school. Parents/guardians should continue to monitor TV and radio stations because the possibility remains that if the conditions do not improve, school may be cancelled for the day. In the event that the decision is made to delay the start of school by two (2) hours, bus schedules will be adjusted by two (2) hours and the schools will begin two (2) hours after their regularly scheduled start times. The school day will normally end at the regularly scheduled time. Morning bus service to the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center (CVCC) and morning preschool classes will be cancelled and private school transportation will also be on a two (2) hour delay schedule. A two-hour delay is in effect for our on-campus students as well as for our Twinsburg Virtual Academy students as the majority of our teachers teach from our campuses and require the additional time to safely report to work.

WILL WE CLOSE SCHOOL IF CONDITIONS WORSEN?

Once I make the decision to open the schools, many parents rely on that decision and leave for work. If we were to send students right back home, many would return to unsupervised bus stops and empty houses. Therefore, we will not reverse our decision once it was determined that school will be in session.

Although my staff and I do our absolute best in this process, we must make the decision to close or to delay school based upon the factors noted above which can change at a moment's notice. If you do not feel that it is safe for your child to go to school, use your best judgment in deciding whether or not he or she should attend. If you choose to keep your child at home, his/her absence will be counted as an excused absence if you inform the school office that the reason for your child's absence is the inclement weather. Also, please discourage teenagers from driving in bad conditions and offer them alternatives as weather conditions worsen.

WILL STUDENTS LEARN REMOTELY FROM HOME WHEN SCHOOL IS CANCELED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER?

Per the negotiated agreement with the Twinsburg Education Association, our teachers do not report to work for the first five (5) weather-related calamity days. Therefore, our on-campus students and our Virtual Academy students will not have classes for the first five (5) calamity days. Information regarding calamity day #6 and beyond will be forthcoming.

HOW DO WE NOTIFY OUR FAMILIES?

The Twinsburg City School District will post information about a delay or a closing on our website at: www.twinsburg.k12.oh.us. I also send a Blackboard Connect telephone call as well as an e-mail notification to our families and staff members. Please contact your child's principal if you need to update your contact information so you receive the most up-to-date information regarding school closings and delays. Additionally, information about a school delay or closing is sent to local media outlets.

Thank you for the privilege of educating your children. We will continue to utilize school delays or closings with the students' best interests and safety in mind.

Have a great week,
Kathi Powers
Superintendent

