

## **Winter Weather Information**

No matter how much I hope we don't, I think that we are going to have severe weather this winter. Based on the assumption that cold temperatures, high winds and heavy snow will come eventually this school year, I want to assure everyone that Cedar Mountain Schools are ready to respond, as needed, when severe weather occurs.

When the weather turns bad, we consider several factors to determine whether to keep schools open, delay school openings, close schools for a day or close schools early. Road conditions are checked, and the temperature and wind chill is monitored closely. I also check weather radar and listen closely to forecasts for our area. If a decision is made to cancel school or adjust the school schedule, I begin to call radio and television stations with that information. Please do not call the radio or television stations, as this tie up their phone lines. Some weather conditions, such as fog, are harder to react to, and the District respects parental decisions if you would choose to keep your child home until the conditions improve.

We live in Minnesota, which is famous for extremes in weather. I believe that we need to have school on days when the weather is not always ideal. If a parent or guardian feels it is unsafe to send their child to school, the school will respect that decision. You need to do what you feel is best for your child.

Listed below are the general procedures we follow at Cedar Mountain:

### **PROCEDURES FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER**

1. All school closings, delayed starting times, and early dismissals will be announced on KLGR-AM 1490, FM 97.7; KNUJ-AM 860; WCCO-AM 830, WCCO-4 TV; KARE-11 TV and KSTP-5 TV. They are also communicated through the Instant Alert system and on the district website at: <http://www.cms.mntm.org/>. Parents and pupils are urged to listen to one of these stations daily, but especially when the weather is inclement. Normally these stations will be notified of the closing of schools as soon after 6 a.m. as possible. Hearing no announcement, parents and students should assume that the schools will be in session.

2. There are also times when schools are closed earlier than the regular time. If an adult will not be at home, arrangements should be made so that young children have an appropriate place to go. Please make sure that all Snow Emergency Forms have been completed and returned to the principal's office at your child's school.

3. All school activities will not be held when school is closed due to inclement weather.

4. All after-school activities will be canceled when school is dismissed early because of inclement weather.

5. In case of a late start, breakfast will not be served that day.

### **Winter Busing Procedure**

Winters can be very difficult due to snow, wind, and generally crummy weather. In the past, special procedures were put in place regarding bus transportation. I want to review these procedures, as we will follow them again this year.

We have always looked at transportation in terms of safety and we won't take buses on roads that have not been plowed. We will again be following a very strict "plowed roads only" policy for this school year. If you live on a rural road, I ask that you think about an alternate pick up or drop off point for your child in the event we are not able to travel on your road. An example of an alternate pick up or drop off point would be the nearest current stop on a plowed road. If you have questions, I encourage you to contact Cedar Mountain Bus Service at 249-3136. They can work with you to find an appropriate alternate stop. We cannot risk a bus becoming stuck on an unplowed road.

Our goal is to get students to school each day safely. We hope that the weather and road conditions are not a problem this year. But I believe it is best for everyone if we "prepare for the worst and hope for the best".

### **Upcoming Events**

Here are some upcoming events at Cedar Mountain:

- Oct. 25-28 – National FFA Convention
- Nov. 3 - End of the First Quarter
- Nov. 10 & 11 – School Play "Tune In to Murder"
- Nov. 5 – Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Nov. 9 – Student Flu Shots (see web page)