

*Springboro Community Schools
1685 S. Main Street
Springboro, OH 45066
937.748.3960*

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Calling Off School Seldom An Easy Decision, Baker Says

SPRINGBORO, Ohio – Rarely do students in the Springboro Community School District get three consecutive days off school for inclement weather, but this week proved it can happen.

When Monday's Artic air hit, wind chills were approaching 20 degrees below zero. None of us had time to get acclimated to the colder weather. When it hit, it did so in a big way. It was a difficult decision to call off school, but knowing we have children who have to wait for the school bus made that decision easier. We didn't want them standing out in the cold.

(We hope you are signed up for the District Newsletter and received the updates on when school would be closed due to inclement weather through your emails. Our website also was immediately updated at www.springboro.org.)

Tuesday's decision was easier. Not only did we have sub-zero wind chills, but the forecast called for snow. If you will recall, the weather experts upgraded the forecast from a winter weather advisory to a winter weather warning Monday evening. That meant we were definitely going to get heavy amounts of snow Tuesday.

It has always been Springboro Community School District's thought process to err on the side of safety. If it is a situation where we may or may not have school, based on a weather situation, we think of the worst possible scenarios before a decision is made.

Obviously, we want students in their seats at school, but not at the cost of someone getting hurt.

Wednesday, we were all still digging out of the previous day's snowstorm, so school was called off throughout Southwest and Central Ohio. Many of our parents reported measuring 9 inches of snow in their yards, despite the 5-inch official count by the local weather experts.

Thursday, Feb. 8, we faced cold temperatures again. However, the wind chill did not get down to -20 as it did Monday and Tuesday. Most reports had the wind chill

around -10. Still extremely cold, but after a few days of dealing with the cold, we felt we could still hold school successfully. We were right.

It's not a perfect system, but it is one we take very seriously as we have almost 5,100 students and 500 staff members to think about. We received a few phone calls Thursday morning (less than 10), and it was evenly split. Some parents felt we should have remained closed on Thursday, while others were glad that we started school back up. I can tell you from the visits I made to the schools on Thursday and Friday that our staff and students seemed glad to be back at work. A break is always welcome, but with only four months of school remaining, there is much work to be done.

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