

*Springboro Community Schools
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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Plan Now For Future Delays/Closings

SPRINGBORO, Ohio – Did you know that the *Farmers Almanac* is calling for our first hard frost Oct. 20-23? With almost 90-degree weather again last weekend, it is hard to believe that inclement weather time is just around the corner, but it will be here before we know it.

Daylight savings time will be on hiatus beginning Sunday, Nov. 4. This is different than years past, when daylight savings time would end the last Sunday in October. Already, our high school, junior high and Springboro Intermediate School students are arriving at school in the dark, so the added morning sunlight will make for safer conditions.

Now is the time to be making plans for how you are going to delay with two-hour delays, early releases, and yes, school closure days. Students recently brought home a School Closing Information flyer that spelled out how decisions are made, the best way to find out if school is delayed/closed, etc.

Invariably, we get “second guessed” anytime we delay or close school – or don’t delay or close school – by parents and others who disagree with our decisions. I know it can be frustrating when you don’t understand the process, so I thought I would share that with readers today.

First, let me start by sharing the best and worst case scenarios. The “best case” is when it snows so much the night before that we know there is no way we can get our buses out, get parking lots cleared off, or otherwise make it safe for children to attend school. We can call school off the night before, and everyone knows before their heads hit their pillows what “the plan” is for the next day.

The “worst case” scenario has happened several times over the past few years. The conditions are clear and our secondary buses go out about 6 a.m. to begin picking up students. Sometime around 7-7:15, a light ice storm or snow begins to fall, making the roads slippery for students driving to school or for parents dropping their students off at the high school, junior high or intermediate school.

Immediately, we have called for a two-hour delay for elementary students to give salt trucks the opportunity to make the roads safer for the elementary bus runs. Last December, this delay turned into a school closing for elementary students because of the severity of the weather between 7-9 a.m.

While our secondary students (and staff members!) were not happy they did not get the day off, it would have been irresponsible to call off school at the high school, junior high and intermediate school at that point, and put students and bus drivers back on the treacherous roads.

Hopefully, we won't have any of the "worst case" scenarios on our hands this winter, but I did want you to understand the decision-making process. Here are factors we look at when deciding whether to delay/close school.

- Information on road conditions from our transportation staff and police. We must give careful consideration to the most dangerous roads in our school district. Even if your street looks clear, travel elsewhere in the district may be dangerous. Also, we must consider that many high school students drive to school.

- Amount of ice and snow accumulated.

- Whether precipitation is continuing.

- Parking lot conditions.

- Temperature and wind chill.

- Building conditions (such as whether we have electricity and heat).

- Weather predictions. We prefer not making our decisions based on weather predictions, which are not always accurate, but sometimes, this is unavoidable. Many times, it appears that a huge storm is coming our way, and then it bounces north or south of Springboro, and we hardly get a flurry. We do carefully monitor the weather radar, however, and if it appears a storm is coming, we may delay school to see if it does move north or south of our community.

- What other school districts are doing. We share information with other local districts and check whether they are delayed, open or closed.

The quickest way – as always! – to find out whether school is delayed or closed is to sign up for the District Newsletter at www.springboro.org. We email everyone on our list the latest delay or closing information.

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