

Winter Weather Procedures

While we certainly hope that this winter will not bring the historic snowfall of last year, the fact that we live in Idaho means there is a possibility of severe conditions. I would like to share the process we follow in our district, as well as information that might be helpful to parents/guardians.

When there is heavy snowfall—or other potentially disruptive weather conditions—we begin driving and checking roads in the district at approximately 4:00 am to determine if buses will be able to run safely. Conditions can be affected by a variety of variables—terrain, temperature, current weather, amount of snow, moisture level of snow, etc. We also determine if some routes will require tire chains, and chain up the buses used on those routes. After gathering as much information as possible, if it is determined that roads are sufficient for the buses to run, school is held. If it will be hazardous for buses to run, a school closure is announced. Every effort will be made to announce closures by 6:00 am so that the local media can publicize the information in time for parents to plan accordingly. If school activities are scheduled later in the day or evening, the determination will be made later, so that current conditions can be considered.

The best way to receive school closure information immediately is to be signed up for our district's voice/text messenger service. Many of you have already signed up for this service and received weather closure messages last year or lunch charge notifications this year. If you signed up in the past, you are still in the system and do not need to sign up again. If you have not signed up, please email parentportal@fruitlandschools.org to request information on registering for the notification system.

To check for school closures, you may also check the following sources:

Channel 7 KTVB

Channel 6 KIVI

Channel 2 KBOI

Radio—KBOI 670 AM

Our highest priority is student and staff safety. If you determine that your child is unable to attend school because of road conditions in your specific area, please call and notify the student's school office. If you determine that your high school student should not drive because of challenging conditions, you may want to have the student ride the school bus on that day. If your high school student has driven to school, but you determine that it is not safe for him/her to drive home, you may pick up your student or you may call and tell your student to ride the bus home, leaving the vehicle in the school parking lot. If your student typically leaves campus for lunch, you may instruct your student to eat lunch in the school lunchroom that day.

Please call or email me if you have any questions or concerns regarding weather closures. Thank you very much.

Teresa Fabricius, Superintendent

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