



ADDISON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

219 Comstock • Addison, MI 49220

The mission of Addison Community Schools is to provide a well-balanced curriculum and learning environment, supplemented by enriching experiences in order for all learners to be successful.

Letter to Students, Staff and Community,

As Addison Community Schools prepares for winter weather, it is important for students, parents and community to know that my decision to open or close schools in bad weather has a big impact on families. Student and staff safety is always an important consideration as the winter season approaches. It is also important to understand that educating our students is also important. As such, it is important to remind students, staff and community that inclement weather may lead to school delays, closures, and early releases during the upcoming winter months.

During weather watches or warnings, I work closely with local county road department/townships, the transportation supervisor, and neighboring school districts to monitor conditions and make decisions about the start, close or early release of students. Often, I must make the decision prior to 5:30 AM or earlier in order to notify bus drivers, radio, TV stations, and post the decision on our website and alert now messaging system.

It is important to understand that decisions about delayed starts, school closures, and early releases are made with the best of intents. It is possible that a decision to delay start of school, close school or release students/staff early is made and suddenly the weather conditions improve. Conversely, there may be times when school is not delayed or closed only to see weather conditions worsen.

It is also important that your child's school has your current emergency contact information, including home, work and emergency phone numbers as well as email addresses. Please take time to update your information by contacting your student's school office staff.

The school community is notified of School delays, school closures, and early releases by:

- Alert message (sent to the parent/guardian phone numbers registered in eSchool).
- Internet (www.addisonschools.k12.mi.us), school website, and on Facebook
- Television Stations WILX Channel 10, WTVG Toledo, WTOL 11 and WLNS-Lansing/Jackson.
- Local Radio WABJ 1490 AM, WLEN 103.9, WCSR 92.1.

School delays are typically for two hours (defined as two hours later than the time students are normally picked up by bus or dropped off at school by parents/guardians.) A two-hour delay gives snow/ice a chance to melt as well as gives maintenance and road crews time to clear school sidewalks and parking lots.

School closures are necessary when inclement weather creates a daylong concern for students and staff safety. In contrast, early releases – typically 12:00 PM when the Tech Center Students are back and drivers are ready for their runs. Early release could be called sooner should weather conditions warrant the need to send students and staff home early.

My decision to change the start, close or early release of schools is based on a number of factors, such as:

- Information on road conditions from the transportation supervisor and county road departments. Careful consideration to the most dangerous roads is made. Even if your street looks clear, travel elsewhere in the district may be quite dangerous.
- Amount of snow and ice accumulated
- Whether all buildings have electricity and heat
- Whether parking lots and sidewalks are cleared and treated for snow/ice
- Temperature and wind chill is also considered
- Weather predictions, which are not always accurate. But sometimes this is unavoidable.

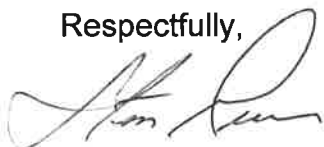
Keep in mind that, even if weather conditions worsen, it is sometimes difficult to reverse my decision without endangering students. Once a decision is made to open school, many parents rely on it and leave for work. If we then send students right back home, many will return to unsupervised bus stops and empty houses. If conditions worsen during the school day, an early release may be called; but adequate notice will be provided to parents/guardians.

Although I do my absolute best in this process, I know that often no perfect decision exists. If, based on current weather conditions, parents/guardians do not feel as though it is safe for your child to attend school, use your best judgment on whether your student(s) should attend. Please discourage teenagers from driving in bad conditions and offer them alternatives if weather conditions worsen.

If conditions in the afternoon are such that parents/guardians wish to go to school and pick up their children, you may do so. The principal will release the children to parents/guardians, and the absence will be excused.

If you have questions or comments, please call me at the Superintendent Office (517) 547-6900 or email guerras@addison.k12.mi.us.

Respectfully,



Steven Guerra
Superintendent