

Thunder Mountain Elementary

Diane Carver
Principal

October 31, 2014

Dear District 51 Parents:

It is once again time to prepare for hazardous weather conditions. In the months that follow, Mesa County Valley Schools may need to delay, close, or dismiss school early due to weather conditions. Please keep a watchful eye on weather conditions throughout the winter and dress students warmly and in anticipation of conditions that may change rapidly. Buses may run slower than normal, extending the time students are in cold weather.

Notification

A variety of communications will go out as a way to increase the likelihood of reaching the entire community about changes to our normal operating schedule, including those that are not weather related. We will only notify of changes; operations are normal if no notification is made. Our goal is to make decisions about closures or delayed starts by 5:00 AM, and decisions to dismiss early by noon.

Please bookmark our website, <http://www.d51schools.org>, this is the first place an announcement will appear. Also, follow us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/schooldistrict51>, this is the second place an announcement will appear. Following these updates, we will notify the primary television and radio news stations in the valley.

Transportation

Unless otherwise stated, regular bus routes will operate during delayed starts and early dismissals. Simply adjust time expectations by the time of the delay or dismissal. During an early dismissal, please be prompt in picking up your child if you provide transportation. The decision to dismiss early is based on the expectation that road conditions will deteriorate, and we want to ensure everyone gets home safely.

Parent Options

Safety is our primary concern. During hazardous weather, parents are expected to use their best judgment in traveling and have the latitude to keep their children home even if school is open. Please notify the attendance office at your child's school to make them aware of the absence and have it excused.

Contingency Plans

Now is the best time to develop advance arrangements for your child's supervision in the event of a closure or disruption in our normal schedule. It is essential that we have up-to-date emergency contact information on file, so please update that information now if it has changed. Also, consider if you need to update your list of adults who are permitted to pick up your child. We cannot release children to anyone not approved.

During a closure or interruption, we have to contact many people in a very short period of time. Fielding incoming calls at this same time delays notification, so please refrain from calling the school, but rather check the website or listen to local media outlets. The moment a decision is made, the website and Facebook account are updated.

For many, this is the most beautiful and enjoyable time of the year in our Grand Valley. With your awareness and help, we can keep it a safe and stress-free time for the children of Mesa County.

Sincerely,
Diane Carver
Principal