

Chalk Talk

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I have heard you know it is going to be a long winter when you have to cancel school before winter break. Well, what does it mean when you have to cancel before opening day of gun season? The mice barely had enough time to build a nest in my snow blower in the shed!

Last year's winter brought weather extremes of all sorts that lead to the cancellation of 12 school days. With all of that practice from last year, I am confident that everyone knows the process for how school is cancelled. For those that may not know or are new to this, I thought I would provide a little reminder.

Please know that our first consideration in a school cancellation, as in all matters, is student safety. In addition to driving the roads, we communicate with surrounding school districts, the road commission, and check predicted the weather to make an informed decision. We try to make the decision by 5:30 am. We have multiple ways to communicate school cancellations. In addition to communicating school closings using SchoolMessenger, the information is posted on the school website (www.montroseschools.org), television stations, radio broadcasts, and some social media websites.

The decision to cancel school is always a difficult decision and one that is taken very seriously. The safety of our students, staff, and community is what drives this decision. As always, the parent makes the final determination if they feel comfortable sending their child to school in inclement weather conditions.

While the November snow was an unexpected change, one change we know that is coming to Montrose Community Schools next year is the transition of 4th grade students to Kuehn-Haven Middle School and 8th grade students to Hill-McCloy High School. This is triggered by our enrollment, which has steadily increased over the last few years which is a testament to the incredible things going on district wide.

This transition will offer the students of Montrose Community Schools a design that better utilizes its space, resources, and people. To accomplish that goal, the school district is creating a plan that moves 4th grade back to Kuehn-Haven Middle School and 8th grade to Hill-McCloy High School. By doing this, we intend to offer more balance, support and opportunities for all of our students.

This is an incredibly exciting time! Each building will have the opportunity to offer their students programming and supports they never have been able to offer. There is much work to do, and I am inviting all stakeholders to participate in our building level planning meetings. These meetings will be integral in making sure we are prepared for our students to be most successful. If you would like to participate in this, please contact the building principal of the meeting you would like to attend. The dates are listed below

Carter Elementary School Carter Library 3:20-4:20 Grades K-3 in 2020-21 School Year	Kuehn-Haven Middle School KHMS Media Center 4:30-5:30 Grades 4-7 in 2020-21 School Year	Hill-McCloy High School HMHS Media Center 3:15-4:15 Grades 8-12 in 2020-21 School Year
Monday, February 3, 2020	Wednesday, January 15, 2020	Thursday, January 16, 2020
Monday, April 13, 2020	Wednesday, March 18, 2020	Tuesday, March 17, 2020
Monday, June 1, 2020	Wednesday, April 15, 2020	Thursday, April 16, 2020

If you can't find the time to attend a building level meeting, consider coming to the district level meetings which are on February 24th at 3:30 and 5:30 in the KHMS Library and April 27th at 3:30 and 5:30 in the Carter Elementary Library.

Go Rams!

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Superintendent

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