



Weekly Hot News

News and events highlights for the Hillsboro School District
For more details and additional information, please visit www.hsd.k12.or.us



Week of November 25, 2013

Because we only have two days of school this week—Monday and Tuesday—we gave the schools a week off from *Hot News* entries. But we do have some district-level news to share with you, so please read on!

RESOURCES AND PROCEDURES FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

With the approach of the holiday season and the promise of time off from school, also comes the unknown of when a bad weather system might move through our area.

Because the Hillsboro School District encompasses such a broad area—more than 200 square miles to be exact!—we go on alert when the forecast calls for snow, ice, or freezing rain below 1,500 feet.

Most days, we can hold school on time, as scheduled, simply by having our school buses drive snow routes as needed in the higher elevations. Other times, we may need to delay the start of school by two hours to allow the weather situation to improve, or we may need to close school altogether because conditions are too unpredictable or unsafe to risk student travel. On still other occasions, the weather may be fine in the morning, but get progressively worse toward the afternoon, in which case we may need to send students home early and/or cancel afternoon and evening activities.

There are several ways parents can be prepared for and alerted to changes in the normal school routine.

Before bad weather hits:

- **Familiarize yourself with your Snow Zone and the snow route stops for your busing area.** If your student rides the bus to and/or from school, visit our website at www.hsd.k12.or.us and click the [School Closure Notifications](#) link under the Parents drop-down menu. There, you can see a list of schools, their weather zone number, and information on where the buses will stop on days when snow routes are put into effect. *If your child's school is not listed, the buses in your area do not have snow route stops that are different from normal stops.*

Walk or drive to the snow route stop with your child to familiarize them with the stop, but make sure they know to *only* go there if they are told their bus will run on a snow route on a particular day.

- **Sign up for alerts through FlashAlert or Twitter.** FlashAlert is the system most local school districts use to inform the media about buses being on snow routes, school delays, and school closures. You can subscribe up to three e-mail and/or mobile phone text message addresses to receive these alerts by visiting www.flashalert.net. You can also install the free FlashAlert Messenger app on your tablet or smart phone by going to Google Play or the iTunes App Store. In addition, you can follow the Hillsboro School District on Twitter by clicking the [Twitter](#) icon on our website. Note that mobile phone text messages generated by the FlashAlert system may be delayed on days with extreme weather conditions as multiple schools and other public agencies are sending messages through the system at the same time and the volume can overwhelm cell phone providers.

- **Install the District's Mobile App.** Hillsboro School District now has its own mobile app for smart phones and tablets! Download it free from the App Store or Google Play. On days when there is a two-hour delay or school is canceled, a notification will be sent out through the app's notification module.

When bad weather hits:

- **Visit our website.** Barring catastrophic Internet failure, information will always be posted at the top of our website by 5:45 a.m. on inclement weather days.

- **Check your e-mail.** Information will also be sent out to our *Hot News* e-mail distribution lists on delay or closure days (not snow route days).
- **Watch or listen to the news.** TV news stations set up a "crawl" at the bottom of their broadcast to list information and local radio stations will read announcements on inclement weather days.

Please note that the Hillsboro School District has made a change to past practice as it relates to Academic Seminar days (Wednesdays). Previously, there was no option of a 2-hour delay on Wednesdays, as these days were already 30 minutes short for the Academic Seminar. Now, if the District determines that a 2-hour delay would suffice for making travel to school a reasonably safe option on a Wednesday, ***the day will revert to a regular schedule and be altered accordingly.*** This means all schools would start two hours later than their normal start time, and all schools would end at their normal end time. Morning kindergarten would be canceled, and afternoon kindergarten would be on its normal schedule. To see these exact times, please visit the school pages on our website and review the School Schedule information.

COFFEE CHAT & LISTENING SESSION WRITE-UPS AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

In the month of October, Superintendent Scott held a series of informal Coffee Chats as well as his first Listening Session of the 2013-14 school year. To see a [recap](#) of each session and a list of some of the [frequently asked questions](#), please visit the [Superintendent of Schools](#) page under the About Us drop-down menu on our website.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!