



HAMILTON CENTRAL SCHOOL

47 West Kendrick Avenue ♦ Hamilton, New York 13346 ♦ 315-824-6400 ♦ www.hamiltoncentral.org

Mr. William Dowsland
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Mark Arquiatt
Secondary Principal

Ms. Heather Thomas
Elementary Principal

Mr. Kevin Ellis
Director of PPS

Mr. Christopher Rogers
*Director of Data, Assessment,
Accountability and Technology*

November 6, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It's hard to believe that winter is right around the corner. With that being said, several people have asked the question, "When do you call a snow day?" There are many pieces that come into play when the decision is made to delay school, dismiss early, or close. The most important variable is the ability to get students to school and home safely. In order to determine this, local highway superintendents are consulted along with the director of transportation and our head of buildings and grounds. They report on the condition of local roads, sidewalks, and parking lots. Weather forecasts are monitored, and superintendents from surrounding school districts are referred to. We understand that a decision to open or close school in inclement weather will have an impact on our families. We consider many factors and decisions are made in the interest of student safety.

When it is necessary to close or dismiss schools for any emergency, including inclement weather, announcements are made on local radio and television broadcasts by 6:00 a.m. Closings may be found on the affiliates listed below:

- CNY Central Channel 3 & 5
- WIXT News Channel 9
- WKTU News Channel 2
- Spectrum News Channel 10
- Syracuse.Com
- Observer Dispatch
- District Website
- WIBX (950 Am)
- WFRG 104.3
- LITE 98.7
- WOUR 96.9
- THE EAGLE 96.1
- WIBX 95.0
- KISS-FM 97.9/105.5
- BUG COUNTRY 99.7 & 101.1
- WUTQ 100.7 FM

The district will also post a notice on the district website and send a phone call/text message. **Please be sure that your contact information is updated with the school.**

When the decision has been made to close schools or dismiss early, all evening school activities will be cancelled. This includes: athletic practices and contest, drama practices and shows, club meetings, and any other student after-school or evening activity. The only exception, if the weather clears sufficiently, might be a major district-wide event.

The Hamilton Central School District resides in a snow-belt and most storms can be managed effectively. For this reason, please assume school will be open and encourage students to be prepared for their next day's classes. Anticipate the possibility that busses may be delayed during rainy or snowy conditions and dress children appropriately for weather conditions. It is the responsibility of parents or guardians to make the final decision regarding school attendance. If a parent/guardian feels the weather is too severe, they have the right to keep their child(ren) home. In this instance, it is essential that the school is alerted of their children(s)'s absence and to make arrangements for missed work.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of our building principals.

Sincerely,

William Dowsland
Superintendent

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