

November 13, 2024

Dear Newport Families,

With winter, comes weather conditions that may force us to call for a two-hour late start or to even cancel school. Please know that these decisions are not made lightly. They are always based on our students being able to travel safely to and from school, as well as our ability to sustain a warm and safe environment for your child while they are in our care. Please be assured that when these decisions are made, the District consults with several other entities that may include: First Student Transportation Services; Pend Oreille County Public Works Department; the City of Newport; Pend Oreille Utility District; Pend Oreille County Department of Emergency Management; and the Pend Oreille County Sheriff's Office.

In the event that we have to call for a two-hour late start or school cancellation, we will notify you via ParentSquare. You will receive a text message, phone message, and/or an email. When the ParentSquare message is sent, our local news stations (KHQ, KREM, and KXLY) are also notified and will display this information.

Please ensure that you have updated your personal information - phone numbers and email addresses - with your child's school so that you will receive all district ParentSquare notifications.

- Stratton Elementary School 447-0656
- Sadie Halstead Middle School 447-2426
- Newport High School 447-2481
- Pend Oreille River School 447-6534
- Home Link Parent Partnership 447-6625

For families with children riding the bus to and from school, the transportation office has created "Limited Routes" for the occasion when the county is able to plow only the main roads and not certain side roads. You will be notified when buses are running on Limited Routes via ParentSquare; you will receive a text message, phone message, and/or email. Please ensure that you have updated your personal information (phone numbers and email addresses) with your child's school so that you will receive all district ParentSquare notifications.

We understand that arrangements need to be made by families if the school district is forced to start late or cancel. We will make every effort to make these calls as early as we can when we know that hazardous conditions will persist throughout the night and into the next day.

Lastly, weather conditions can change rapidly throughout our county and while we may not call for a late start or cancellation, road conditions may worsen in a short amount of time. While we do everything we can to anticipate these changes, please know that adjustments may need to be made to routes to ensure safe travel. If you ever feel that road conditions where you live are unsafe, we will always excuse students who are late or do not attend school due to hazardous weather or road conditions.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Regards,

Dave Smith
Superintendent
Newport School District
509-447-3167