

Dear Orchard Park Families,

We want to provide an update regarding our inclement weather procedures for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year and to clarify how they align with New York State Education Department (NYSED) attendance and instructional requirements.

As a reminder, NYSED requires school districts to meet:

- A minimum of 180 days of student attendance, and
- Annual instructional hour requirements, including:
  - 900 instructional hours for students in grades K–6
  - 990 instructional hours for students in grades 7–12

In Orchard Park, we schedule 180 instructional days for our elementary calendar and build in closure make-up days beyond day 180 to ensure we meet attendance requirements when weather-related closures occur.

Please navigate to the section below corresponding to your student's building level for detailed information.

High School

To date, the District has used **two snow days for students in Pre-K through Grade 12.** Based on our current calendar, the remaining emergency closure days are as follows:

- High School (Grades 9–12): One emergency closure day remains before transitioning to asynchronous learning.

Once all traditional snow days have been used, the District will shift to asynchronous instruction on any additional inclement weather days. Asynchronous instruction means students complete learning activities and assignments on their own schedule, without live lessons from teachers. On those days:

- Secondary students (Grades 6-12) will access assignments through Google Classroom. These assignments are designed to be completed independently.

Exception: If a State of Emergency is declared by the Governor or the County Executive due to weather conditions, and the District is closed, asynchronous instruction will NOT take place. State of Emergency closure days are not required to be made up.

This approach allows us to prioritize student and staff safety, maintain instruction, and meet NYSED attendance and instructional hour requirements without extending the school calendar.

Additional details regarding expectations for asynchronous learning days will be shared by building principals and teachers.

Middle School

To date, the District has used **two snow days for students in Pre-K through Grade 12.** Based on our current calendar, the remaining emergency closure days are as follows:

- Middle School (Grades 6–8): Two emergency closure days remain before transitioning to asynchronous learning.

Once all traditional snow days have been used, the District will shift to asynchronous instruction on any additional inclement weather days. Asynchronous instruction means students complete learning activities and assignments on their own schedule, without live lessons from teachers. On those days:

- Secondary students (Grades 6-12) will access assignments through Google Classroom. These assignments are designed to be completed independently.

Exception: If a State of Emergency is declared by the Governor or the County Executive due to weather conditions, and the District is closed, asynchronous instruction will NOT take place. State of Emergency closure days are not required to be made up.

This approach allows us to prioritize student and staff safety, maintain instruction, and meet NYSED attendance and instructional hour requirements without extending the school calendar.

Additional details regarding expectations for asynchronous learning days will be shared by building principals and teachers.

Elementary Schools

To date, the District has used **two snow days for students in Pre-K through Grade 12**. Based on our current calendar, the remaining emergency closure days are as follows:

- **Elementary (Pre-K–5):** The current last day of school is now **Monday, June 22, 2026**, leaving **three additional emergency closure days** before transitioning to asynchronous learning.
  - 2 Snow Days Used - June 22 (**we are here**)
  - 3 Snow Days Used - June 23
  - 4 Snow Days Used - June 24
  - 5 Snow Days Used - June 25
  - *Additional snow days after this will be held as asynchronous instruction

Once all traditional snow days have been used, the District will shift to asynchronous instruction on any additional inclement weather days. Asynchronous instruction means students complete learning activities and assignments on their own schedule, without live lessons from teachers. On those days:

- Elementary students (Grades Pre-K-5) will receive learning activities and assignments to be completed independently.

Exception: If a State of Emergency is declared by the Governor or the County Executive due to weather conditions, and the District is closed, asynchronous instruction will NOT take place. State of Emergency closure days are not required to be made up.

This approach allows us to prioritize student and staff safety, maintain instruction, and meet NYSED attendance and instructional hour requirements without extending the school calendar.

Additional details regarding expectations for asynchronous learning days will be shared by building principals and teachers.

OP Schools
OP is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters