YELLOW MEDICINE EAST – ISD 2190

Serving Clarkfield, Echo, Granite Falls, Hanley Falls, Hazel Run, Upper Sioux Community

Rich Schneider, Superintendent
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Phone: 320-564-4081 - Fax: 320-564-4781

November 17, 2026

Dear YME Parents and Guardians,

As we all know, winter weather in southwest Minnesota can be disruptive to our school schedule. To minimize the impact of weather-related closures, Yellow Medicine East will once again utilize eLearning Days during the 2026-27 school year. These days count as instructional days for students and help reduce the need to extend the school year or make up missed days on holidays such as Presidents' Day or Easter Monday.

On an eLearning Day, students will receive meaningful learning activities and assignments that reflect what would have been taught during a regular school day. Activities may include both online and offline resources and will be tailored to meet the developmental needs of each grade level:

- **Grades K–5:** Assignments will typically be provided in an at-home folder distributed during fall parent-teacher conferences. These activities will also be posted on the BRE website and/or communicated through email.

- **Grades 6–12:** Assignments will be posted in Google Classroom or another online platform and can be accessed using school-issued devices and internet service.

All assignments are aligned with the district's curriculum and designed so most students can complete them independently. Each building will also share building-specific details with families.

In the event of a weather-related closure, families will receive notification through the School Messenger System (JMC) that the day has been designated as an eLearning Day. Teachers will be available by email or phone during regular school hours (7:40 AM–3:40 PM) to provide assistance and answer questions.

We continue to evaluate the effectiveness of eLearning Days and adjust as needed. Beyond ensuring instructional time is preserved, this program provides students with valuable opportunities to practice the skills needed for 21st-century learning, work, and post-secondary success.

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to your building administrator. A **Frequently Asked Questions** document is attached and also available online for your reference.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and schools.

Sincerely,

Rich Schneider
Superintendent
Yellow Medicine East Schools

Yellow Medicine East School District

"eLearning Day" Frequently Asked Questions

What is an eLearning Day?

An eLearning Day is used in place of a school day that has been canceled due to inclement weather. An eLearning Day means that students will complete the learning activities and assignments provided by the teacher at home. Students will receive learning activities and assignments for each subject that would have originally taken place during a regular school day.

Why is the Yellow Medicine East School District preparing to use an eLearning Day?

Historically, winter weather in southwest Minnesota can be disruptive to school schedules. The Yellow Medicine East School District has historically lost days of instruction due to inclement weather. As we move into the 2026-27 school year, our district is committed to providing our students with opportunities for learning during snow days, which is consistent with our district's focus on student achievement. Additionally, an eLearning Day helps strengthen and reinforce 21st-century job and post-secondary educational opportunities for working and learning remotely.

How will we be notified that a "snow day" is an eLearning Day?

The school will communicate to all parents and staff through the JMC School Messenger System that is already utilized. In the message sent, it will read that the snow day is an eLearning Day.

What about preschoolers and an eLearning Day?

Although there are no expectations for preschoolers to complete activities on an eLearning Day, preschool teachers will provide online activities that parents may choose to do with their children.

What happens if a student does not complete the eLearning Day assignments?

K-12 students are expected to turn in their work and/or eLearning day document within 48 hours. If students don't complete their work promptly, they may be marked as absent, unexcused for that eLearning day. Parents should contact their child's teacher if there are extenuating circumstances that prevent their child from completing the assignment satisfactorily.

What if a 6-12 student does not have access to a computer and/or Internet to access the lesson or complete activities?

The student can obtain the assignment in a hard copy or electronic version during the next regular school day. Either way, students will be expected to complete the required learning activities and assignments within 48 hours.

What if a student is on a pre-arranged absence?

The student would be expected to make up the learning activities and assignments just as if it were any other absence from school.

How is a student expected to complete the activities if they go to daycare when there is an eLearning Day?

Parents are encouraged to share eLearning information with their daycare provider. The school will also provide daycare providers with information as requested.

How much time is my student expected to take to complete the assignments?

Teachers have designed eLearning activities and assignments that may be equivalent in time to a regularly scheduled class period, but that will vary depending upon the teacher, content area, and grade/age of the student. Students working independently on an assignment will likely take less time to complete the assignment compared to a large group setting. Depending on the student's age and abilities, it is estimated that it will take students 15-20 minutes per subject for elementary students and longer for MS and HS students to complete their assignments.

Will the school building be closed on an eLearning Day, just as it is on a regular snow day?

Yes. The school district buildings will be closed to students and activities on an eLearning Day.

Will staff be accessible during an eLearning Day? And if so, how?

Yes. The school district staff are available to be contacted through their school email or by phone. Staff will be available via email and phone during regular school hours (7:40 AM-3:40 PM) to answer questions and assist students. Staff may not respond immediately to questions but are expected to respond promptly. If students struggle with an assignment because they can't contact a staff member due to a lack of Internet connectivity, they will still be allowed 48 hours to make up their work. If a teacher is unavailable, families will be notified and may contact the office with questions. Special education teachers will also be available and may reach out to students via phone or other online options.

What if there is only one computer in the house but multiple students?

Students may need to share resources in the home or other locations. Some students may want to work on offline options while others complete online assignments. Grade 6-12 students would be expected to use the district-assigned device which may help alleviate the demand for the home computer. A public library is also an option for in-town students who could get there safely.

Area Public Libraries

Granite Falls Public Library:

- M-Th 9:00 AM-6:30 PM
- F 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
- Sat 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Clarkfield Public Library:

- M-Th 10:00 AM-5:30 PM
- F 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Free Community Wifi Locations*

Granite Falls: Public Library, Kilowatt Community Center
Clarkfield: Public Library
Upper Sioux Community: Multi-purpose Building (MPB)

May students access or complete the online assignments from their smartphones?

Teacher websites can be accessed from a variety of tablets, smartphones, laptops, and desktop computers. The assignments may also use a variety of websites and applications that may or may not work from a variety of devices.

Will there still be make-up dates built into the district calendar?

Although the school board sets the calendar each year, this calendar is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances including inclement weather and health emergencies. An eLearning Day is an option that may be used in place of canceled school days or make-up days but may not be used for all canceled school days in any given school year.

Other questions?

If there are other questions or concerns, please contact the school offices: PreK-5 Principal Mrs. Hansen, lhansen@isd2190.org or MS/HS Principal Mrs. Hinz, shinz@isd2190.org or via phone at 320-564-4081.

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