Hazen Public School District #3

National School of Excellence

P.O. Box 487 | Hazen, North Dakota 58545 | Phone: 701-748-2345

520 1st Ave. NE | www.hazen.k12.nd.us | Fax: 701-748-2342

School Board Members

Jennifer Wallender, President
Brian Nolan, Vice President
Stephanie Huber
April Mettler
Marti Raad

Administration

Ken Miller, Superintendent 748-2345
Jacob Kraft, Secondary Principal 748-2345
Paul Richter, Middle School Principal 748-6649
Trevor Sinclair, Elementary Principal 748-6120
Billie Jo Peterson, Business Manager 748-2679
Bret Johnsrud, Athletic Director 748-2345

Dear Parents, Students, and Staff,

As we approach another North Dakota winter, I would like to take a moment to share how the Hazen School District makes weather-related decisions and communicates any changes to our school schedule. Our goal is always to make informed decisions that prioritize the safety of our students and staff while recognizing the impact these decisions have on families and our community.

Before deciding whether to delay the start of school, dismiss early, or cancel classes, we carefully evaluate several factors. These include the type, timing, severity, and anticipated track of the weather, along with current and projected road conditions. We also consider how conditions may affect bus transportation, parents transporting their children, student drivers, and our staff's ability to safely travel to school and prepare our buildings for the day.

To make the most informed decision possible, we gather information from multiple sources. This includes monitoring National Weather Service forecasts, consulting with meteorologists, evaluating road conditions in town and rural areas, and communicating with our transportation provider, neighboring school districts, law enforcement, and road maintenance crews.

Depending on the timing and severity of a storm, this process may begin several days in advance and continue throughout the evening and into the early morning hours.

When and How Families Will Be Notified

Our goal is to notify families of any weather-related schedule changes by 9:00 p.m. the evening before or no later than 6:00 a.m. on the morning of the weather event, whenever possible.

We recognize the importance of providing families, childcare providers, and employers with as much advance notice as possible. However, some weather situations require us to wait until early morning to make the safest and most informed decision. The 6:00 a.m. notification deadline is especially important because of our rural bus pickup schedules.

Weather-related announcements will be communicated through the following channels:

- **Infinite Campus Messenger:** Parents and guardians will receive both a text message and an email notification.
- **Local Television Stations:** School delays, early dismissals, and cancellations will be shared with local television stations.
- **School Social Media:** Announcements will be posted on each school building's social media platforms.
- **District Website:** Weather-related announcements will also be available on the Hazen School District website.

We encourage families to ensure their contact information is current in Infinite Campus so they receive these important notifications.

Late Starts and School Cancellations

When weather conditions require a change to our school day, we will generally implement a late start or cancel school altogether. A late start may allow additional daylight for safer travel, provide road crews more time to improve driving conditions, or give families and staff additional time to travel safely. In some situations, a late start also allows us to continue monitoring changing weather conditions before determining whether school can safely be held.

If a late start is announced, we will specify whether it is a **one-hour or two-hour delay**. All regular school start times and bus pickup times will be adjusted accordingly. For example, if your child normally arrives at school at 8:00 a.m., a two-hour late start would move that arrival time to 10:00 a.m.

Despite the time, planning, and resources devoted to monitoring winter weather, Mother Nature does not always cooperate with our forecasts or expectations. I would like to say that every weather-related decision will be the right one for everyone, but we know that is not always possible. What I can assure you is that each decision is made thoughtfully, with careful consideration of the information available and the safety of our students and staff as our highest priority.

Thank you for your understanding, patience, and continued support as we navigate another North Dakota winter. I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable winter season.

Ken Miller
Superintendent
Hazen School District