



Windsor C-1 School District

November 2014

Winter Weather/Snow Days?

It is extremely hard to believe that it is that time of year where we begin to discuss possible inclement weather. This year, various forecasts indicate another potentially harsh winter. When deciding on school cancellations, we always err on the side of student safety. There are also certain situations that a decision must be made, prior to weather hitting our area. I will try to give you some examples that give you insight into the various decisions.

These examples are:

1. The National Weather Service is indicating that severe winter weather will be reaching our District at approximately 10:00 a.m. This makes for a very tough decision; do we cancel before school starts and before the first snowflake even hits the ground?

This decision is based on the “what if” the weather would hit vs. “when it actually does”. This is all determined by reports from the National Weather Service, Department of Transportation, and reports directly from the television weather departments; we stay in constant contact with these organizations during the forecast of inclement weather. If it looks imminent that bad weather is approaching, chances are good that we will cancel before it even snows that first snowflake.

You may be asking “why”, since nothing has occurred yet. But, the “what if” leads us to if we wait until 10:00 a.m. to cancel school, then it is 10:30 a.m. before the buses are ready to pick up students. If we pick up the elementary first, then some students are not arriving home until approximately 12:00 p.m. Then the buses return to pick up the middle and high school students, once they are loaded, it is now 12:30 p.m. and some of these students will not be home until approximately 2:00 p.m. – So, it will have been 4 hours since the hazardous weather began until our last student returns home.

Now, the flip side of this may occur and the hazardous winter weather never comes, but the day can be made up and all students are home safe vs. the “what if” and there is one accident where one child is injured.

(Weather, con’t.)

2. School has been out for a day or two and all main roads look clear and for most of us, we are going about our workday and there is no snow or ice on the main highways. How can the school be cancelling today when everything looks clear?

This happens fairly regularly and will again this year, I am sure. I have driven to work in the early morning hours on the main roads and thought, without question, we will be having school. But, although the roads may be completely clear, there are many side roads and subdivisions that may have never been touched by a plow. Our buses have to be able to enter these areas for student pick-up and when we have a vast number of students who live in these areas and if we are unable to provide transportation, then a decision may be made to cancel, even though to many of us, it looks as if the roads have been clear for some time.

Another part of this process is that our communities do not have any city municipalities that provide snow and ice removal, as we are an un-incorporated district. The towns of Arnold, Herculaneum, House Springs, and Festus do have their own city municipalities; so, it is possible that many schools around us may be attending, but our schools are still closed. This would be due to the fact that many of our side roads and subdivisions are reliant upon independent contractors, for that area, as well as individuals to remove ice and snow and this may not be practical for these areas to do so.

3. What about snow routes? This is something that we have prepared and available for use. But, it is our responsibility as a district to educate all students; do we utilize snow routes by knowing that some of the student population may not be able to attend and is then being excluded due to our inability to transport them as usual? For students of young ages to walk their entire subdivision to come to a meeting place for a bus pickup or for parents to bring them to that location (when this may not be possible due to their work schedule) or for some students who simply aren’t able to attend due to various logistics, leaves many variables unknown in how many students we would have attending on a day of utilizing snow routes.

(Weather, con't.)

Also, other things that we consider are should we risk having high school drivers attempt the drive to school, when conditions are not the most favorable in some of the areas in which they reside. Is it responsible of us to have school when potentially only 60, 70, or 80% of the students may be in attendance and that those day's lessons of instruction are lost to the 20-40% who are not there and who are unable to get there?

So, not to say that we will never use snow routes, since we do have them, but with our goal to educate all students, this would not be something we would automatically go to when main roads are accessible, yet many side roads and subdivisions are not. If we know that many of the areas are not bus accessible, and they hold a large population of students, using the snow routes is probably not the option we would consider. If we only have a select few areas or a small amount of students who live in the areas that are not passable, then we may very well make arrangements for a snow route to be used with this small sampling of the student population, as we are better able to contact parents, in advance, for these particular arrangements.

4. The best case scenario is always when inclement weather comes well before the next school day. The optimal situation is for all to begin occurring in a substantial manner prior to the 10:00 p.m. news so everyone can be informed in plenty of time to make any necessary child care arrangements. But, this rarely happens.

Most of the time, winter storms occur in the early morning hours and the decision is made around 6:00 a.m. This is similar to example #1, as nothing has started yet, but the Weather Services indicate that it will arrive. In this case, we err on the side of caution and don't begin travel to school knowing that once we do we will be turning around and taking students back home. If bad weather does start to begin, then we know the turnaround time for students to get home could be anywhere from 3- 4 hours. The foolish part of this is, again, when nothing happens. But, erring on the side of student safety can never be considered foolish; for those who have experienced a tragedy created by poor weather conditions and trying to get a day of school in, when it just wasn't worth the risk, it is easy to understand the need to err on this side of caution and safety.

We have 3010 students and it is not a successful day if 3009 return home. This is a huge responsibility to insure that all 3010 make it back to your homes and this is also a responsibility that none of us take lightly.

(Weather, con't.)

So, this may result in some days that it did absolutely nothing and we could have gone, but didn't. It may also result in some days that we have missed a couple for winter weather and the main roads now look completely clear and we don't have school. These are not oversights or poor planning; these are making educated decisions based on the current information that we have with the main deciding factor being, "what if" student safety is compromised and we try to go and a problem occurs.

5. Are we really not in school today because of cold temperatures?

There may be some days where we do not have school due to freezing temperatures accompanied by high winds, making the wind chill factor a very serious condition.

There are no hard and fast rules on temperature, so this is a case by case basis and much is determined by the wind chill in connection with already freezing temperatures. It does not take long for frostbite or hypothermia to set in; in many cases just minutes.

Often, students are not prepared with the proper clothing, gloves, headwear and not because they don't have them, but because some simply choose not to wear them. Also, with these frigid conditions, buses, although ours have heaters to keep the diesel from gelling, can still have problems starting in such temperatures. Every second that buses have trouble starting, is another second that students are waiting on their bus to arrive and standing in frigid weather at the bus stop.

Cancelling for cold temperatures is not a common occurrence, but it can happen when the temperature and the wind create conditions that are not acceptable to student health and safety.

Although there are no good predictors to make every correct decision and also no way of knowing what the winter weather will bring, I can assure you that every decision will be made to ensure the safety of your child and each and every child of the District.

I also know that this can be burdensome on you, as the parent, but I do hope each of you understand that these decisions are based on student safety and much planning and preparation goes into making each cancellation. But, even with much planning and preparation there will be some days that we miss that we should not have, in hindsight. We realize that we will make some calls to cancel that just don't pan out; but, these are days missed due to changes in weather patterns and circumstances. But, the "what if" factor and the timing of these potential winter weather storms help determine the ultimate decision that is made, regardless of what transpires later.

Featured Windsor C-1 School District Staff Member

Ms. Stephany Dueker
Windsor C-1 High School
Biology Teacher/Head Volleyball Coach/Head Girl's Track Coach

Ms. Stephany Dueker is a 1994 graduate of Windsor High School having participated in Volleyball, Basketball, Track, Student Council, National Honor Society, Pep Club, Marching Band, and SADD; she also served as the Football statistician. Being heavily involved in activities during her high school years, she was also very proficient in them, as well. Stephany earned a variety of awards and recognitions, such as: Volleyball – All-Conference, All-District, All-Region, KTJJ Dream Team; Speech Award, Anatomy Award, AUSA Leadership, Post-Dispatch Scholar Athlete Award, Xerox History Award, and the Spanish I, II, III Awards.

After her high school graduation, Stephany attended Missouri Baptist University, where she continued to excel in the classroom and on the playing field. Stephany was an All-Conference and All-American in Volleyball; she was also a member of the Basketball team. Academically, she was a member of the Science Society, was an Academic All-American, and graduated with the distinction of Summa Cum Laude.

Ms. Dueker has developed and maintained the same successes that she had as an individual in high school and college and translated that success to aid in helping the overall success for Windsor High School, as an employee of the District, teaching High School Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, as well as coaching Athletics. During her time, as the Head Volleyball Coach, she has led her teams to 276 victories, including Conference and District Titles. As the Varsity Head Track Coach, she has also encountered much success in her time at the helm, with a District Championship and sending additional student/athletes on to the next level; 34 of her former student/athletes have gone on to compete at the collegiate level in both Volleyball and Track. Ms. Dueker also coached Basketball for 10 years.

All of her accomplishments aside, Ms. Dueker takes pride in the personal and team accomplishments of her student/athletes and receives more satisfaction from that, than anything else. In addition to the success of her former athletes, she has also had many former Biology/A&P students who are now serving as teachers, doctors, nurses, physical therapists, and occupational therapists.

Stephany Dueker has been the WNEA Teacher of the Year, Windsor High School Teacher of Distinction, Various Coach of the Year Awards, and is a member of the Windsor C-1 Hall of Fame. Above all, Ms. (Coach) Stephany Dueker is a focused, hard-working, committed individual who only wants the best from and for her students and athletes; she is a positive and inspiring role model for all.



DID YOU KNOW?

1. **Michael Sellman** – **High School Choir Director** – is related to various members of the Drury Outdoors team, who is known in the hunting industry for their deer hunting knowledge/innovations, various television shows on the Outdoor Channel, as well as for their videos, hunting calls, etc.
2. **Christina Martin** – **High School Secretary**- has a brother who plays bass guitar for country music artist, LeAnn Rimes. Her grandfather is also related to country music legend, Merle Haggard.
3. **Michael Hutchison** – **High School Industrial Arts/Head Girl's Soccer Coach**– is also the Associate Head Girl's Soccer Coach at Webster University. He is also in the Fox C-6 Hall of Fame and the Webster University Hall of Fame, as a Soccer player.
4. **Jeff Young** – **High School Science Teacher/Head Baseball Coach** – won the 2000 MSHSAA State Championship, as the Head Baseball Coach of the Crystal City Hornets.
5. **Blane Boss** – **Middle School ISS/Assistant Football Coach** – was a Class 4 1st Team All-State Football player at Windsor High School. Blane once rushed for 508 yards in a high school game vs. Hillsboro. This ranks as the 4th highest rushing game in Missouri High School Football History.
6. **Sandy Stites** – **Freer Elementary** – has a nephew, Matt Stites, who is a major league baseball pitcher for the Arizona Diamondbacks.
7. **Karl Shininger** – **Middle School Principal** – has an Engineering Degree from Trine University in Angola, Indiana.
8. **Sheila Kline (Milam)** - **Central Office** – was born in Los Angeles, California and her brother, Steve, played 2 years of minor league baseball, hitting .283 with 66 stolen bases.
9. **Ivan Wallace** – **Transportation Department** – is a former member of the Windsor C-1 Board of Education.
10. **Denise Funston** – **Windsor Elementary Principal** - played Volleyball at Southwest Missouri – West Plains. She is also a 2nd cousin of Vince McMahon, the owner of the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE).
11. **Dawn LaRose** – **Windsor Elementary Secretary** – has a cousin who is the drummer for the Alternative Rock Band, The Urge.
12. **Robin Swain** – **Freer Elementary Counselor** - has a friend who is married to the flute player of The Moody Blues, who are an English Rock Band.
13. **Allison Webb** – **Freer Elementary Music** –her father was on an episode of Judge Judy.
14. **Jason Roussin** – **Technology Director** – his cousin (through marriage) is married to St. Louis Cardinals center fielder, Jon Jay.
15. **Paula Warren** – **Intermediate Center** – was a 3rd grade student of Ms. Sherri Strauser, Windsor C-1 Assistant Superintendent.

November 4th Election

On Tuesday, November 4th, I would like to encourage every registered voter to examine Amendment 3, so one can make an educated decision on the proposed revisions to the Constitution. In my opinion, any action asking voters to change the Missouri Constitution needs to be considered carefully. There are many resources available on-line that outline the expected changes to education should Amendment 3 be approved. The most important thing is to first educate yourself on the issues and then exercise your right to vote. That is the only way to make your voice heard.

New District Phone App Coming to Windsor C-1

The District plans to unveil a new Windsor C-1 School District phone app, sometime prior to or shortly after the New Year. The new app will link back to the District's website and anyone from the community will be able to download its' use at no charge. Parents, community members, and students will be able to access the calendar for all District events, news, lunch menus, individual school information, contacts, etc. We hope that this will be a helpful tool that will allow one to have the opportunity for continual access to Windsor C-1 information.

Veteran's Day

Veteran's Day is November 11th. The Intermediate Center will be hosting a breakfast from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. for all Veterans. The choir will be performing, as well as students reading letters they have written for the Veterans.

If you know of any Veteran (neighbors, friends, relatives, co-workers), please take this opportunity to thank them for their service to our country. Saying "thank you" to our Veterans for their sacrifice and commitment to our country can never be overstated or spoken enough.

The Windsor C-1 School District would like to thank all Veterans for their dedicated service; these special men and women have allowed each of us the freedoms that we all currently share.

A few of our Windsor C-1 personnel, who served in the Military:

1. **Michael Dubis** – Board of Education – served 5 years in the United States Army.
 2. **Lt. Col. Steve Meinberg** – Board of Education – served 4 years in the United States Air Force.
 3. **Dan Shaul** – Board of Education – served 3 years in the United States Air Force.
 4. **Michael Ramos** – Intermediate Center – actively served in the United States Army from 1996-2007 and was in the reserves from 2008-2014. He served in Iraq for two tours of duty, having served in Kosovo and Bosnia.
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Fall Athletics

Windsor High School recently completed their Fall Sports Seasons. The following are the won-loss records and achievements from those teams.

Football – Had a 3 game winning streak, which was the first 3 game winning streak since 2006 and ended the season with a 4-6 record.

Boys Soccer – Finished the season with a 9-11 record.

Girls Tennis – District Champions – This was the first Girl's Tennis Team from Jefferson County to win a District Championship. Annika Menke made the Missouri State High School Activities Association Final Four in Springfield, MO.

Girls Volleyball – Finished their season with a 25-8-1 record, making it to the District Semifinals.

Cross Country – The team had 20 medal winners during the season, along with 4 individuals who had Top 10 finishes

Marching Band – The Marching Band continues to place very highly in all competitions and performs at an elite level.

Weather Information

For all school closing/cancellation information, Windsor C-1 will utilize the following media:

- FOX 2 Television
 - KMOV 4 Television
 - KSDK 5 Television
 - Also, make sure that your child's school has your correct contact numbers, so that our phone network is able to contact you with messages regarding the status of school on inclement weather days.
- KJFF Radio
KMOX Radio

10 Ideas to Help Your Child Succeed at School

1. **Meet your child's teacher/s.** – If you have not met your child's teacher/s, to this point, setting up an appointment to do so in a face to face setting can be very beneficial. Make it clear that you want to be contacted if any problems develop. Also, get to know who is at your child's school; introduce yourself to the secretarial staff, administration, nursing department, coaches, sponsors, etc. There are many individuals who are there to help your child and you.
2. **Communicate with the school** – Ask questions if you have concerns or simply communicate to seek advice from teachers, administrators, nurses, counselors that may benefit your child; you should feel free to call or email with any questions that you may have. Going directly to the source, when you have any concerns, is always the best and most productive option.
3. **Demonstrate a positive attitude about school and education** – What we say and do greatly impacts our children's beliefs and ideas about what is important and what is not. Showing that we value education, our teachers, staff, administration, faculty, homework, grades, projects, activities, can have a very positive impact on a child's success in school.
4. **Check the Parent Portal on a regular basis** – Monitor your child's test scores and homework on the Parent Portal (located on our website) to keep up to date on your child's progress throughout the quarter/semester. This allows you to have conversations with your child and their teacher as to any concerns/questions that you may have and to insure that progress and dialogue is made.
5. **Make sure that your child gets their homework completed** – Let your child know that you think their education is important. Set aside a time and place that this is done on a daily basis. Find homework help for your child, if needed. The school can help you find avenues for this.
6. **Learn what the school offers** – Read the information that is sent home via mail or email, along with what is on the school's website. Talk to other parents and the various organizations to see what might be available for your child to participate. It is very beneficial to one's success, both in school and at home, to be involved in some type of activity, group, or organization.
7. **Encourage your child to read** – This helps students in all subject areas and is a life-long opportunity to learn.
8. **Talk with your child** – Talking and listening to your child, each day, helps you to know what is going on in their lives, as well as allows the child to establish their communication skills with others.
9. **Encourage your child to take responsibility** – Part of what is on a child's job description is that they will be prone to make mistakes throughout the course of a school year and their lives. There are not many ways to avoid this completely; but the main value that can be taught, is to understand that they are accountable and to take responsibility for the action that has been caused and not to be consumed by the actions of others.
10. **Get to know your child's friends/parents** – Knowing who your child spends a majority of their time with can help you learn a lot about your child. Getting to know their parents, as well as your child's friends, can give you additional avenues of information regarding your child, especially in the teenage years, when they do not share as much information with you, as they once may have.