

October 27, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff:

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we dealt with the unpredictable conditions of today's Nor' Easter! Given the many challenges we faced and the subsequent school cancellation, I thought it was important to send a reminder about how we approach inclement weather in the Milton Public Schools. Inclement weather days are a necessary part of life in the northeast and the better we manage them as partners, the more successful our school year will be.

The safety of students and staff is paramount, and we do not want to have students, parents and staff on the roads when the conditions are unsafe. In addition, we need to be sure our sidewalks, crosswalks and buildings are ready for our students and that we are fully staffed and ready to provide a safe and successful school day. Before and during inclement weather, I consult with the relevant town departments, MPS administration and superintendents from neighboring districts. I also monitor weather forecasts, including those provided by the Town of Milton.

At times, the decision is clear and we are able to announce that school is closed or delayed the evening before school. However, like this morning, sometimes the forecast is difficult to predict with any certainty for Milton, and those decisions are best made in the early morning. When we experience inclement weather, there are four options that I

will consider: a full school day; a 2 hour delay; remote half day; or complete cancellation of school.

If we have a full school day, the day will proceed as a regular day with breakfast, before school, after school activities, etc. all taking place. Please be aware that even with a full school day, there can be traffic delays for our buses due to weather.

If we have a 2 hour delay:

- Your child's school day will start 2 hours later than a regular day. MHS – 9:50 start and dismissal at 2:19. MHS will be open for arrivals starting at 9:30.
- Pierce – 9:57 start and dismissal at 2:26. Pierce will be open for arrivals at 9:45.
- Cunningham/Collicot – school will start at 10:20 and end at 2:49. School will be open for arrivals at 10:00 am.
- Glover/Tucker – school will start at 10:50 and end at 3:19. School will be open for arrivals at 10:30.
- Busses will run on a 2 hour delay. Please be aware that some busses could be running behind as they navigate the snow/tough road conditions.
- There will be no before school program or before school activities at any school.
- After School Enrichment, after school activities and evening school based activities will proceed as planned.
- There will be no breakfast served at any school.
- Lunch will be served at every school.

On remote half days where we offer learning opportunities, the following will take place:

- MPS faculty, staff and students will all work from home (with the exception of custodial staff who will be partly responsible for snow removal on each school's campus.)
- Students and staff will follow the schedule that is planned for their individual schools for that day (attendance will be taken).
- No delayed openings - we will simply shift to a remote model for that day only.
- Remote half days will end at the same time as in school half days.
- Students will engage in a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities.
- Notification of a remote half day will be made as soon as possible but could come as late as the morning of the designated remote half day.
- Factors that contribute to pivoting to a remote half day include, but are not limited to: amount of accumulated or expected snowfall; road conditions, side walk/bus stop conditions, safety for walkers, conditions for the school parking lots/school grounds.
- As a back-up and in anticipation of potential power outages in communities where our faculty and staff reside, teachers should provide students with independent work in Google classrooms so students can access it during that remote half day. All teachers will make every attempt possible to log on during a remote half day and use this independent work as a last resort.
- Guidance Counselors, Adjustment Counselors, Librarians, Para Professionals, etc. will make every attempt to support students and/or check in with their building Principal/Assistant Principals to see how they can be of support.

If school is cancelled due to inclement weather:

- All after school and evening activities will also be cancelled.

When possible, we will communicate the decision to cancel, delay and/or pivot to remote learning the evening before school. When the forecast dictates waiting until morning, we will make every effort to communicate the decision to cancel, delay or be remote by 5:30am. Please refer to our website, as well as check your email and voicemail as we will communicate this news via email, phone and website. If you did not receive an email and phone call from MPS this morning, please contact your school's administrative assistant to confirm that we have current contact information for you.

Please have plans ready for your children in the event of a delay, cancellation or remote half day in the case of inclement weather. I appreciate your patience, cooperation and understanding as we work to make the most informed decisions on behalf of MPS students, families and staff.

Thank you.

James F. Jette, Superintendent
Milton Public Schools