

## ANGLOPHONE NORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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January 7, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The winter season is now upon us and with it, we need to anticipate inclement weather events over the next few months.

Last year, Anglophone School District - North (ASD-N) had a total of fifteen full, or partial, district/school closures due to storms. Other school districts in the province had a similar number of school days impacted by weather.

This is a major concern for our education system. It is important to stress that keeping schools open is a high priority for our district/province; however, **keeping students and staff safe will remain as our highest priority.**

In an effort to find greater balance with student safety and keeping schools open whenever possible, the following options may be employed in the upcoming months:

**Early Dismissal** – This may occur when an unexpected weather event occurs. Buses will be called back to the school and parents notified.

**Individual School Closures/Regional School Closures** – This may occur when one or more schools are affected by a severe weather event in their local area.

It is important to point out that communication to parents will remain the same for any/all school closures or delays, i.e. radio announcements, storm line notification, website post, email to staff, etc.

Important Note: Parents have the right to keep their child home should they deem road conditions unsafe. A written note to the school will be required and students will not be penalized.

**Delayed Bus Run** - This may occur, for example after a storm has passed, and some additional time is needed to clear roadways, parking lots, etc. **When this occurs, schools will open at their normal hours of operation and staff will be present.**

Bus runs may be delayed by one or two hours. However, parents will have the option of dropping students off at their respective schools.

**Professional Learning Days** - Throughout the year, professional learning days are used for staff training. On professional learning days, students do not attend school.

However, should our district experience an inordinate amount of lost instructional time due to storm days, one or more professional learning days may be used to make up for this time. Should this occur, parents and schools will be given ample notice to plan accordingly.

**Individual School Plans/Websites/Teacher Pages** - At our December Principals' Meeting, a discussion was held as to how schools might further mitigate lost learning time due to storm closures. As a result, each school has been asked to develop their very own "**Storm Day Plan**". What this will look like will vary from school to school; however, we are asking staff to be creative. Schools may focus on academic goals or the physical/social/emotional development of students.

Our winter weather lines can be reached at the following:

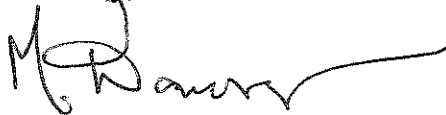
- 1-888-950-1919 (Campbellton-Dalhousie – Jacquet River-Bathurst)
- 1-506-778-7669 (Miramichi and Area)
- 1-506-523-0900 (Rexton)

In sum, there are no easy answers, or quick fixes, to the issue of Storm Days in New Brunswick. The point is, we are doing our best to put safety first, while at the same time providing for the educational needs of all students.

If you have any suggestions or feedback concerning this letter, please share with your school principal. We will have "Storm Days" on the agenda, for further discussion, at our February Principals' Meeting.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Donovan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Donovan  
Superintendent

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