

Inclement Weather Procedures & Communications

On days when the weather forecast calls for snow, ice, or other severe weather, please stay tuned to the following Hempfield communication channels for ongoing closing and delay information:

- District website
- Automated text message and call system
- District social media channels

School Delay & Closing Information

The above communication channels are the most reliable resources for information concerning school closings or delays. In addition, the following television and radio stations will be contacted to report closing and delay information:

- Online: LNP/Lancaster Online
- Television: NBC (WGAL Channel 8), ABC (WHTM Channel 27), FOX (WPMT Channel 43), and CBS (WHP Channel 21)
- Radio: FM 93.1 WLCH

Please note: Other stations may also report Hempfield School District closings and delays.

Unplanned Early Dismissals

In the event of an unplanned early dismissal, the district will use the automated calling system to notify parents/guardians of the dismissal. Any contact flagged as “Emergency” or “Lives With” within the PowerSchool system will receive the automated call. Notifications will also be posted to the regular HSD communication channels including the district homepage and social media.

Flexible Instruction Days

Similar to last school year, there are no built in “snow days” for the 2023-24 school year. Flexible instruction days, also known as FIDs, provide an alternative approach to delivering instruction and will be used in the event of severe weather or other circumstances that prevent in-person instruction. Hempfield School District is approved for five FIDs during the course of the school year, but if more than five FIDs are necessary, additional school days will be added beyond the last student day on May 24, 2024.

Upon notification of a FID from district communication channels, staff will publish Schoology folders for student access that will include meaningful online and offline work that is relevant to the course of study. Staff will also be available during specified school hours to answer questions and provide assistance to students.

Recess/Outdoor Activities Winter Weather Guidelines

Anytime the “real feel” temperature, which factors the impact of wind chill on the actual temperature, drops below 20° F, classrooms will not be permitted to go outside for recess. Individual building principals will use their discretion if the weather conditions are above this threshold.

Students should dress accordingly for colder weather during the upcoming winter months. Families in need of seasonal items including winter jackets, hats, and/or gloves may contact our Student Services Office at (717) 459-9003.

Recess/Outdoor Activities Excessive Heat Guidelines

Anytime the “heat index”, which factors the impact of humidity in the air on the actual temperature, is greater than your body temperature of 97°F, indoor recess/activities or the re-scheduling of recess/activities to earlier in the day may be considered.

In the event of outdoor recess/activity, students should be reminded to properly hydrate **prior to** outdoor recess/activity. In addition, building staff will be aware of extended periods of time outside and the level of physical exertion. Individual building principals will use their discretion if the weather conditions meet this threshold.