Highland County Public Schools
240 Myers Moon Road · P.O. Box 250 · Monterey, VA 24465 · P: (540) 468-6300 · F: (540) 468-6306

November 2, 2026

Dear Highland County Families,

As we move into the winter season, I want to share information about how Highland County Public Schools make decisions regarding inclement weather. Our goal is always to prioritize the safety of our students, staff, and families while maintaining as much instructional time as possible.

School Closures and Virtual Days
When weather conditions make travel unsafe, schools may be closed.

- **Closed Day:** No instruction; students and staff do not report.
- **Virtual Day:** ***We do not plan on having any virtual days this year unless needed to fulfill instructional hours***

How Decisions Are Made
Because weather can vary greatly across our county, decisions are made only after carefully reviewing multiple factors, including:

- Road and travel conditions
- Snow or ice accumulation
- Duration and timing of precipitation
- Building conditions (power, heat, and water)
- Parking lot and sidewalk safety
- Temperature and wind chill
- Forecast updates and communication with local agencies

Whenever possible, we will announce delays or closures the evening before. However, changing conditions may require early morning updates. We will communicate decisions as early as possible through the following channels. Please be aware that the automated calling system is not guaranteed to reach every household. We encourage you to check the additional communication channels provided to ensure you receive all important updates.

Communication Sources
Television: WSLS (10), WHSV (3), WDBJ (7), WFXR (FOX), WSET (13)
Radio: Allegheny Mountain Radio (89.7)
Online: HCPS Facebook, HCPS Twitter, HCPS Website, and our Automated Calling System
Phone Line: 540-468-6305 (HCPS Information)

Delays and Early Dismissals

A delay may be used when temperatures drop into single digits or wind chills fall below 0°F. Occasionally, a delay may be changed to a full closure if conditions worsen.
If schools must close early after opening, families will be notified via our calling system, district website, Facebook, and local media.

If you have any questions about our inclement weather procedures, please contact me at 540-468-6300 or by email at jnycum@highland.k12.va.us.
Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation as we work to keep everyone safe this winter.

Sincerely,

Nick Nycum
Superintendent, Highland County Public Schools