❄️ Winter Weather Updates & Safety Planning

One constant of every school year is the impact that the weather can have on school schedules and activities. The winter months always bring the possibility of school closures and delays. My primary concern is always the **safety of our students and staff**.

How the Decision is Made

The decision to close school, or start late, begins the moment there is a predicted storm or prior to 5:00 am on the morning of the storm. I gather information from various sources, including the Minnesota Department of Transportation, National Weather Service (NWS), area Superintendents, and Morrison County Public Works, as well as consulting with our Building and Grounds Manager, Andy Harren, and our transportation staff. I also get out and drive the roads myself to gauge the conditions.

I will make every effort to make the decision to close or delay in a timely fashion to minimize disruptions for our families. Depending on the snowfall and/or current weather conditions, I will attempt to make this decision by **5:45 am at the latest**.

Communicating the Decision

Once a decision has been made to close, start late, or close early, communicating this to parents and staff is critical. We use a variety of media to get the word out quickly:

- **Primary Communication:** We primarily use our **JMC messaging system** to communicate closures/delays with families via text messages and robocalls.
    - ***Action for Parents/Guardians:*** Please ensure you have updated your primary contact information with the main office. If you have not been receiving messages, there may be an issue with your contact information. Please contact the district office to update your current contact information if necessary. This will ensure you receive timely information.
- **Other Channels:** We will also post the message on our District website and app, as well as social media accounts.
- **News Media Outlets:** We also post announcements on the following news media outlets: WYRQ, KLTF, and KFML Radio - Little Falls; WCCO & WCCO Radio 830 - Minneapolis; KASM Radio - Albany; KCLD, KZPK, and KCML - St. Cloud; KSTP & KSAX - Alexandria; KMSP Fox 9; KEYL Radio - Long Prairie; SC Times Website; and KARE 11.

Please note that while we attempt to include all the details, the media outlets may not include all of them when they distribute the announcement.

Cancellations of Activities

In the event that we close school for the day, or if we close early, due to severe weather, **all extra-curricular and after-school activities will also be canceled or postponed**.

Family Call to Action: Please take a moment to review and update your family's emergency contact details in the JMC system, and make sure your household has a clear plan in place for unexpected weather delays or early dismissals.