



VALLEY CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Winter Weather Plan

2019-2020



Please find below information regarding the winter weather plan for Valley City Public Schools. The decision to have or not have school due to inclement winter weather will be based on the safety of the students attending our schools and on the best information available at the time the decision must be made.

Valley City Public Schools with assistance from Dietrich Bus Service will consult with several agencies and organizations outside of the district to assist in making any weather-related decisions. In deciding whether children will be safe, we consider the following factors when making a decision:

- Visibility and current or expected wind conditions
- Road conditions (current and anticipated in consultation with city/county/state road crews)
- Current and/or expected amounts of precipitation
- Expected duration of the inclement weather
- Alert levels from the National Weather Service
- Current and/or expected temperatures and wind-chill

Valley City Public Schools do their best to make a decision regarding the cancellation or delay of school by 6:30am each school day. If school is delayed, it is important that you continue to monitor the situation, as school could later be cancelled, and that announcement would come as soon as possible thereafter. It may also be necessary to dismiss school early, in that event, an announcement will be made on the closing time of school.

Communication Plan for Weather-Related Announcements

Valley City Public Schools uses several communication tools to ensure that all parents, guardians, and families receive information regarding a weather-related announcement. Below, you will find the communication tools used by VCPS:

- Notifications will be sent directly to families using the Instant Alert Phone Notification System and email. A notification will also be shared by email, posted on the school website and the Facebook page.
- Notification will be sent to media outlets (TV and Radio)
 - KOVC 1490 AM (Radio), KVLV TV, KVRR TV and WDAY TV

Cancellations, Late Starts, or Early Dismissal to School

It may be necessary to start school one or two hours late due to winter weather. If this decision is made, then the following will be implemented for the school day:

- 1) **One Hour Late-** School starts at 9:30 AM for Grades 7-12, 9:40 AM for Grades K-6. Bus Pick up time for bus students will be 1 hour later than their normal pick up time (ex. 7:30a Normal – 8:30a One-hour Delay)
- 2) **Two Hours Late-** School starts at 10:30 AM for Grades 7-12, 10:40 AM for Grades K-6. Bus pick up time for bus students will be 2 hours later than their normal pick up time (ex. 7:30a Normal – 9:30a Two-hour Delay)

The district will NOT serve breakfast on Late Start to School days.

Cancellations, Early Dismissals, or Late-Starts Include Activities

If school is cancelled or dismissed early due to the weather conditions, there will be no school activities (including practices). If school is delayed due to weather conditions, there will be no early morning school activities (including practices). All decisions related to the cancellation or postponement of school activities, due to weather, will be made as soon as possible and communicated to students, coaches, and advisors.

Other Information

- Parents have the right to keep children at home if you feel the weather conditions are not safe for travel. There will be no penalty to grades or attendance if that decision is made. Parents may also pick up students early from school as necessary with the same expectations.
- If necessary, the use of storm homes may be used for students that are unable to make it home due to the weather conditions. If you would like your child to have a storm home designated in our student information system, please contact the administrative assistant at your student's school.
- Parent permission is required in order for high school students to be released from school early so they can drive home. Parents must call the high school office and also the students must sign out of the office before they leave for the day.

Please note that we continually monitor the forecast from the [National Weather Service](#) in order to make the best decision for students, staff, and families. The safety and well-being of students and staff is our top priority.