



Palmyra-Macedon Central School District

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www.palmacsd.org

Decisions about Weather-Related Conditions

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians:

The winter season will soon be upon us. District staff members understand that the decision to open or close school in bad weather has a big effect on families. We also understand that our students are better served both academically and socially by being in school. But as always, one of our priorities is the safety of our students.

How is a decision made about weather-related conditions?

Please understand that we make the decision to open or close schools in bad weather based on a careful analysis of all relevant factors, such as:

- Information on road conditions from transportation staff, town highway personnel, meteorological experts, and the county law enforcement agency. We must give careful consideration to the most dangerous roads in the district. Even if one street looks clear, travel elsewhere in the district may be dangerous;
- Amount of snow and ice accumulation;
- Whether or not precipitation is continuing;
- Building conditions;
- Parking lot conditions;
- Temperature and wind chill; and/or
- Weather predictions.

Who makes the decision?

The superintendent is responsible for the final decision, based on the above factors and recommendation.

How is the public notified?

In addition to *School Messenger* alerts, tune to the following stations for up-to-date information. Please do not call the school unless it is an emergency.

Television

WROC TV 8 YNN
WHEC TV 10
WHAM TV 13

Radio

WHAM AM 1180 WVOR FM 100.5
WACK AM 1420 WARM FM 101.3
WCGR AM 1550

Do you want to be among the first to know? Follow the superintendent on Instagram  or Twitter  at: **PalMac_Supt.**

If the County Sheriff issues a *Travel Advisory*, it means that hazardous driving conditions could be encountered; it is simply a warning to be extra cautious, but school buses and vehicles may still travel. If a *State of Emergency* is issued, the school will be closed.

Once opened, will we close school if conditions worsen?

Keep in mind that, even if weather conditions worsen, we cannot reverse our decision without endangering students. Once we make the decision to open the schools, many parents rely on it and leave for work. If we then send students right back home, many will return to unsupervised and empty houses. If conditions get worse during the school day, we may need to have an early dismissal. We will give notice to all parents via our local stations and *School Messenger*. Our goal is to return students to their homes safely, in this case, ahead of worsening weather conditions.

Although we do our absolute best in this process, we know that often no perfect decision exists. If you do not feel as though it is safe for your child to attend school, use your best judgment on whether he or she should attend. Also, discourage teenagers from driving in bad conditions and offer them alternatives if weather conditions worsen. It is acceptable for students to leave their vehicle in the school parking lot and ride the bus home, if necessary.

This letter is intended to help everyone understand the process that is used to make the best possible decision for all in our district.

Thank you.



The Pal-mac Way is Every Day