



# Knob Noster R-VIII School District

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Dr. Jerrod Wheeler, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Michael Cohron, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Angela Rolofson, Director, Student Services

**Proud Past – Bright Future**

## Inclement Weather Information

10-31-18

Dear Knob Noster Parents and Students:

As the leaves are falling and the weather begins to cool, it is time to recognize that snow may soon be in our weather forecast. One of the challenging decisions that faces a superintendent each year is making the decision to cancel school for the day, dismiss school early, or not call off school during inclement weather or other situations which may impact student safety. The decision involves consideration of multiple issues, but, in the final analysis, it all comes down to a subjective (albeit informed) judgment call.

When a decision is made, the Knob Noster School District offers a variety of ways to learn about school closings due to inclement weather. The district will communicate in the following ways:

- A recorded **telephone call** will go to all students' families as well as staff members via a service known as SchoolMessenger. Families are encouraged to make sure their phone numbers are accurate and to notify their children's school if there are changes in these numbers.
- **Text and email messages** are sent via SchoolMessenger. To participate in the text service from our schools, text the word YES to 67587. (If you currently receive texts, no need to do anything.)
- A notification will appear on the Knob Noster Public Schools **mobile app**. This is a free app you can download in the Google Play Store or Apple App Store.
- School closings are shared via district social media, including **Facebook and Twitter**. Like us on Facebook by searching "Knob Noster Schools," and follow us on Twitter by searching "Knob Schools."
- The information is posted on the district's **website**, [www.knr8.net](http://www.knr8.net)
- **Local media** are provided information about school closings. Listen or watch for "Knob Noster School District."

When possible, decisions will be made prior to 10:00 p.m. the night before or after 5:15 a.m. the day of a no-school day. We hope these times will serve to inform you while accommodating your schedules to the extent possible. If you do not receive a text/call or notification, we do encourage you to check the other options. We cannot guarantee your phone service lets the notification through, so having a back-up notification is always a good option.

In the event of school being dismissed early, the call/text and social media notification will go out as soon as the decision has been made so that you have as much time to plan as possible. As is the case with a No School Day, it is, of course, the parents'/guardians' responsibility to make the necessary arrangements for this change of schedule.

If you as a parent feel it is unsafe to have your child(ren) attend school during inclement weather, please know that decision continues to be yours...one the school district will respect. However, all absences will be recorded. Only verified weather-related absences (areas where our bus routes have been canceled) will be treated as "excused." This decision (excused/unexcused) will be made by the building principal.

Hopefully those students who regularly take the bus to school will continue to do so during poor weather, especially since it is one of the safest ways of traveling to and from school. Likewise if you transport your child to and from school, it will be helpful to maintain that routine, to ensure the day operates as normal, to the extent possible.

Questions? Please contact your child's principal or myself. We will be more than happy to discuss this inclement weather plan with you. Thank you for your partnership!

Sincerely,

Jerrold Wheeler, Ed. D.