



CAMPBELL-SAVONA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CREATING SUCCESSFUL CITIZENS STRIVING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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Dear C-S Parents and Families,

As of late November, we have already had two snowy mornings with delayed starts. We have had our fair share of snow and cold and the long range forecast for December and January indicates more of the same. And even the weather folks cannot tell us for sure what to expect in February or March.

During the winter months, questions often come up about the decision to delay or to close school due to weather. These decisions are taken very seriously and are tough because there is often no clear cut answer. After weighing the weather forecast and consulting with the C-S transportation staff and the supervisors of the road crews in our various towns, I make a decision which I believe is best for the majority of our students and families.

These decisions are even less clear cut when anticipating very cold temperatures. On a day of extreme cold the decision would be made very early in the morning to close school. However, generally, school will be in session on days which are very cold.

You may ask, "Why stay open on a very cold day?" First and foremost, closing school disrupts the education of our students and is also often difficult for working families who then need to provide child care. And since we have only five emergency closing days built into our school calendar, if we close more than five days, we must make up those days on previously scheduled vacation. Changing the school calendar in the middle of the year is often difficult for families and staff. In addition, staying open allows us to keep all our kids warm during the school day and to feed them a hot breakfast and lunch.

So why not delay opening school on a cold day? Our thinking is that a delay may not result in any warm-up, as often the wind picks up once the sun rises. Even on a calm day, a delay of two hours will usually only result in a very slight warm-up and our belief is that minimal warm up is not worth the disruption to the school day and the lives of our families that a delay causes.

Also, our buses are stored inside our garage overnight and heat up quickly to provide students with a warm place, out of the weather, on their way to and from school. On very cold days our bus drivers have been instructed to stop and offer a ride to any walkers they see on their routes and to wait at the regular bus stop for students to leave their houses once the bus arrives.

On cold days when school is in session, parents can help us by having your children dress warmly, reducing the amount of exposed skin, and keeping your child inside until the bus arrives.

During these cold weather months, our goal is to make sure that our students are as warm and safe as possible during their ride to and from school and during the school day.

Yours truly,

Kathy Hagenbuch