



The Public Schools of Brookline
Town Hall
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V. James Marini, Ph. D.
Interim Superintendent

December 14, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

With the winter months upon us, I want to take this opportunity to inform you of the procedures we will follow in the event of a snow storm or other inclement weather.

For the 2020-2021 school year only, the Massachusetts Education Commissioner will allow school districts to “pivot” to remote instruction on a snow day. Since instruction will be offered, the day will not need to be made up at the end of the school year. **I have determined that, this winter, Brookline WILL pivot to remote instruction on what would normally be snow days.** Students will be dismissed early on these days to enable families to enjoy some of the fun and excitement of a traditional New England snow day.

Please note the following:

- When it has been determined that in-person attendance at school is not possible due to the weather, I will announce an “inclement weather day with pivot to remote instruction”.
- If the winter storm is forecast with a high degree of certainty, I will make this decision the evening before. If the forecast is less certain, the decision will be made no later than 5:00am on the day of the storm.
- On these inclement weather/remote instruction days, no students or teachers will report to school. This includes all students in the First to Return cohort. This applies, as well, to students attending the supervised remote learning program at Clark Road on their remote learning days.
 - Instead, all students in grades 1-8 (*including those in the Remote Learning Academy*) will follow their regular **Wednesday schedule** and **will be dismissed at 12:00 noon**.
 - Students in **grades 9-12 will be dismissed at 12:15pm** and will receive their snow day block schedule directly from high school administrators when the snow day is announced.
 - For students who normally are in-person on Wednesdays, teachers will communicate a remote schedule for students to follow on an inclement weather day.
- All kindergarten students and all students enrolled in BEEP will have a traditional snow day with no academic instruction.
- While unlikely, please note that should we have an exceptionally strong storm - for example, one that knocks out power throughout the region - I might have to declare a snow day with no remote instruction. This would only be in extreme circumstances, but remains a possibility. Any school days with no remote instruction would need to be made up at the end of the school year.

As you may know, I work closely with Brookline’s public works and public safety officials to determine whether or not a snow day should be called. Working together, we carefully monitor weather forecasts relying on information from the National Weather Service. Following the end of a winter storm, the Brookline Department of Public Works (DPW) starts to work immediately to make roads safe and accessible across town. In addition to plowing roads, we rely on the DPW to clear snow from school parking lots and sidewalks around our schools so that staff can park and students can safely get to school. The Town might also declare a parking ban, which affects our decision of whether or not to close school.

Once a decision has been made we will post the information on our district website, post messages on our social media accounts, and directly contact our families and staff through automated phone calls and emails. Below please find links to our website, Twitter and Facebook platforms.

- Website** www.brookline.k12.ma.us
- Twitter** @BrooklinePublic
- Facebook** www.facebook.com/BrooklinePublicSchools

We will also utilize local media outlets for these announcements if they provide an option to announce a “remote” school day. The local media stations we have traditionally notified include:

- Radio** WBZ (1030 AM)
- Television** WBZ (Channel 4) www.wbz.com
- WCVB (Channel 5) www.wcvb.com
- WHDH (Channel 7) www.whdh.com
- WBTS (Channel 10) www.nbcboston.com
- WFXT (Channel 25) www.boston25news.com
- New England Cable News www.necn.com

Special note to management, clerical and building service employees: *School* closings impact only those members of our staff who work according to the school-year calendar. Full-year employees should plan to report to work unless a specific notification has been made that school offices and central administrative offices have been closed. This specific notification, if any, will be posted clearly on the district’s website and in our email communication. If our offices do remain open, but you determine that the weather would make travel from your home to the office unsafe, you may of course choose to use a vacation or personal day to stay home.

As always, our priorities are to ensure the safety of students and staff and to share information with you in a timely fashion so that you can best prepare.

Sincerely,



Jim Marini
Interim Superintendent