

Inclement Weather Policy 2020-21

1. Under what conditions will a "snow day" be called?

In pre-pandemic days, Emerson School would typically and reliably follow snow day decisions made by Ann Arbor Public Schools, given their ability to determine road conditions. However, with AAPS not returning to on-campus learning at present, or perhaps at all this year, we'll need to make our own decisions regarding closures.

We will make an announcement regarding a snow day under the following conditions:

- Six or more inches of snow have fallen in Washtenaw County from 9 pm the night before to 5 am that morning, or
- There is a Winter Storm Warning for Washtenaw County with six or more inches predicted between 5 am and 3 pm, or
- There is a Windchill Warning for Washtenaw County of below -20 F for 9 am, or
- There is an Ice Hazard Warning for Washtenaw County by 5 am that morning.

Please be aware that there may be modifications to these conditions as we begin using this system. We may also decide to announce a snow day based on weather trends which might fall outside of these conditions. We will use an abundance of caution in our decision making.

Once a decision has been made, we will alert families using the Parent Alert system as we have in the past. This will be sent as early as possible, and no later than 6 am.

2. Why call a snow day if some or all students are learning remotely?

There are a few reasons in which we need to announce a snow day. First, should we be teaching in a hybrid fashion (with some students on-campus and some fully remote), safe transportation needs to be taken into account for families and faculty. Also, switching from on-campus to remote takes time and effort on the teachers' part to prepare, so an announcement the evening before or that morning would not lend itself to an immediate switch to remote learning for our on-campus learners. Additionally, while our fully remote learners might be able to continue with lessons, we don't wish to treat our on-campus and remote learners in a way in which some enjoy a snow day and others don't.

Note that even if we are in a fully-remote setting, a number of our faculty need to come to campus to teach, and therefore unsafe driving conditions would negatively impact our teachers' ability to teach remotely.

Finally, we believe that a few snow days are in the best interest of our students, particularly if we are in a fully remote setting. This will give our students the chance to step away from their screens, and we strongly urge families to have their children play outside in the snow.

3. What happens on a snow day?

For our first two snow days, whenever they should occur in the winter season, we will celebrate them as true snow days, with no instruction and no work assigned. This goes for both on-campus learners and remote learners, and is independent of whether the school is operating in a hybrid fashion or fully remote.



In anticipation of any subsequent snow days in the winter season, the administrative team and representatives will discuss under what conditions we will provide remote instruction. We will take into account the following factors:

- status of the school (whether we are in hybrid fashion or fully remote)
- number of snow days experienced that season
- our ability to provide technology for on-campus students ahead of anticipated snow days (especially if some students are on-campus and some are remote)
- connectivity conditions for our faculty, some of whom need to work on-campus to provide remote lessons

Should remote instruction be scheduled because of prolonged time away from learning due to inclement weather, the teacher(s) will determine the schedule and length of instruction to take place that day, and this may be a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction. Note that this would not necessarily be a full day of scheduled remote learning, depending upon the conditions. This would be done in lieu of adding additional school days onto the calendar.