



TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS IN THE MITCHELL COUNTY SCHOOLS

With the winter weather approaching our central office staff with the Mitchell County Schools understands that our decision to close or delay schools in inclement 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, our top priority is the safety of our students. School officials are asking all students and parents to use the following recommendations during bad weather days:

1. Listen to one of the radio stations WTOE-Spruce Pine; WKYK-Burnsville; WJCW-Johnson City; WNCW FM Public Radio-Spindale; or KISS FM-Asheville. TV stations carrying our announcements are WBTV-Charlotte; WCYB-Bristol; WLOS-Asheville; WJHL-Johnson City; WSPA-Spartanburg; WYFF-Greenville; and WKPT TV-Kingsport. Announcements will be made in the late evening (before 9:30 PM) or early morning (between 5:15 – 5:45 AM) concerning school closings or delays.
2. A decision to close or delay school will be announced between 5:15–5:45 AM. Remember the weather can change quickly and sometimes after a decision has been made to have school – the conditions can worsen between 6 and 8 AM. **THE ABSENCE OF ANY ANNOUNCEMENT MEANS THAT SCHOOL WILL OPEN AS USUAL.**
3. Notification of school closings or delays will be made using our Mitchell Access and Communication (MAC) phone system. This phone message will be sent by Dr. Rick Spurling, Associate Superintendent of Schools, between 5:15 and 5:45 AM if a closing or delay is necessary. Monitoring on bad weather nights begins at 3:45 AM. In following these procedures it **should not** be necessary to contact school officials.
4. There will be times when it is not safe to run some of the side roads, but if the main roads are determined safe we will have school.
5. Conditions can make it possible that we will have a **two** or **three hour delay**. With a **two hour delay** students will report to school two hours later and the school day will end at its normal time. When a **three-hour delay** is called students will report to school three hours later and the school day will be extended one hour. When a delay is called, buses are not scheduled to leave until that amount of time has elapsed.
6. When the temperature is between thirty to thirty-five degrees it makes decisions very hard but safety is of the utmost importance. This is a tough decision for school officials and thank-you for your understanding, cooperation and support when bad weather compromises our regular scheduled school day.

Sincerely,

Dr. M. Brock Womble

Dr. Richard A. Spurling