

WICKLIFFE CITY SCHOOLS

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2221 Rockefeller Road Wickliffe, OH 44092

Phone: 440.943.6900 Fax: 440-943-7738 Web: wickliffeschools.org

Superintendent: Joseph Spiccia

Treasurer: Susan M. Haffey

Board of Education: Carl Marine, Donald J. Marn, Jackie Sheridan, Daniel J. Thomeier, Gail Willis

November 1, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the school year progresses into the winter season, I want to provide information to you about the process used to make decisions about closing school due to inclement weather. The decision to keep school open or to close it due to severe weather is a difficult one and often there is not an absolutely correct formula for making such a decision. That said, here is the process that is used when making the decision.

On days in which the weather is potentially severe:

- I get up daily at 4:00 a.m. Ms. Paulette Grennan (Transportation Supervisor), Mr. Len Forinash (Business Operations Manager), and I will begin talking early in the morning. Ms. Grennan will drive the roads, consider travel conditions, and will contact the city for any updates that will help us with decisions. Mr. Forinash will check all the buildings to ensure that the heat is working and the conditions are adequate for school to be open.
- When making a decision to close, I consider the following factors:
 - Snow and Ice
 - Are the roads in reasonable condition and are the bus stops safe.
 - Temperature
 - Wind chill temperatures are considered. The National Weather Service wind chill chart is used to determine when temperatures are too cold to have students waiting at bus stops or walking to school.
 - Condition of the buildings
 - Heat
 - Parking Lots
 - Entry Ways
 - I think about the students and what is in their best interests.
 - I talk with other superintendents but do not simply close because they close. We have superb city services in Wickliffe and often our roads and sidewalks are in much better condition than those in surrounding communities. There may be situations in which one or more districts close but we remain open because of our excellent city services.
 - Sometimes, decisions are made to close school due to weather forecasts. If there is ample evidence that weather is going to become severe, especially during arrival and departure times from school, I may make the decision to close. Weather forecasting is much more accurate than it once was, but it is still not an exact science. Sometimes the forecast says one thing, but something different happens. The point is decisions of this nature are not exact.



Generations of Pride

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- All of these factors are considered together, but the single most important factor that is considered is the safety and well being of the students. Safety is always our primary consideration.
- On days that the decision to close is made, I will use Instant Connect, post the information to the website, call local television stations (WKYC, WEWS, FOX8, and WOIO) and will post to my Twitter feed (@wickliffesuper).

We work hard to make the best decision possible given the information we have, but the decision to close school or keep it open is not a perfect one all of the time. Please know that the decision that is made is made with a great deal of thought and consideration.

Sincerely,


Joseph Spiccia



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