



Knob Noster R-VIII School District

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Dr. Jerrod Wheeler, Superintendent of Schools

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Our Mission Is Student Success

Date: 2-18-21
To: Knob Noster Parents
From: Jerrod Wheeler
RE: Update on Snow Days and Virtual Snow Days

Dear Parents,

I hope this email finds you well and that your family was able to navigate through the snow, very cold temperatures, and any power outages that may have been experienced this week. No doubt, the sunshine today was very welcomed as we look to get back into routine. Please be advised, school will be in session Friday, February 19, 2021.

As we close out this weather event, I am writing as a follow up to recent communications related to the district's plan this year on how to handle days missed due to weather. As you may recall from a prior memo, the KNPS faculty helped guide the decision to keep our early snow days as traditional days off this year, before moving into Virtual Snow Days. Below are the details to date as well as what you can expect moving forward.

Make Up Days

As of today, the district has missed five days of school related to snow. For those who have been in the district for several years, you may recall that in 2019, the district converted a number of missed snow days into teacher professional development days at the end of the year. This decision allowed students to finish their school year prior to Memorial Day while also allowing teachers to complete required inservice training aligned to one of our DODEA grants. Overall, the district received positive feedback on that decision.

At this time, we have developed plans to follow the same approach this year. Our goal is to allow students to finish the regular school term before the Memorial Day Holiday while allowing time for teachers to complete professional training related to a DODEA grant.

Accordingly, please be advised of the following:

1. State law requires a minimum of 1044 hours of student instruction each year. The district regularly exceeds this requirement by many hours, and this year will be no exception. The district also voluntarily offers an additional 120+ hours of learning during summer term.
2. Students will be required to make up one snow day on Thursday, May 27, which will be a half day of school. This will be the last day of school for the regular term. Wednesday, May 26 (the original last day of school) will shift from a half day of school to a 2:00 dismissal, since this falls on a Wednesday.
3. Teachers will complete four professional development / inservice days (June 1 – June 4) to meet the requirements of one of our DODEA grants.
4. Should the district cancel school for weather during the remainder of this year, we will deploy virtual learning through the state-approved Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) plan. Look for final details on

this plan to be communicated directly from your building principal and your child's teachers. Please help our team ensure that your child is bringing home their laptop each day and keeping it charged. Our student laptops are the critical link for virtual snow day learning.

Summer School 2021

The district will hold summer school 2021 from June 7 to June 30. Student incentives for attendance will remain in place, as they have for the past five years. A survey will be sent in the weeks ahead related to options for virtual learning for summer school. Additional details regarding summer school will be sent in March.

Knob Noster Public Schools in the News

Yesterday, Knob Noster Public Schools was once again highlighted by Forbes Magazine in conjunction with the Mars / Perseverance Landing. In addition, the Knob Noster Public Schools storyline was personally briefed by author Jim Cowen to the First Lady of the United States, Dr. Jill Biden. Cowen is the Executive Director of the Collaborative for Student Success, a Washington D.C. education organization and advocate for military students. Below is a link to that article:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jimcowen/2021/02/17/the-world-is-going-to-suddenly-feel-much-bigger-this-week/>

That's it for this update. However, we have a very busy Spring ahead of us. Please look for more updates in the weeks ahead. As always, thank you for your time to review this information, and please reach out to our team or to me, if we may be of assistance.

Very Respectfully,

Jerrod Wheeler