



Superintendent of Schools

Phone: 269-695-8401 Fax: 269-695-8450

401 West Chicago Street Buchanan, Michigan 49107

[buchananschools.com](http://buchananschools.com)

*Our vision is to develop responsible, resilient, creative citizens capable of succeeding in a global society.*

1/11/2024

Dear Buck Families,

The decision to close school due to inclement weather is not easy. We know that students should attend school but we also know that we can not control the weather and our priority is the safety of our students and staff.

In the event of inclement weather one of the following options will be implemented:

**School Canceled/Closed** - All school buildings will be closed. Evening activities will be determined separately based on if the weather improves.

**2-Hour Delay** - All schools will start 2 hours later than the normal times. This will be determined based on the premise that the weather conditions are predicted to improve. Evening activities will move forward as planned.

**2-Hour Delay Start times:**

Buchanan High School	9:40 am
Buchanan Middle School	9:30 am
Moccasin Elementary School	10:45 am
Ottawa Elementary School	10:40 am

**Early Dismissal** - If inclement weather conditions develop during the school day, it may be necessary to dismiss students early. We will do our best to notify parents immediately after a decision is made.

When schools are dismissed early for inclement weather, all school and community-sponsored after-school and evening activities in schools will be canceled.

**Weekends and Holidays** - If there is inclement weather on the weekend or holidays, all school facilities will be closed and any school or community-sponsored activities will be canceled.



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## **Inclement Weather FAQs**

### **How are parents and staff notified of a school closing?**

In times of emergencies/school closings, information will be shared with the parents and community through the following:

- Post on [Buchanan Community Schools Website](#)
- Post on [Buchanan Community Schools Facebook page](#)
- Automated robocalls to parents
- Emails and text messages to parents
- Local news stations

### **Who decides to close school?**

The Superintendent decides to close school based on the factors below.

### **How do we decide to close school?**

- Information on current road conditions from our transportation and maintenance staff who monitor the roads throughout the night and into the morning
- Current weather conditions and predicted weather conditions
- Amount of snow and ice accumulation
- Duration and timing of the snow or ice
- Temperature and wind chill (We use a -20 air temperature and/or wind chill for a sustained amount of time as a guide).
- School building conditions (electricity, heat, water)
- School parking lot and sidewalk conditions
- Operation of buses and the ability to travel on snow-covered or icy roads
- Consultation with neighboring school districts and other officials

### **When do we decide to close school?**

The decision as to whether or not to close school is usually made in the early morning hours due to changing weather conditions or forecasts. We also need time for the maintenance staff to clear parking lots and sidewalks and sufficient time for the transportation staff to travel the routes safely.

The alerting of a school closure will go out as soon as we decide in order to give families as much notice as possible. We try to make the decision by 5:30 am and inform families soon after. In the event the decision is made later and buses have already picked up some students we will contact families and return students home safely.



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### **Are there snow days built into the calendar?**

The district does not build snow days into the calendar, but Michigan allows up to six days for emergency closings.

### **Parent Decision**

Remember, the District will make the best decision based on the current information to determine if schools will close or remain open.

While we do our best to monitor conditions throughout the cities in our district boundaries, we cannot evaluate every road or side street. Parents always have the right to decide in the best interest of their children and families. If you feel that it is not safe for your child to attend school, you always have the option to keep your child at home.

### **How you can help**

Make sure you have an up-to-date phone number and email on file. Make sure to check social media, our website, the news channels, and email.

Educationally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia L. Robinson".

Patricia L. Robinson  
Superintendent of Buchanan Community Schools