

# USD 461

## Board of Education

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### December 2018 Superintendent Newsletter

Dear USD #461 Bluestreak Family,

We are in the season inclement weather in our area. I thought it would be best to remind our families how decisions for inclement weather are decided. There are several factors that are collectively taken into consideration specifically as it relates to winter:

- ❖ Amount of snow accumulation
- ❖ Forecast for more snow, and any advisories or warnings
- ❖ Ice
- ❖ Wind: Impacting visibility, blowing and drifting of snow and wind-chill
- ❖ Actual air temperature and highs/lows for the day
- ❖ The conditions of roads and resulting impact of city and county snow removal, road crews from the area, and our own snow removal crew
- ❖ The condition of sidewalks around the schools
- ❖ Time of day, ie. Evening events or activities

Snowfall at this time of year reminds all of us to take extra precautions, drive slower, and allow extra stopping distances at intersections. We do live in a winter climate and at times we have to be prepared to drive in these conditions when it is advised safe to do so. We also have to dress appropriately for the conditions.

The other unknown piece about living in SE Kansas is that the weather conditions can change at any time. It can be safe during one time period in the morning and weather patterns can quickly change in the afternoon. The district administrators and staff actually drive the roads in the morning typically beginning around 5:00 a.m. We coordinate with local superintendents and other school districts in our county. We check advisories from the national weather centers and use several other web sources for wind chill and temperatures.

The decision to close school is typically made by 6:00 a.m. Once this decision is made, several alerts are sent to let our public know about the closing or delayed start of our schools. This occurs from our messenger system and social media posts. You can sign up for alerts if you desire, just contact the schools during normal business hours. Remember, please use your best judgment, as we understand conditions can vary greatly in a rural community, and when in doubt, please error on the side of caution.

We hope you enjoy your time with family over the holiday break. There is **no school for students from Friday, December 21 through Wednesday, January 2. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!**

It is a great day to be a Bluestreak!

Juanita Erickson  
Superintendent