

SNOW DAYS

To school children and some adults a snow day is magical. You wake up in the morning to a blanket of snow outside and the announcement of “no school.” It is such a feeling of excitement and freedom. I felt that way as a young boy, and sometimes even as a teacher. There was a feeling of excitement of having a day off unexpectedly. When I was a boy in elementary school many years ago, snow days were especially good because we seldom had a day off from school because of snow. The bus drivers put chains on the back tires of the bus and away we would go. Boy, how things have changed.

For a Superintendent and school officials, a snow day is not at all magical. It is a day filled with anxiety which begins very early in the morning as you try to make the right decision to have school or close. There are district employees designated to get up early in anticipation of bad weather and drive specific roads to check the condition and determine if roads are safe to travel. School officials report to the Transportation Supervisor who confers with the Superintendent, a decision is made, and notification is sent to parents, staff, and community via School Messenger, radio, and television.

Some days the decision to close school is easy and some days it’s tough! Most days, the correct decision is made, and sometimes we miss. There are days when snow gets tricky; it may sneak up on us or it may suddenly disappear. Officials do the best they can always trying to put the safety of students first.

In the state of Ohio, schools have always been allowed five calamity days that could be used for snow days. Last year, the number of days was reduced to three; with all other calamity days being made up. Now there is a bill pending in the legislature to restore the calamity days for this school year back to five.

As of January 31st, the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District has closed school due to inclement weather for a total of eight days. Unless the bill passes, we will be required to make up five days; if it passes, only three days. There are days designated in our school calendar for make-up days. Those days are April 21st, April 25th, May 31st, June 1st, and June 2nd. We still have a lot of winter days left with a potential for school to be closed additional days. We can only hope the snow stays away and the days can easily be made up. All we can do is wait and see since we can not control the weather.

If you have any questions about this article or anything related to school, feel free to contact me at 544-5586.

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