



DEPTFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Arthur E. Dietz
Superintendent

Todd D. Reitzel, MBA
Business Administrator
Board Secretary

November 1, 2018

Dear Deptford Families,

As we approach the winter months, we have begun planning for inclement weather. Almost every year, Deptford experiences a few days of very cold, icy, or snowy weather which necessitate closing or delaying of school. Hopefully we will experience a mild winter but if not, we want you to be prepared ahead of time.

We understand many families need to make alternate arrangements for their children when school is delayed, canceled, or dismissed early. These are stressful times for all of us especially parents. The whereabouts and safety concerns of our children are paramount for parents and educators. The best advice I can give is to work on developing a network of support which can react and adjust to changing conditions when weather becomes a problem. Planning ahead is important - for parents and the school district. As a parent, I know it is not easy.

How do we decide to close school?

The decision to delay or close school is a careful decision formulated by a number of factors, including temperature and wind chill, levels of snow and ice, road conditions, and how these conditions are forecast to develop over the course of the day.

This year to reduce the stress of a last minute closure or delay opening, the superintendent will make every effort to call a 2-hour delay EARLY (10pm is the goal) and communicate it to custodial, maintenance and grounds staff via the business administrator and/or maintenance supervisor. Simultaneously the communication liaison will then send the community and staff notification of the 2-hour delay. It is during this 2-hour delay that a follow up decision will be made if it is necessary to close schools.

How is the public notified of school closings?

The best source of information will be the Deptford Township School District website <http://www.deptford.k12.nj.us>. Information will also be shared by a phone blast, on Deptford Township School's Facebook social media account, and local TV and radio stations (WPVI – Channel 6, NBC – Channel 10, FOX – Channel 29, and KYW – 1060 News Radio).

What does a 2-hour delay mean?

A delay causes schools to open two hours later than their normal start time. All schools will still close at the regular time. A delay does not count as a snow day and does not need to be made up later in the year. Any before-school programs such as daycare will be canceled. Schools will individually decide how to alter their bell schedule for the delay. When the opening of school has been delayed due to weather, afterschool programs will operate as scheduled (unless otherwise stated).

What if inclement weather develops during the school day?

We open with the intent of remaining open for the full school day. Early dismissals are used only in extreme situations. The decision to cancel any extended day, afterschool program, or athletic event will come from the superintendent. In such cases, Deptford will inform schools and families that afterschool programming is canceled. If we need to close early, when possible, students will still be served lunch before dismissal.

*“Building Spartan Pride through the Educational Process
to Develop a Spartan Proud Community”*

When will school be made up?

State law requires us to have a minimum of 180 school days. To meet this requirement, some snow days will need to be made up at the end of the year.

If we have 1 snow day, April 18, 2019 will be the first make up day.

If we have 2 snow days, April 23, 2019 will be the second make up day.

If we have 3 or more snow days, these days will be added to the end of the school year starting with June 18, 2019.

Very Respectful,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Arthur Dietz".

Arthur Dietz
Superintendent