

February 8, 2021

Dear Mandela Family,

The winter season is here. The Nelson Mandela Campus understands that our decision to open or close in bad weather has a significant impact on families. We also understand that our scholars are better served both academically and socially by being in school. However, our top priority is the safety of our scholars. For many years at Nelson Mandela, we followed the Omaha Public Schools' weather-related closing policies. The pandemic and technology have changed many procedures and routines. To reduce potential damage and loss, we do not send our Chromebooks home every day and can not switch to remote learning overnight. We will notify you by 6:00 a.m. (or the night before if possible) whether we will have a canceled in-person learning day or implement a late start. The following information is considered in all decisions relative to closing school due to inclement weather:

SNOW DAYS

Snow days will occur if there is a clear danger in driving to or from school due to snow accumulation or blizzard conditions. It will not be a remote learning day.

SNOW REMOVAL DAYS

If there is a significant snowfall and the Omaha Public Schools remain closed due to snow removal, Nelson Mandela campus will assess the conditions and make an independent decision.

COLD DAYS

Since we do not have school buses or children waiting for buses, **we will have school**, even when it is cold outside.

ICE/SLEET DAYS

If traffic conditions are such that the Department of Roads or the city recommends staying off the streets, we will either cancel school or have a 2 hour late-start day (10:00 a.m.).

We support families in their decisions. If you believe your scholar would be safer at home in poor weather conditions, that is your decision. In addition, if you are concerned with the weather conditions during the school days, we would encourage you to communicate with the school if you would like to pick up your child early.

Thank you for your support and flexibility. We want your scholar in school each day to reach our vision that all scholars will be on grade level for reading and math by the end of third grade and our mission: to provide quality instruction that demonstrates ALL scholars can learn and develop academically, emotionally, socially and physically. Nelson Mandela Elementary is committed to maximizing the educational success of all scholars and bridging the learning and achievement gaps.