

Jackson Township Elementary

News from the Principal's Desk

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January

Character Qualities

- Cleanliness
- Helpfulness
- Cooperation
- Compassion

Upcoming Events

January 14—Grade 2 VIP Day
Rescheduled from December

January 20—No School—MLK Day

January 28—Grade 1 VIP Day

Getting Back To Business

Happy New Year, and welcome back to school! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday break, filled with rest, family time, and joy. After a refreshing Christmas break, we have been excited to begin the second half of the school year!

As you know, we've had a bit of an unexpected start due to the three snow days and delays we've had this week. While the winter weather has kept us at home for a few extra days, we have been looking forward to getting back into the classroom and continuing our work together. During the snow days, JTE teachers were engaged in professional development. Teachers gained updated knowledge which will help them continue to offer your children the best education possible.

The new year is a wonderful time to refresh our focus and set new goals for growth. As we return, we will continue to build on the strong foundation we've created so far this year. Teachers are eager to engage students in exciting lessons, and there are many upcoming opportunities for our students to grow academically and socially. Stay tuned for information about upcoming events and initiatives that will help keep the momentum going for the rest of the school year!

What Happens If We Have More Weather Related School Closures?

This is a great question! Nobody likes to make the decision to delay or close school, but tough decisions have to be made sometimes. Every effort is made to keep schools open and in session, but as we have found out this week, the weather did not cooperate. These decisions are made following one simple rule: The safety of our students, parents, and staff is our top priority. School officials pay attention to weather forecasts, temperature, windchill factor, and road conditions throughout the entire district, among other variables, when determining school delays and closures.

Superintendent Rayle has provided very detailed information for families concerning weather related school delays and closures. Please see the next two pages of this newsletter.

As always, if you have questions, do not hesitate to contact us!



Dr. Timothy Rayle, Superintendent
Dr. Brady Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Dr. Douglas Lunn, Director of Special Services
Mrs. Kathy Knust, Curriculum and Grants Coordinator
Mr. Chris Ross, Director of Human Resources
Mr. John Szabo, Director of Business Affairs
Mr. Aron Hammond, Director of Extended Services
Mr. Bill Milner, Director of Technology
Mr. Joshua Clarke, Chief of Police

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Inclement Weather Information 2024-2025

Dear Families of Clay Community Schools Students,

In situations involving inclement weather or emergencies, Clay Community Schools may find it necessary to cancel, delay, or dismiss schools early. The safety of our students and staff is our utmost priority when determining school closures or delays due to weather conditions. We strongly advise families to establish contingency plans for childcare and transportation requirements in advance.

For information regarding weather-related school schedules, **please do not call the central administrative office or the schools to ask about delays or closings.** For your convenience we utilize various communication channels, including our website (www.clay.k12.in.us), email and text notifications, emails to employees, notifications to local radio and television stations, and updates on the CCS Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/drtrayle/>) and Twitter pages (<https://twitter.com/ClayCommSchools>).

Decisions regarding closures or delays will be made in the evening when feasible, allowing parents ample time to make necessary arrangements. In cases where weather conditions are uncertain, we will wait for the most recent morning forecast before deciding on any delays or closures.

During inclement weather, the following scenarios may occur:

- Full closure of schools for the entire day.
- A two-hour delay in school start times:
 - a. Morning buses will operate two hours later than usual.
 - b. Breakfast services will continue with possible alterations to the menu.
 - c. Morning preschool sessions will not be held.
- Early dismissal may occur if weather conditions deteriorate during the day:
 - a. Afternoon buses will depart early.
 - b. Afternoon preschool classes will be canceled.
 - c. Parents should stay updated to learn about the timing of early dismissal.

Guidelines for calculating a two-hour delayed start time are as follows:

- Add two hours to the regular school start time.
- Add two hours to your regular bus pick-up time.
- Schools will dismiss at the usual time unless otherwise announced.

Parents and Guardians, please remember that if the school remains open and you deem it unsafe for your child to travel based on local conditions, use your discretion regarding their safety and inform the school if your child will not attend.

Snow Days & eLearning Days Reminder:

We have been granted up to 3 Snow Days and up to 3 eLearning Days (total of 6 days).

- A Snow Day means a traditional non-school day for students; teachers will engage in Professional Development.
- An eLearning Day entails virtual classes via Chromebooks, with lessons and assignments accessible through CANVAS.

Please note any additional school cancellations beyond the allocated 3 Snow Days and 3 eLearning Days will necessitate makeup instructional days.

- If school closures exceed the 6 available days for snow and eLearning, makeup days will be scheduled, typically at the end of the school year in May.

Extra-curricular Activities

If school is canceled for the safety of the students because of inclement weather, i.e. hazardous road conditions, then all school activities including practices, scheduled contests, and any other activity shall also be canceled. If, when school is canceled for one (1) school day, weather conditions improve to where the roads, school parking lots, and school sidewalks are clear, the Superintendent shall have the discretion to decide if practices, scheduled contests, and other activities will be allowed, provided that no student is required to participate in such activities. If the school cancellation extends beyond one day, the Building Principal shall have the discretion to decide if practices, scheduled contests, and other activities will be allowed provided that no student is required to participate in such activities. Furthermore, there will be no penalty for any student who does not participate on a day school is canceled.

If school is dismissed early for the safety of the students because of inclement weather, i.e. hazardous road conditions, then all school activities are also canceled including practices, contests, and other activities.

Thank you for your attention to these procedures and considerations during weather-related situations.

Sincerely,



Dr. Timothy Rayle
Superintendent