



## HARRISBURG NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Sioux Falls, SD 57108  
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November 11, 2014

Dear Parents:

We are reminded with the cold and snow this week to plan ahead for dealing with inclement weather and school closings.

**We will utilize our new parent notification system, Bright Arrow, to call all parents when we are starting school late, ending school early, or not having school at all. At school registration you were asked for an update of home or cell number information. If you have had changes since then, please contact Jean Hudson at 743-2567, ext. 3010 to give us your new number(s).**

**We find at times that when multiple schools are all calling off at once, the phone lines can't handle that much traffic and sometimes our announcement is delayed, sometimes for an hour. It is important that you too watch for school closings on the major TV and radio stations in Sioux Falls.**

First and foremost, please plan ahead. It is extremely important for you as parents to discuss with your children what to do for adequate apparel and emergency plans. Warm winter clothes, which includes gloves, hats, and footwear, is extremely important attire to wear to and from school, as well as on school bus trips in case a bus becomes stranded. If your child drives to school, please express the importance of taking their time and to drive slowly in the event of fog, ice, or snow.

In case we would need to call off school during school hours, please rehearse with your child the plans they should have in the event you may not be home. Letting them know where you have a key to get into the house is also a good idea in case they come home to a locked house during the winter. Lining up an alternate location for your child to go to in case you are not home is also a necessary plan to make at this time.

The decision here to call off school is not easy and is made after gathering a lot of information. We do not call off school here unless the conditions certainly warrant it. Compared to other areas of the state, we are very populated and also have a good road system. With both parents working in most households, we find that calling off school usually creates a hardship for parents too. It is policy, that if we are having school, and you feel that it is unsafe for your child to attend school due to the weather; you can call the office of the school which your child attends to inform them that you are keeping your child home. Your child will not be counted absent on that day.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Jim Holbeck, Superintendent