



An important message From the School Director About weather-related delays and closures

Dear Parents & Guardians:

With the winter season upon us once again, we want you to have an understanding of the decision-making process to close or delay school. We fully understand that this impacts families greatly. We also understand that our students are better served – both academically and socially – by being in school. But, as always, our top priority is student safety when the weather is inclement. Let's do this through a question-and-answer format.

HOW DO WE MAKE OUR DECISION?

Please understand that we make the decision to open or close our school in bad weather based on a careful analysis of many factors. These factors can be happening in the southernmost districts of South Jersey or the most northern districts in South Jersey from Cape May County to Camden County. Factors include:

- Information on road conditions.
- Amount of snow and ice accumulated over multiple counties.
- Weather precipitation.
- Building and grounds conditions. We need to ensure that walkways and parking lots are safe. We also monitor power issues related to heat and electricity.
- Weather predictions. We prefer not to make our decision based on weather predictions, which are not always accurate. But when something is expected to begin at 6:00 a.m., we are entirely dependent upon TV meteorologists.
- Decisions made by neighboring districts and surrounding counties where some of our students reside. We share information with other local districts and check whether they are opening or closing.
- Decisions made by a variety of transportation companies.

WHO MAKES THE DECISION?

As School Director, I am responsible for the final decision, based on the above factors as well as critical recommendations from our administration.

HOW IS THE PUBLIC NOTIFIED?

You will receive a voice message and/or an e-mail or text message from our school messaging system. Tune to local TV and radio stations (KYW New Radio, CBS Philly, or 6 ABC) for up-to-date information on school closings. Our school's closing number is 949. Also check our district website at www.pinelandschool.org or our Facebook page for information. Please do not call the school phone number to seek school closure or delay information.

WHEN IS THE DECISION MADE?

We try very hard to make the decision to delay or cancel by 5:30 a.m. or earlier. There may be times when we are closed but your local area schools may not be closed based on the geographical area we serve.

WHAT IS THE DELAY SCHEDULE?

Sometimes we will delay based on the storm's timeline. If we delay the school's start time, school would begin at 10:00 a.m. with dismissal at 2:40 p.m.

WHEN WILL WE MAKE UP DAYS IF SCHOOL IS CLOSED?

The first weather related school closing day will be made up on February 15th. The second make up day would be June 20th. Beyond that, we begin adding days to the end of the school year beginning June 21st and ending June 28th. Please refer to the district calendar.

WILL WE CLOSE SCHOOL IF CONDITIONS WORSEN?

Most likely we will not close school early for any weather-related conditions. However, some school districts and some transportation companies may do so. This may mean that your child is dismissed from our school early based on the decision made by your child's home school district. Be aware of possible early dismissals for your home school.

HOW IS TRANSPORTATION AFFECTED?

- Sometimes Pineland will be open but school districts and their transportation companies may be closed. This means that transportation will not be provided.
- In the case of a delayed opening, your home district's delay time may differ from Pineland's delay time.
- When your home district decides on an early dismissal because of inclement weather, they may pick up their students early from Pineland.

Although we do our absolute best in this process, we know that often no perfect decision exists. If, based on current weather conditions, you do not feel as though it is safe for your child to attend school, use your best judgement on whether he or she should attend.

We hope that this explanation helps everyone understand the process we use to make the best possible decision for everyone in our district.

Wishing you all a wonderful upcoming holiday season.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Lamb

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