

Park Ridge Public Schools

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Robert M. Gamper, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

It is possible during the school year, due to unsafe travel conditions, that it will be necessary to alter the school day. Delayed openings, early dismissals, or total closings are the usual changes. The following is relevant:

1. In order for the day to count toward the required 180 days, grades K through twelve pupils must have a minimum of four hours of instruction. We have timed our delayed openings and early dismissals to address this requirement. Our school calendar accommodates three dismissals without altering vacation schedules. If the need for closing schools exceeds three days, we will shorten the April vacation beginning with Monday of the vacation week, then Tuesday, etc.
2. The decision to have a school closing or a delayed opening is made on a joint basis by all Pascack Valley regional districts. Because of shared programs and transportation, all districts must agree to delayed openings or early dismissals. It is most convenient when there is agreement among the regional schools for complete closures, but districts can make individual decisions to close entirely.
3. On 90-minute delayed opening days, the middle/high school will start at 9:20a.m.; elementary schools will start at 10:05 a.m.
4. On delayed opening days, parents of children who walk or are driven to school are requested to plan departures from home so that arrivals at school occur no earlier than 9:00a.m. for middle/high school and no earlier than 9:55a.m. for East Brook and West Ridge. On these days, bus contractors will pick up bus riders approximately 90 minutes after their regularly scheduled pick-up time.
5. Morning EXTRAS will be cancelled on days when there is a delayed opening; afternoon EXTRAS will be cancelled on days when there is weather related early dismissal.
6. Weather related early dismissals for the middle/high school will dismiss at 12:13p.m., and grades K through 6 at West Ridge and East Brook will dismiss at 1:00 p.m. **Early dismissals will be used only on an infrequent basis. There has to be clear evidence by 10:00 a.m. that road conditions will be significantly worse at regular dismissal times than with early dismissal.**

NOTIFICATION

Notification will be carried out through three means:

- A "Reverse 911" call will be initiated at approximately 6:00 a.m. for delayed openings and full closures. The same system will be initiated by 10:00 a.m. for weather related early dismissals. It is essential that parents provide the school with accurate contact phone numbers for both the 6:00 a.m. call and the 10:00 a.m. call. Please update any new phone numbers with your child's school. Swiftreach cannot accommodate extensions.
- The information will be posted on the Park Ridge District Website at www.parkridge.k12.nj.us.
- Channel 7 and other local media will be notified; however, it is their discretion about what they post.

I appreciate the inconvenience caused by changes in the school day, particularly when both parents work outside the home. Please be assured that we make decisions based upon what we perceive is best for all children. As a parent, if you have a unique set of circumstances, we respect your decision to keep your child at home if you determine that transporting him to school creates a safety hazard. Please contact your building principal or me if you have questions.

Sincerely,


Robert M. Gamper, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Schoolopening/closing19-20

A district "committed to educational excellence"