

VERNON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

2016/2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Dear Parents and Guardians:

A) Regarding the closing of schools due to inclement weather or emergencies:

ALL VERNON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPERATE ON A 2 HOUR DELAY SCHEDULE.

1. **WEATHER** - In case weather conditions make it necessary to close schools, the following method of notifying the community will be used.

SCHOOL MESSENGER - Please be sure your child's information is up-to-date and accurate in the parent portal.

RADIO STATION - WSUS 102.3 FM - Announcements regarding closing of schools between 6:15 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.

WEBSITES - www.vtsd.com

2. **DO NOT CALL THE POLICE STATION** - Calls tie up the police telephone lines, which must be kept open for serious emergencies and are not to be used for the dispensing of information.

THE POLICE WILL NOT GIVE OUT INFORMATION REGARDING SCHOOL CLOSING - Any other information specifically regarding a certain grade level or session will be sent home as the need arises.

3. **TRANSPORTATION** - Please review the Parent School Bus Handbook found under "Transportation" on our website (www.vtsd.com) for important information regarding your child's safety at the bus stop and while riding the school bus.

B) **ALTERNATE TO CLOSING SCHOOL BECAUSE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER AND ROAD CONDITIONS** - Specifically, this alternate will be the opening of school two hours later. When an alternate opening is announced, school children should go to their bus stop two hours later than normal. If, during the two hour delay, road conditions do not improve, it may be possible that school will be cancelled. Please continue to listen to WSUS or wait to hear from SCHOOL MESSENGER during this time. This alternate gives us a greater amount of time to get roads cleared and assessed. We trust we will have your full and unqualified assistance and support in this matter.

C) **MATTERS OF EARLY DISMISSAL** - On occasion it may be necessary to close school earlier--an early dismissal. When this occurs WSUS will be called immediately and SCHOOL MESSENGER will be activated. Please listen to them for the announcement of early dismissal. If you are not going to be home, it is necessary you have arrangements made for your child's care (a neighbor, a grandparent, etc.). In an early dismissal, buses will leave the high school at approximately **11:50** a.m.; leave the middle schools at approximately **12:25 - 12:35** p.m.; and leave the primary schools at approximately **1:20** p.m. **Please see the attachment on www.vtsd.com, click on Transportation under "Parents" for Walnut Ridge dismissal times.** In order for this system to work, however, once buses arrive we will let them leave as soon as they are full. Since this system may be necessary if roads are bad because of snow, etc., then it is very likely that the time spent on the bus trip will be longer than normal. In such weather it will probably take your children a longer time to walk home from the bus stop. This early dismissal process helps to give more time for buses on the road so that your children will arrive home safely.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter.

Sincerely,



Arthur DiBenedetto
Superintendent of Schools

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