

Dear Parent/Guardians,

Living in Northeastern Ohio presents our school district with many challenges dealing with adverse weather. Often, severe conditions at 6:00am are much improved one or two hours later making it safe to continue school activities. With this being said - our school district may use the option of a two-hour delay start to the school day for inclement weather or other emergencies. By using the "two-hour delay", we may be able to have school and avoid using as many calamity days or making up any school days.

The need to close or delay the opening of our schools for the safety of students and staff is a decision we take very seriously. We understand students are better served both academically and socially by being in school, however, student and staff welfare is our top priority.

The following procedures will be implemented for a two-hour delay start situation:

Two-Hour Delay Procedures (if Needed)

The superintendent, in conjunction with other school officials, will strive to make a decision by 6:00am to either close or delay the opening of school and will announce it to the radio and television media and send out a Blackboard Connect message as in the past.

When a two-hour delay announcement is made, continue to listen to the radio and television for updated information. If conditions deteriorate, a decision will be made to close school for the day by 7:45 A.M. and you will receive a Blackboard Connect call.

Information, Questions, and Answers for Parents & Employees

Two-Hour Delay Schedule May Be Used

A "two-hour" delay may be used as an alternative to cancelling school if it can be done safely. Safety is our first priority! Two hour delays will be considered if weather forecasts and local road departments indicate that roads can be adequately cleared in time for a "late-start" and that safe weather conditions are likely throughout the remainder of the day. We ask you to please make arrangements for your children for the possibility of two hour delays as well as for full-day school closings.

In Crestwood, under a two-hour delay, each building's schedule will begin two hours later than usual. The day will start with the corresponding class period of the day unless communicated otherwise by individual building principals. The school day will end at the usual time.

Transportation changes will be made as follows:

All morning pick-up times for Crestwood public and non-public school students will be two hours later than normal. If your student participates in the Education Alternatives, ALS, LEAP, or Maplewood programs(s) this will also apply.

Afternoon transportation home will be at the regular time.

Transportation will not be provided for the morning pre-school program since it will be cancelled. It will be provided for the afternoon pre-school program at the regular times.

Questions and Answers

Can I drop my child off at the regular time if we are on a two hour delay?

No. Building staff will not be available to supervise students before the designated starting time.

Can we arrange for alternate pick-up locations when there are two hour delays?

No. We cannot change pick-up locations in such a short period of time without compromising safety or causing busses to be late.

Will my child have breakfast or lunch on this schedule?

Lunch will be served, but breakfast will not be served.

How will we be notified of two-hour delays or school closing?

As with school closings, the announcement of a two-hour delay will be broadcast on television and radio stations and via our Blackboard Connect telephone system.

What if I believe it is safer to keep my child home all day when schools are open?

District decisions regarding calamity days are made based on safety conditions for the district as a whole. We realize there may be localized conditions that may cause some parents to be concerned. Parents who keep their students home based on localized conditions should send a written excuse the next day and students will be excused and allowed to make up any missed work for credit.

How does the district make the decision to open, close, or use a two-hour delay?

Area weather forecasts are monitored regularly throughout the late evening and early morning hours. District employees drive as many main and back-roads as possible between 4:00 AM and 5:45 AM to monitor depth of snow, drifting, wind, and slipperiness of roads. We also consult as needed with the State Highway Patrol and other area safety forces.

Our goal is to make parents aware of our decisions to close or delay between 5:45 AM and 6:15 AM if at all possible.

Impact of Two Hour Delays on Employee Schedules

Administrators and custodians will report at the regular time to assist as needed.

All other classified employees who are scheduled for mornings will report two hours later than usual. This applies to secretaries unless other arrangements are made with their principals or direct supervisors out of necessity.

Classified employees who are normally scheduled to work mid-day or afternoon shifts will report at their regular times.

Teachers will report two hours later than their normal times.

Closing or delaying school is a difficult decision and we do our best to make the correct call. Your continued support and cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

David M. Toth, Superintendent

Crestwood Local Schools