



WILLIAM J. GRETZULA, Ed.D.
Superintendent

PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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December 15, 2020

Dear Pennsbury School District Community,

Our team has been closely monitoring the storm that is predicted to cross the region tomorrow into Thursday morning. I had the opportunity to collaborate with our countywide educational leaders, including the 13 Bucks superintendents, the leaders of the 3 countywide technical education centers, and the leadership team of Bucks County Intermediate Unit. We were joined by the Bucks County Director of Emergency Management, Mr. Scott Forster. He shared the most recent information from PEMA regarding the storm:

- Snow total projections vary across the county as usual: Upper Bucks (18-24 inches); Middle Bucks (12-18 inches); Lower Bucks (8-12 inches)
- The “mixing line” could move northwest which could reduce totals in the lower end of the county. Since staff travel from many parts of the county, the numbers are concerning in each region.
- The projected start time for snow to begin falling in Bucks is between 12:00-2:00 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon. It will pick up in intensity.
- The onset of the storm will see heavy, wet snow which will become fluffier on the backend. The storm should taper off in our region between 5:00-8:00 a.m. on Thursday morning.
- Wind speeds will reach 35-45 miles per hour at the height of the storm.
- There is a likelihood of sleet and freezing rain at some point in Lower Bucks, which could lead to downed trees and wires.

Of course, storms do not always follow a predictable path and the impact could shift. That stated, this is likely to be our first significant snow in over a year and could lead to dangerous situations. With an eye toward safety, Pennsbury School District will enact the following plan for teaching and learning for the remainder of the week:

MISSION

Recognizing our proud traditions and diverse community, the Pennsbury School District prepares all students to become creative, ethical, and critical thinkers for lifelong success in a global society.

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

In preparation for the impending storm, Pennsbury School District will conduct a fully-remote, virtual instruction day on Wednesday, December 16, 2020. All students will participate in their regular Wednesday schedule virtually with planned, synchronous instruction. Staff are expected to treat their responsibility as though it were a typical Friday in the hybrid model. Those who report on Friday should report on Wednesday. We will monitor the weather throughout the day to determine if staff should exit earlier than usual.

Thursday, December 17, 2020

For Thursday, December 17, 2020, we have taken into consideration the joy a “snow day” brings children; yet, we also have taken into consideration the importance of maintaining educational routines that have already been disrupted by COVID mitigation efforts. With weather projections ranging from 8-12 inches of snow and the prediction of potential for power outages, it is likely we will be unable to offer in-person instruction on Thursday.

To support proactive planning, we will only offer a fully remote, virtual instruction day on Thursday, December 17th, but the instructional model will shift to an asynchronous day. Teachers will be asked to post/assign educational activities for that day. Students can work on them at their leisure and will be marked present by completing their work. No office hours will be held by staff on this day. Additional information will be sent to staff Wednesday evening as to whether they are to report to work in-person on Thursday or whether we will enact a districtwide shutdown including schools and offices. This decision will be communicated by **8:00 p.m. on Wednesday**.

The School Board Meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 17, 2020 will be held virtually. Information on submitting public comments and viewing the meeting can be found by clicking this [link](#).

Friday, December 18, 2020

It has been previously established that each Friday is a day for fully remote instruction and students and staff will follow their respective Friday schedules. If the predicted storm is significant in causing continued infrastructure problems for families and staff, we will reconsider the plan for Friday. Such a decision would be made by 8:00 p.m. Thursday evening if something changes.

Schedule Change Due to Pending Storm

December 15, 2020

Page 3

As always, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve our community. We hope that all stay safe and, perhaps, find joy in the days ahead!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William J. Gretzula". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W" and a long, sweeping underline.

William J. Gretzula, Ed.D.
District Superintendent
Pennsbury School District