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WEST ELIZABETH - JEFFERSON HILLS - PLEASANT HILLS

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Supervisor of Special Education/Pupil Personnel

December 2019

Dear West Jefferson Hills Families:

Now that the cold weather has arrived, I'd like to remind you about our emergency weather procedures. When I make the decision to delay or cancel school, student and staff safety is my primary concern. Unfortunately, weather is very unpredictable, and conditions may vary throughout our community. There is no exact amount of snow, temperature, wind chill or weather condition that dictates when to delay or cancel school. Many resources are used to gather information, and I carefully review multiple weather forecasts. I also consult with the Jefferson Hills and Pleasant Hills Police Departments, borough managers, public works' departments, Director of Facilities, and our bus company to gather reports from our plowing crews and make first-hand observations in some of our neighborhoods. When conditions require the delay or closing of school, you will receive a message from our phone alert system, *SchoolMessenger*. Delay or closing information will also be announced on our website at www.wjhsd.net, Facebook, Twitter and local TV stations. Typically, when school is canceled, after-school and evening activities will also be canceled. School cancellation days will be made up according to the pre-selected make-up days listed on our school calendar.

SchoolMessenger

In the event of a school delay or closing, you will receive an automated phone call, and/or text message, from the District's phone alert system, *SchoolMessenger*, to the primary phone number you have listed in your child's *Skyward* account. **{If your child's contact information has changed, please make the updates in *Skyward* or ask the building secretary to make the updates for you as soon as possible.}** Calls are typically made no later than 10:00 PM and no earlier than 5:00 AM. On rare occasions, I may need to delay or cancel school after 6:00 AM or change a delay to a cancellation when there is a question about road conditions or extreme cold. The success of this system depends on the accuracy of your contact information in your child's *Skyward* accounts.

Information Sources for a Delay or Closing

- *SchoolMessenger*: phone call, text message, e-mail
- District website: www.wjhsd.net
- Facebook
- Twitter
- KDKA-TV and kdka.com
- WTAE-TV and wtae.com
- WPXI-TV and wpxi.com

Letter from the Superintendent

December 2019

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There is always going to be snow, cold and inclement weather in Western Pennsylvania. There may be days when school will be in session while the roads are snow covered and the temperature is cold. On those days, we all need to drive with caution and make sure that our children are appropriately dressed for the cold weather. As always, please use your best judgment regarding the weather conditions in your own neighborhood.

Thank you for your help and patience during this winter season.

Sincerely,

Mike Ghilani

Michael P. Ghilani
Superintendent

MPG/pjz

Director of Human Resources at 412-655-8450 x2228.