



Cal Ketchum
Superintendent

Cindy Foley
Bus. Mgr./Clerk

Tina Blair
5-8 Principal

Richard Gross
K-4 Principal

www.westvalleyschool.com

2290 Farm to Market Rd.
Kalispell, MT
59901

(406)755-7239- phone

(406)755-7300- fax

1/6/22

Dear West Valley Staff and Families:

As always, we're watching the weather conditions and forecast for our area. We want to exercise caution and not put our students or staff in a position to travel in unsafe conditions. We have been alerted by the National Weather Service of rapidly changing conditions in our area and to communities in the near vicinity. The most recent weather forecast for our area indicates that we will continue to have cold weather and snow accumulations this evening and that tomorrow we're expecting high winds, more snow, with snow turning into rain and freezing rain in the afternoon. All of these conditions combined may lead to school closures. If we make the decision to close school, we have more than enough hours built into the calendar, where we would not have to make up the day at the end of the year. There is a provision in MCA that allows for one emergency day of school missed, that does not have to be made up.

Although canceling school on account of weather conditions is something that does not happen often in NW Montana, we believe that it is prudent to exercise caution. We will monitor conditions/forecasts tonight and early in the morning and will make a decision on the status of school no later than 6:00 AM on Friday morning (1/7/22). Please look for an email or text communication from WVSD on Friday morning. We will also post information on the school district website.

Below is the forecast from the National Weather Service. The forecast is expected to be updated at 4:30am.

Tonight: Snow. Steady temperature around 23. Light and variable wind becoming south southeast 8 to 13 mph after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches is possible.

Friday: Rain and snow before noon, then rain, snow, and freezing rain between noon and 1pm, then rain and snow after 1pm. Patchy blowing snow after 5pm. High near 30. Breezy, with a south southeast wind 7 to 12 mph becoming south southwest 21 to 26 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 37 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. Little or no ice accumulation expected. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible. As of now, it isn't so much transporting kids to school in the morning, but the possibility of freezing rain in the afternoon that would make it difficult to run buses and for cars to be on the road.

Please know that we don't make these decisions lightly as we know how closing schools has a negative impact on our community and working families.

Thanks for your understanding and support,

Cal Ketchum

(This message, or a version of it, is being sent out to multiple school districts in the valley.)

Our Shared Beliefs Are:

In a safe, welcoming learning environment, students and staff take risks and accept challenges, so they can do their best work.

Positive relationships promote academic, social, and emotional growth.

All students are capable of growing academically, socially, and emotionally through a personalized approach.

Developing positive character traits leads to productive and responsible citizens.

A collaborative and celebratory environment supports a sustainable culture.