



Monday, February 11

Dear ECS Parents, Staff, and Families;

Wow! What a crazy stretch of winter weather we've experienced since Christmas. I certainly cannot remember a time in the last 20 years where we've had multiple consecutive weeks with 2-3 weather related school cancellations.

One question that has been on everyone's mind is what do all these snow days mean in terms of making up days at the end of the school year. First, a little bit of background. The State of Michigan requires that every school district schedule a minimum of 180 school days and that in those 180 days students are in school for a minimum of 1098 hours. In addition every district is granted up to six (6) days per school year to use for cancellations beyond their control (weather, power, illness, etc.) Those six days are automatically forgiven.

As of this today, Ellsworth Community School has had 10 weather related cancellations. Therefore we are currently required to make up a minimum of four (4) days. There is also a process by which districts can request from the State of Michigan a waiver for an additional three (3) forgiven days. Schools do not have to apply for a waiver, and even if they do apply, waivers are not automatically granted.

With all of that being said, winter is far from over. There is a high probability that between now and the end of March, Ellsworth Community School will have additional weather related cancellations. There is also the possibility that due to the extreme nature of this winter throughout Michigan that the State of Michigan will grant all school districts additional forgiven days.

To that end, Ellsworth Community School and the Board of Education will be reevaluating the school calendar to determine if additional days will be added to the end of the year later in March. Currently the last day of school is scheduled for Friday, June 7. I would like all parents, staff, students, and families to be prepared for the possibility that we will be adding additional time to the school year up to and including Friday, June 14. The only thing that I can let you know with certainty is that the date for Commencement Ceremonies for the ECS Class of 2019 will NOT change. Graduation will still be held on Friday, May 31.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding weather cancellations, required days and hours of school, or any other matters please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

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ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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