

Cutter Morning Star School District

2800 Spring Street

Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901

501-262-2414

October 7, 2019

Parents and Guardians:

Cutter Morning Star School District has received approval from the Arkansas Department of Education to use Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) on days when we have inclement weather or exceptional circumstances and must cancel school. We will take advantage of using alternative methods of teaching and learning on any days (up to 5) that would otherwise have been snow days' to be made up at the end of the year.

When regular school is canceled and it is considered to be an AMI Day, students will be expected to follow the Cutter Morning Star School District AMI Plan by completing assignments for their class(es) that have been provided by their teachers. These assignments are consistent for various grades and subjects throughout the district and will be based on existing knowledge, not new material. They are to be completed at home within 3 days of returning to school and graded accordingly. It is our goal that AMI Days enable us to continue learning despite the uncontrollable elements of the weather or any unforeseen event, not allowing inclement weather to push our school calendar into June.

AMI Days will be used the first time we have inclement weather this school year. Please ask your child's principal if you have questions about this practice. Thank you for your support of Cutter Morning Star School District.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nancy Anderson, Superintendent

Cutter Morning Star School District

LEADERSHIP SUPPORT SERVICE

Arkansas Department of Education 2019-20 Alternative Methods of Instruction Plan

DISTRICT INFORMATION

District Name: Cutter Morning Star School District LEA Number: 2601000
Superintendent Name: Dr. Nancy Anderson Address: 2800 Spring Street City/State/Zip:
Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901 Phone Number: 501-262-2414 E-mail Address:
nancy.anderson@cmseagles.net

The number of days the district missed due to exceptional or emergency circumstances in the 2017-2018 school year: 2

The number of days the district missed due to exceptional or emergency circumstances in the 2018-2019 school year: 1

Number of days requested for 2019-2020 Alternate Methods of Instruction (1-10): 5

ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION PLAN

Describe the alternative means or methods of instruction. Please include within the plan how technology and resources would be available to the students if needed.

PK-6 Kindergarten: Students and families would engage in board gaming that reinforces Kindergarten Math and Literacy Skills. These games could be what they already have at home such as UNO or Chutes and Ladders or Go Fish OR students will make homemade board games to practice Kindergarten skills using legal size folders that we send home with instructions and examples. Students would also be given access to books on their reading level.

First and Second Grades: Students will be given an "activity baggie" to have at home with an assortment of practice activities that cover the first and second grade power standards. The individual "activity baggie" would include everything the student would need.

Third and Fourth Grades: Send home Sidewalk Chalk for non-inclement weather days. Students would have their collection of Scholastic News that is already provided at school that they can take home to review. Students would create their own math word problems to solve at home and then bring back to school to share with classmates. Students would take home a recipe to practice measurement and/or measure the precipitation that accumulates on inclement weather days. Students would be given directions for writing what they see when looking out the window at some point during that day.

Fifth and Sixth Grades: Each student will be given a packet that included the additional

focus skills provided for in our Summit Platform.

Art and Music: Students will write a song including some of the "found sounds" during the day, Students will also create an instrument using "clean" throwaways from their home.

Physical Education: Students will be given a list with directions of exercises that they can do indoors and/or outside.

Library/Media Center : Students will create a book with illustrations and text based on their favorite character in a story they have read from the library.

Technology: Students will create a "human" coding game.

7-12 All of our students will be given packets to take home. Internet access and connectivity is not 100% in our school district. Affordability of wifi is an issue with our district as we exceed 70% of our students live at or below the poverty line. Our packets will focus on reading and writing across the curriculum. Grades 7-12 will receive reading and writing assignments in math, science, social studies, language arts, fine arts, and CTE courses that will link to standards for each subject and grade level. All necessary materials will be included in our AMI packets. Students will receive packets from each of their teachers they see in a "regular" school day. Our expectation for these assignments will be for these packets to reinforce and enrich skills already taught. We anticipate extra focus on reading and writing will provide support to our goals of increasing ACT and ACT aspire scores. Teachers will prepare packets by September 28, 2019 and submit them to the building principal for approval.

Describe how teaching and learning through the alternative methods of instruction (AMI) will benefit students at each school within the district.

PK-6 In addition to the above activities- Parents will be given the option of identifying a family project to do with their student which details how the students worked on reading, math, and other skills and subject areas. In grades 7-12, we believe our focus on reading and writing will benefit our students by reinforcing and enriching skills and content previously taught. Special education teachers are working with regular education teachers to make sure the assignments are in line with the needs of those students. Staff will ensure that if extended time is mandated by the IEP students will be allowed such modifications. The same procedure applies to ELL and GT students as well.

Describe how student attendance will be determined on an approved AMI day.

PK-6 We will give each student a form that the student and his/her parent/caretaker will complete and sign and date and return to their classroom teacher within 3 days of returning to school. Those students will be counted present. Students who do not return their form with completed work within three (3) school days shall receive an unexcused absence. Student work AMI days will be graded by the teacher and will be recorded as classwork. The district handbook will be followed in determining if an absence is excused or unexcused. Simply not submitting the completed work within the allocated time with no communication from a parent about extenuating circumstances will result in an unexcused absence and a zero being assigned for the work. The principal will make the final decision on excused/ unexcused absences, in accordance with the district handbook.

7-12 Students will be counted present for each part of the day for which completed work from the packet is returned to the teacher by the end of the third day following an AMI day. Attendance will be reported to the office in order to maintain accurate records.

Student work AMI days will be graded by the teacher and will be recorded as classwork. The district handbook will be followed in determining if an absence is excused or unexcused. Simply not submitting the completed work within the allocated time with no communication from a parent about extenuating circumstances will result in an unexcused absence and a zero being assigned for the work. The principal will make the final decision on excused/ unexcused absences, in accordance with the district handbook. All work will be assessed and recorded by the classroom teacher.

Describe the teacher responsibilities and/or contract requirements for an AMI day.

PK-6 ALL Staff would be participating in our Alternative Instruction Assignments for Days missed for Inclement Weather and/or other causes for unexpected school closings on contracted days according to this plan. Pre-K Teacher and Instructional Assistant would make up these days at the end of the school year with the amount of time needed to clean their classroom items, conference with parents, order materials and supplies for next year and documentation of individual student progress.

7-12 Licensed CMS school district staff responsibilities will include designing an appropriate number of AMI packets for the course he/she teaches. AMI packets will be reviewed and/or updated by the end of the first nine-weeks. Packet information will be available in paper form and also posted to each course website and/or learning management system(Schoology/ Google Classroom). If electricity and Internet is available, teachers will remain available to students during AMI days via email, phone, teacher websites, and the course LMS. This will allow unimpeded communication between teachers and students. Teacher requirements will be met by his/her availability during the AMI day, modifying, updating and revising future AMI materials, or other

duties assigned by the building principal. The periodic monitoring during the AMI day as well as the assessment of completed assignments will satisfy the contractual obligation of the teacher.

Describe the classified employee responsibilities and/or contract requirements for an AMI day.

Classified employees will-

Nurse: Work on electronic Health Records Registrars: Enter absences after hearing from the teachers on students that do not complete work. Instructional Support: Assist in developing, distributing, and collecting AIM instructional packets. Eschool Administrators: Updating Student records Maintenance: Working on School dude work orders

Technology Director: Update Website and social media The administration team will assess the end of year needs to utilize the classified employees on extended contract as needed.

Describe how the district will communicate with parents and students the purpose and expectations for an AMI day.

To introduce the AMI program, the district Superintendent will send a letter to all parents explaining the purpose of the program and describing key details. Implementation will begin when the Building Principals send AMI packets home with the students. These packets will include a letter to parents with the same information covered by the Superintendent. Information about AMI days will be shared with parents at school wide events, open house, Christmas programs, ball games, newsletters, social media, and posted on our website. Throughout the process, administration and teachers will constantly emphasize that the success of the AMI program depends on active support from the students.

If possible as weather forecasts predict the possibility of the need for the district to use an AMI day, advance communication will occur informing parents that it is possible that the district could use an AMI day. Parents will be reminded of how the district will communicate with them the decision, as per our District Handbook. (Facebook, Twitter, School Website, School Reach, Hot Springs Radio channels, and state news channels, 4,7,11)

If advance communication is not possible, parents will be notified as soon as the decision has been made, through the same means of communication listed above. These are the current means of notification used when school is canceled, so its use for the purpose of AMI days will provide a seamless transition.

If it is determined that school will be canceled, explain how the district will determine if the day will be an AMI or make-up day.

The first five days missed will automatically be considered as AMI days. Any additional missed days will be considered as make-up days.

URL Link to Posted Notices:

<https://www.eaglesnest.dsc.k12.ar.us>