



Depew Union Free School District
DISTRICT OFFICES
5201 S. Transit Road
Depew, New York 14043-4335
www.depewschools.org

Hank Stopinski, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
(716) 686-5105
Fax (716) 686-5101

Superintendent's Weekly Message

9/9/2022

Community Members,

Over the past two weeks, I was reminded of the importance of adhering to the hazardous weather guidance that is provided by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) and Section VI. With temperatures approaching 90 degrees and the threat of lightning, our sports teams and coaches have had to adjust to these weather conditions.

Last weekend, our Varsity Football game was suspended due to lightning in the distance. As we were clearing the field and stands, someone asked what was the "big deal" and who made the decision to postpone the game.

Many years ago, while coaching in Vermont, a tragic fatality took place when a single bolt of lightning struck and killed the center fielder during a softball competition. Whether or not there were warning signs of this pending strike is unclear. What is certain is that we can never take the warning signs lightly. NYSPHSAA provides a specific [policy on thunder and lightning](#). The policy outlines how to quickly protect our athletes and spectators as well as the wait time required to resume the contest. In the case of the football game last week, the decision to postpone the game was made by the head official with full support of our Athletic Director and myself.

Do not hesitate to pull me aside at a District or Community event and help me to better understand our schools and community. For those of you who may be interested, please consider following me on Twitter @DrStopinski where I will be sharing the good news of Depew.

Sincerely,

Dr. Hank Stopinski
Superintendent of Schools

"Inspiring, Challenging, Achieving"