

ORCHARD VIEW SCHOOLS

35 S. SHERIDAN DRIVE
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49442
www.orchardview.org

As we gear up for winter in West Michigan, it's important to acknowledge some of the challenges winter weather poses to the safety of our staff and students when traveling to and from school. Every year, severe weather in the form of heavy snow, sleet, ice, freezing temperatures (or other extreme conditions associated with living in Michigan) has the potential to close school.

Closing school, for any reason, is never an easy decision. When looking at closing school as the result of weather, we must take a number of factors into consideration, and this process generally begins the day before as we start to receive weather alerts from the National Weather Service. Information is also gathered from the transportation department, other local school districts, and local/state police agencies. Typically, early in the morning, central office staff members review all available information and then travel the local roads to make a decision.

Based on local information and district road conditions, a decision to open or close school is made. As many of our students are dependent on school transportation, we will always try to make a decision by 6:00am. If a decision to close schools is made, this will be communicated in the following ways: 1) District robocall made by phone, 2) Email, 3) District Website, 4) District Facebook page 5) local news and radio stations. **If the decision is made to close school for the day, all classes are canceled for both virtual and face-to-face learners. Decisions involving athletic practices and evening events will be made later that day based on the weather conditions at the time, but in most cases practices and events will be canceled also.**

The safety of students and staff is always our number one priority. Temperatures below -15 degrees Fahrenheit, visibility less than ¼ mile, and ice-covered/impassable roads are all examples of unsafe conditions that could result in closing school. Regardless of circumstance, please be sure to prepare your children properly for the weather on a daily basis. You know your child best and the conditions in your neighborhood so If you choose to keep your child home due to weather conditions on a day that school is in session, please communicate with office personnel in the morning before school begins.

I am well aware that after making a decision, there may be questions regarding the decision. As always, you can contact me at 760-1300 or email me at jim.nielsen@orchardview.org.

Jim Nielsen

Jim Nielsen, Superintendent

"It's a Great Day to be a Cardinal"