



ARLINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brendan Lyons, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools

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November 13, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I would like to remind you of Arlington's early dismissal, cancellation, and delay procedures. The district will continue to use our automated phone system, *SchoolMessenger*, to notify parents of all emergency closings, cancellations, or early dismissals.

IMPORTANT: The district automatically uploads the primary/home phone number and an email address (when available) for all parents/guardians. To ensure that you receive notifications at the desired phone number and to add text messaging (or to opt out of early closing/delay calls), please make sure you have downloaded the SchoolMessenger App, available for mobile phones or computers. Visit www.arlingtonschools.org and look under the Parents tab for full details.

Under most circumstances, cancellation and delay calls will go out beginning at 5:00 a.m. **In the event of a delay, please listen to the message carefully as to whether it is a two or a three-hour delay.**

Early Dismissal Times

If we anticipate significant inclement weather to arrive during the school day **before** the normal dismissal time, we will release students as follows:

- **High School and Middle Schools** **10:00AM**
- **Elementary Schools** **11:30AM**

These are our traditional bus departure times for an emergency early dismissal. Unless there are extraordinary circumstances that severely threaten students' well-being, we will not conduct an early dismissal later in the day. Although this increases the possibility of dismissing students based on weather forecasts that do not materialize, we believe that this will be safer for students and less confusing for parents.

Emergency Drop off Locations

In order to safeguard each child, *please confirm with your school a single emergency drop off location* in the event of an early dismissal. Please discuss this plan with your children. When confusion occurs, it is not always possible to reach parents to confirm their child's destination. We need your help to ensure that every Arlington student is transported safely to the correct location.

Our mission is to empower all students to be self-directed, lifelong learners, who willingly contribute to their community and lead passionate, purposeful lives.

Cancellation Procedures

Between 4:30 a.m. and 5:00 a.m., I consult with our Transportation and Maintenance Departments, weather forecast services, and other school districts to make the best decision possible about delays and cancellations.

Delayed Openings – Two and Three-Hour Delays

If it appears that weather or road conditions will improve, we will delay the start of school. Our standard delay will be for a two-hour period. However, if weather or road conditions suggest the need for a longer delay, we may call a three-hour delay. PLEASE listen to the announcement carefully or check the website if you have any question about the length of the delay. If after announcing a delay we determine that safety conditions will not improve, we will announce a school closure between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.

Information about Cancellations, Delays, and Early Dismissals:

There are a variety of sources of information for school delays, closings, and early dismissals:

School Messenger	<p>This system is designed to call phone systems, utilize email addresses and send text messages depending upon the information available in the system. The system has the ability to call all possible phone numbers for a student or family simultaneously for a minimum of three attempts. If an answering machine responds, a message will be left.</p> <p>In order to avoid receiving duplicate calls, please listen to the message introduction. If you hang up immediately, the system thinks the call has been dropped and will call you again.</p> <p>If you have questions about <i>SchoolMessenger</i>, please visit the Arlington website at www.arlingtonschools.org for more information.</p>
Websites	<p>www.arlingtonschools.org www.cancellations.com</p>
Local Radio Stations	<p>Cumulus Broadcast Stations (AM 1340, WPDH 101.5 FM, WRRV 92.7 FM, The Wolf, 94.3 FM, Mix 97.7 FM)</p> <p>Clear Channel Broadcasting (96.1 KISSFM, WRWD 107.3 FM, LiteFM 92.1, Rock 93.3, AM 1450)</p> <p>WHUD 100.7 FM WGNV 98.9 FM WSPK 104.7 FM WDST 100.1 FM</p>
Television	<p>FiOS News WABC-TV</p>

Sincerely,



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