

UPDATED 7.5.18



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hen we head into the wild winter months, the district has put together emergency winter weather bus routes called **Weather Routes** to ensure students arrive safe and sound at school.

How Weather Routes are Determined:

When the weather turns from rain to snow, there are several things that happen before we decide if we should start school on time, start two hours late or cancel school and all activities for the day. The process begins with our transportation supervisor, Roxi Mortimer. Roxi heads out in the early morning to check the roadways. When she has determined that the roads are not safe and that we may need to call a delay or close the school, she alerts the Superintendent, Laura Christian. They will discuss the conditions of the roads and the best option on how to proceed. So many of our bus routes are on remote county roads, and unfortunately they are not high priority for the road crews that need to start off their day focusing on the main arterials. As our road crew works tirelessly through the winter months to provide us all with safe passage during the winter storms, we must find a safe alternative for our students to attend class. Our top priority is the safety of all of our students whether they be riding a bus in, driving in themselves and/or by a parent or just simply walking up from their house. For all of those reasons, we have implementing emergency routes, and take these weather conditions very serious when making the decision to cancel or delay the school day. If we determine that the side roads are too slick for the buses, and unsafe to properly make turns arounds or stops, we will be asking families to bring their students to the pavement.

Alerts you may Receive:

Late Start:

In response to the area receiving a significant amount of snow or the prediction that a significant winter storm or extreme conditions that could potentially impact the area, a “Late Start” alert could be issued through School Messenger. This is to allow the road crews adequate time to prepare the roads for safe travel, and our maintenance team to prepare the schools sidewalks and parking lots. A late start alert could mean one of two things for students that ride a bus to school.

If a **‘Late Start’** is issued:

Bus routes will be delayed 2 hours— students will be picked up at their normally bus stops.

Schools and classes will start 2 hours late—First bell will sound at 10:10 am. A cold breakfast will still be provided.

Preschool will be cancelled for the day.

If a **‘Late Start/Weather Route’** alert is issued:

Bus routes will be delayed 2 hours— and families will be expected to drive their students to the pavement for pickup.

Schools and classes will start 2-hours late— First bell will sound at 10:10am. A cold breakfast will still be provided.

Preschool will be cancelled for the day.

School Closure

The District also may determine that schools need to be closed for the day if the weather is severe. If this is the case, a **‘School Closure’** notice will be communicated to parents, staff and the community by the School Messenger and local radio and television stations.

**** School messenger will send out an alert to notify families if there is or will be an active Weather Route for the current day or the following.** Please note that these messages may sound similar, and it is suggested to listen to the entire message before hanging up. Weather alerts will also be sent to the KHQ, Q6, KXLY and iFiber One News outlets, posted on the school districts Facebook page, as well as the front page of the district website.

To update your school messenger, sign into your Family Access account on our district website and make necessary changes. If you do not know, or have forgotten your login, please contact the school office. You can also find “School Messenger Contact Info” under the enrollment tab if you would like to submit your updates to the office.

For all transportation questions call Transportation Supervisor Roxi Mortimer at 509-760-5875, or reach her by email at rmortimer@wilsoncreek.com.