



GREAT OAKS ACADEMY WINTER WEATHER POLICY

Severe cold and inclement weather are unavoidable in Minnesota. The following information is intended to highlight Great Oaks Academy's process for navigating extreme weather conditions.

The decision to close school or utilize a late start ultimately rests with the Executive Director. The Director collaborates with our transportation service, MNDOT, and neighboring school districts to gauge whether the weather conditions are safe for school. The first priority in making these decisions is the safety of our students and our staff members. However, we also acknowledge that school closings and late starts may present considerable inconvenience for many families.

Communication of school closing and late starts will be posted via our website, our social media, and direct email, phone call, and/or text message to the information on file in JMC. Our goal is to communicate this information by 6:00 am at the latest. Please check these places regularly during the winter season and during weather advisories in order to be up-to-date on this information.

In the event of heavy snow and unsafe driving conditions, relevant factors include the timing and the amount of snow, as well as wind factors, road conditions, and the progress of snow removal. As a general rule, a late start or school closure may be considered when heavy snowfall and/or poor road conditions impact the school commute times in the morning and in the afternoon. Due to the requirements of our busing system, an early release is usually not possible.

For severe cold, the Great Oaks Director will base this decision on the temperature and wind chill, particularly during morning and afternoon commute times. If the wind chill is expected to be below -35 degrees F, or if the temperature is expected to be below -25 degrees Fahrenheit, the Director will consider closing the school. On cold days when school is in session, recess will be indoors when the wind chill or temperature is expected to be below -10 degrees F. On indoor recess days, students will eat lunch in their classrooms so that the gym can be open for active play during recess time.

The choice to close school or schedule a late start involves a number of details that are gathered in real time. Each school's context is different, which means that what makes sense for a neighboring district may not make sense for Great Oaks. However, our policies are based upon existing policies of schools around us. In the event that school is closed due to weather conditions, the Director may declare a FLEX learning day. On FLEX learning days, students will

receive and complete offline assignments from teachers that are aligned with our curriculum objectives.

We respect parents/guardians choice and ultimately parents can decide whether to send their children to school during inclement weather. Students are expected to attend school when it is in session. If school is open, students are expected to attend. However, if parents/guardians feel that attending school puts their child(ren) at risk and keep them at home, the absence will be excused provided it is reported prior to the start of school. If the school is not contacted, the student will not receive an excused absence.

If you have further questions about our severe winter weather policy and the decision-making process, please contact our Director, Mr. Paul McGlynn: pmcglynn@greatoaksacademymn.com.

If you are not receiving direct email/phone/text communications about severe weather, or if you need to update your information please contact Ms Shauna Talley: stalley@greatoaksacademymn.com.