



## Inclement Weather Guidelines

The safety and well-being of students and staff is our top priority and the decision to close, delay or release school is no simple matter. Before deciding to modify the school day due to extreme weather conditions, the Superintendent consults with a variety of experts both inside and outside of the District. Our commitment is to keep students, families and staff safe, as well as keep the community informed of weather-related school closings, delays and cancellations.

Please note that we continually monitor the forecast from the National Weather Service (NWS) in order to make the best decision for students, staff and families in a timely manner. The District utilizes information from the NWS for Des Moines. The NWS's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) wind chill and heat index charts are utilized in the District's decision making process. The NOAA wind chill and heat index charts can be found under Appendix A of these guidelines.

Announcements of District weather-related decisions are communicated through local media outlets (television, radio, newspaper) and multiple District communication platforms. Notification will be sent directly to families by phone and email through the District's Infinite Campus system and posted on the District's website [www.vmbulldogs.com](http://www.vmbulldogs.com). To receive notification through the District's Infinite Campus system, please ensure your contact information (e-mail and phone) is accurate in Infinite Campus and is set up correctly. Announcements will also be posted to Van Meter Schools social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, etc.). High school activity and athletic event decisions are communicated by the building administrator/designee.

The District must make one decision that is appropriate for more than 800 students. We recognize that this decision may not always fit with individual circumstances. Therefore, we support parents/guardians making the best decision for their family. Parents/guardians may choose to keep their children at home if they are concerned about their child's safety due to weather conditions. In this event, they must notify the school and the absence will be recorded as excused.

## Cold Day

*Closing due to temperature or wind chill.*

School will be cancelled if the forecast for 10 a.m. the following morning shows frostbite times of 30 minutes or less (see Appendix A). Decisions regarding cancellation will be made no later than 10:00 p.m. the night before a cancellation.\*\* As a general practice, All activities are cancelled unless otherwise noted (please check [www.vmbulldogs.com](http://www.vmbulldogs.com) for the most current information).

### **Cancellations include (but not limited to):**

- All District schools, the Van Meter preschool, and District-sponsored before- and after-school programs
- Field trips
- School events (Elementary / Junior High)
- Family engagement activities (i.e. conferences)
- **High School Athletic cancellations are decided on an individual basis and will be communicated to the public by the school**
- Meetings and activities in a school building or District facility hosted by an outside organization

## Snow Day

*Closing due to snow or hazardous driving conditions.*

School will be cancelled if heavy snow and/or icy conditions make it exceedingly hazardous or impossible for school buses to travel their routes and/or for employees and students to report to school safely. A decision will be made by 5:30 a.m. the morning of a cancellation and notification made by 6:00 a.m.

As a general practice, All activities are cancelled unless otherwise noted (please check [www.vmbulldogs.com](http://www.vmbulldogs.com) for the most current information).

### **Cancellations include (but not limited to):**

- All District schools, the Van Meter preschool, and District-sponsored before- and after-school programs
- Field trips
- School events (Elementary / Junior High)
- Family engagement activities (i.e. conferences)
- **High School Athletic cancellations are decided upon on an individual basis and will be communicated to the public by the school**
- Meetings and activities in a school building or District facility hosted by an outside organization

## Late Start

*Delaying the start of school due to weather conditions that are expected to improve throughout the school day.*

**School will be delayed if the forecast for 6 a.m. the following morning shows frostbite times of 30 minutes or less (see Appendix A). Decisions regarding cancellation will be made no later than 10:00 p.m. the night before a cancellation.\*\***

**When a late start is deemed necessary, late start times may vary depending on the weather conditions but will typically be two hours. In the event of any late start, morning preschool will be cancelled.**

\*\* If conditions have worsened following the 10:00 p.m. notification timeline, the District will recheck conditions and make notification no later than 6:00 a.m.

## Early Dismissal

*Releasing school early due to weather conditions that are expected to worsen throughout the school day.*

When an early dismissal is deemed necessary:

- A decision is determined by 10 a.m. unless conditions worsen later in the day
- Early dismissal times may vary depending on the weather conditions
- Children normally transported on buses will be returned by bus according to the early dismissal schedule unless other arrangements have been previously made and communicated to the child's school
- **Decisions regarding high school activity and athletic events will be made by the building administrator/designee**
- As a general practice, all after school and evening activities are cancelled unless otherwise noted (please check [www.vmbulldogs.com](http://www.vmbulldogs.com) or your child's school's website for the most current information).

### **Cancellations include (but not limited to):**

- District-sponsored after-school programs and extra-curricular activities (Elementary / Junior High)
- Field trips
- School events (Elementary and Junior High)
- Family engagement activities (i.e. conferences)

- **High School Athletic cancellations are decided upon on an individual basis and will be communicated to the public by the school**
- Meetings and activities in a school building or District facility hosted by an outside organization

## Same Day Activities Cancellations

*Cancelling after-school activities due to weather conditions that are expected to worsen throughout the school day. School is in session as normal. Decisions to cancel activities will be made as soon as possible on the day of the cancellation.*

### **Cancellations include (but not limited to):**

- District-sponsored after-school programs and extra-curricular activities (Elementary / Junior High)
- Field trips
- School events (Elementary and Junior High)
- Family engagement activities (i.e. conferences)
- **High School Athletics cancellations are decided upon on an individual basis and will be communicated to the public by the school**
- Meetings and activities in a school building or District facility hosted by an outside organization

# Appendix A



## NWS Windchill Chart

