



MANTENO COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT No. 5

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LISA M. HARROD
Superintendent

Hello from Manteno Community Unit School District No. 5!

I hope this note finds you doing well and enjoying this beautiful weather. I wanted to explain a few things about our snow day procedures and clear up some of the myths and confusion...as we know...winter is coming!

When there is a pattern of disruptive weather or a watch for a winter storm, the superintendent's in the area begin discussing how to proceed. The initial discussions usually begin 48-72 hours in advance. We spend our time looking at the strength of storms and the potential impact to our schools and schedules. This is a constant monitoring...watching and waiting.

The communication continues and if a watch or warning is called, a conference call is scheduled. By this time, we have lined up a plan B and C in case we need them. Before and after the conference call, we are in contact with road commissioners and in some cases, law enforcement agencies. I am in contact with the athletic directors and building administrators to create a plan to communicate regarding any students traveling out of district. There are times we will even drive some of our rural roads if needed.

All area superintendent's join in the conference call and discuss the data, forecasts, etc. We do not take these decisions lightly and we know despite all of our efforts, there is no absolute way to predict what is coming or the continued intensity of what has already occurred.

In the case of fog, we will be following and monitoring conditions. We have utilized a delayed schedule before. We will do our best to hold school, but if the conditions worsen, we may need to cancel. I understand this may be difficult for some of you, but we cannot send our buses out in limited visibility.

What I do know, is that every decision is made based on the safety of our students and staff. There are times when the conditions in town have been much more desirable than in the country. We are one district and have to make decisions based on the continued safety of everyone involved. On our rural routes, wind and drifting snow can make travel near impossible. As superintendent, I am always worried about people in our community who may be traveling on days with severe conditions.

I often see and hear of social media posts stating that I am inconveniencing people... and I know there are people who question our decisions. Please know it is not my intent to inconvenience people and I simply cannot apologize for trying to keep people safe. We will not always get it right, but it does not mean we have not spent hours trying to get it right in the process. We are trying our best to promote **positivity** and **teamwork** and ask for your cooperation in helping us achieve this.

I will do my best to explain any circumstances that are occurring outside a traditional snow day. One example of this would be pipes bursting and having to close only one school in the district.

I would like to commend our maintenance staff and our Director of Buildings and Grounds, John DePoister, for all of the time they spend working with me on any direction these days may take us. When the storms have ended, the department always makes sure our buildings are safe and ready.

As I stated before, there is no way to get it right every time, but I assure you we are trying our best. I am so thankful for your ongoing support of our schools and for being a part of what makes our district so special.

With Appreciation,

Lisa Harrod
Superintendent

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
555 COOK ST.
(815) 928-7200

MIDDLE SCHOOL
250 N. POPLAR ST.
(815) 928-7150

HIGH SCHOOL
443 N. MAPLE
(815) 928-7100

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES
250 N. POPLAR ST.
(815) 928-7005