

WVCSD EdTalk: November 30, 2022
Dr. David Leach, Superintendent of Schools

With the holiday season officially begun and the start of winter just weeks away, I thought it would be a good time to review some of our district's important communications procedures related to delays, early dismissals, and closures caused by bad weather. I know we don't want to think about problematic snow storms just yet - or ever, to be honest - but we can be thankful we're not dealing with six feet of snow like our distant neighbors to the west in Buffalo!

Here in Warwick, in cases when nasty winter weather is imminent, we may make the call the night prior, to close schools for the following day. More often, however, we wait until the morning, keeping a close eye on local conditions and forecasts, to make the most informed decision possible and ensure the safety of our students. In those cases, we do our very best to get the information about delays and closures to you before 5:30 a.m. This is so we can make sure parents and guardians receive notifications before having to leave for work or other commitments.

When the decision is made to delay, close, or dismiss school early, we have established a number of ways to make sure the related announcements get to you in a timely fashion.

1. School Messenger Service (SMS)

SMS is another primary method of contact for important school-related communications, and especially for weather related alerts. SMS messages arrive as texts, emails, and robocalls. The system was tested in October to ensure that school emails/alerts are currently reaching all constituents with a WVCSD email.

2. Social Media (Facebook.com/WVCSD)

School closing, delay, and early dismissal messages will be posted to the district's Facebook page as soon as possible following delivery via SMS.

3. Radio & Television

We share our latest weather-related decisions with local and regional stations, including:

- **TV:** WABC-TV; WNBC-TV; FOX 5; Hudson Valley News 12
- **Radio:** 93.5 WTBQ; 92.1 Lite FM; 92.7; 96.9 WRRV; Star 93.3; 94.1, 95.7, 96.7, 103.1, 107.7 The Fox; 94.3; 97.3 The Wolf; 96.1 KISS FM; MIX 97.7; 98.9 Fox Oldies; News Talk 99.3 WKIP; 100.7 WHUD; 101.5 WPDH; 107.3; 1110 AM WTBQ; 1220 AM Fox Oldies; 1340 AM; 1390 AM Radio Disney; 1450 AM WKIP

Please do not contact our Transportation Department or bus garage for information on delays, closures, or early dismissals. Although we understand the impulse, it is critical that their phone lines remain open for emergencies, especially on inclement weather days.

To learn about the many factors that go into a decision to close our schools, I hope you will visit this page on our district website: www.warwickvalleyschools.com/about-wvcسد/emergency-closings-delays. This page will give you important insight into the comprehensive decision-making process our administrative team goes through when deciding to open or close schools.

As a final note, in the event of an early dismissal, high school and middle school students are released first, and elementary students are dismissed approximately an hour later. This is to make sure that older siblings arrive home before their younger brothers and sisters. For the bell schedule on days when we have one- or two-hour delays, please visit the dedicated webpage for your child's school.

We are looking forward to a wonderful winter of learning here in Warwick, and the safety of our students is always our biggest concern.

Here are some highlights from our schools this week:

Park Avenue Elementary School

Under the direction of Christy Brown (Director), Amy Buliung (Producer), and Kate O'Donnell (Costume Director), the Park Avenue Drama Club took the stage on Friday and Saturday for three sold out performances of Seussical.

The cast was made up of 66 third and fourth graders, following auditions in September and nine weeks of rehearsals and preparation. For many of them, this was their first theatrical experience, but you would never know it. The cast sang and danced their hearts out to some Dr. Seuss favorites.

The Park Avenue PTA, parent volunteers, teachers, and staff all worked together to make the weekend a success. We were also blessed to have the help of middle and high school students each week, who helped teach the music and choreography, along with learning lines and developing their characters. Special thanks to two high school seniors, Emily Buliung (Student Director) and Isabelle Flores (Vocal Coach), for their many years of service to the Park Avenue Drama Club.

Sanfordville Elementary School

Our PIE 3 & 4 students presented their research on hazardous weather to their classmates last week. The students have been applying great nonfiction strategies to research hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, tsunamis, wildfires, and volcanoes. They have been taking notes, learning how to paraphrase texts, and collaborating in teams to create interesting and engaging Google Slide presentations to share their knowledge with their peers. Presenters focused on paraphrasing experts' words, making eye contact, and speaking understandably. Listeners focused on good note taking and finding the most important points of a slide. The students' hard work showed in their excellent presentations! Their research continues, and they are beginning to create structures that would be able to withstand their type of hazardous weather. We are excited to see what great ideas they showcase next!

Warwick Valley Middle School

Students in our Culinary Arts class put together a Thanksgiving feast for a small group of fifth grade students. They prepared a turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans, and cranberry sauce from scratch. Our culinary teacher, Ms. Lane, has been working with our high school students to teach them the intricacies of creating a warm and welcoming holiday

experience. The fifth grade students had a great time sitting and enjoying a wonderful meal with their classmates, teachers, and new high school friends. The luncheon was enjoyed by guests and the students who worked in the kitchen and on the service line! The high school students were grateful for the opportunity to spend so much time with the middle school students. We hope that everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving!

Warwick Valley High School

Two of our choral groups—the Meistersingers and the Treble Choir—performed at Radio City Music Hall on November 22. Their performances took place between the two matinee performances of Radio City’s popular Christmas Spectacular. This year marks the first time both choirs have performed in the same year. Typically, schools submit a demo of their performance to Radio City, and, after careful consideration and review, some schools are invited to perform. In 2019, the Meistersingers, under the direction of Ms. Hanson, submitted an outstanding and well-received demo. They were invited to perform that year, and have been asked back every year since without having to audition! It is an honor for the students to share their talents on the hallowed stage of Radio City Music Hall, something they are excited about and proud of. Their performances were a wonderful kick-off for their carol season!