



Inclement and Cold Weather Policy

At Bethany School, student safety is always our top priority, and winter weather can create challenges for families and staff. Because students travel between buildings throughout the school day and have outdoor recess whenever conditions allow, please be sure your child comes prepared with appropriate cold-weather clothing. Coats, hats, and gloves or mittens are essential; boots may be worn between Thanksgiving Break and Spring Break. We also ask that families label all outerwear, as items such as hats, scarves, and gloves are easily misplaced.

Students will go outside for recess as long as it is not raining and the temperature—taking wind chill into account—is above 20°F.

Delays and Closures

Bethany School will only use two types of weather-related schedule changes: a **two-hour delay** or a **full-day closure**. If school is closed for the day, all afternoon and evening activities will be cancelled as well.

Whenever possible, we will announce a delay or closure by **10:00 p.m. the night before**. If weather conditions remain uncertain, a final decision will be made by **6:00 a.m.** the following morning.

Families will be notified through **email, phone, and text message**. During significant weather events, many schools are issuing announcements at the same time, which can occasionally delay message delivery. If you do not receive a direct notification from us, please check local television stations (Channels 5, 9, and 12), our school social media accounts, or the school's voicemail message. Bethany School will appear as "**Bethany School**" on television listings; because we make decisions independently, please do not rely on announcements from Princeton City Schools.

Two-Hour Delays

When early-morning road conditions are questionable but expected to improve quickly, Bethany School may operate on a **two-hour delay**. Students may arrive anytime after **9:30 am** and should report directly to their homerooms. Classes will begin at **10:00 am**

A delayed start will not be used if any bus service that transports Bethany students is operating on its normal schedule, as this ensures bus riders still have access to transportation. If Bethany School opens on a delay, we will remain open for the full day, and **afternoon Extended Day will operate as usual**.

Occasionally, a local district that transports students to Bethany may decide to close early due to worsening weather. If a district sends its buses to pick up students early, we will contact the families of those students to confirm whether the child is permitted to ride home on that bus. For

safety, if we are unable to reach a parent of a Kindergarten–6th grade student, the student will not be permitted to ride the bus home.

Bus Transportation During Inclement Weather

Families whose children ride a district-provided bus should monitor that district's inclement weather announcements. If your district announces a delay, the buses will arrive the same amount of time later than usual. Families may choose to wait for the bus or drive their child to school themselves. Students arriving on a delayed bus should sign in at the office; they will not be marked tardy.

Please check district updates before sending your child to the bus stop—especially if you leave for work early. There have been instances when a district announced a delay but later decided to close, resulting in buses that never arrived. We do not want children waiting outside for long periods without supervision.

If the district that transports your child is closed for the day, busing will not be available in the morning or afternoon, and families will need to arrange alternate transportation.

Family Decision-Making

We understand that weather conditions vary by neighborhood and that each family's circumstances are unique. If you feel that road conditions are unsafe on a given day, you may choose to keep your child home or pick them up early. Attendance considerations in these cases will be handled with understanding.

Our goal is to keep school in session on all days that are safe and reasonable. Weather decisions are based on conditions near Bethany School and the accessibility of campus. Families should always make the decision they believe is safest for their situation.

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