

October, 2009

WEATHER RELATED CLOSINGS/DELAYS/DISMISSALS

St. Cloud Area School District 742, Sauk Rapids-Rice & Sartell-St. Stephen School Districts

The three major St. Cloud metro area school districts will work with one another once again this winter on weather-related emergencies. In a renewed effort to gather as accurate weather information as is available, the school districts continue to rely on the expertise of St. Cloud State University meteorologists for weather forecasts. Professors at the University localize forecasts and advise the school districts on closing decisions.

Minnesota weather is sometimes difficult to predict; it is essential that citizens anticipate and prepare for school closings, delayed openings, and early dismissals. The three local public and parochial school systems follow a coordinated plan to better ensure the safety of our children. Various winter weather statements, watches, and warnings are issued by the National Weather Service and other forecasting agencies. School officials use these statements, coupled with the information provided by St. Cloud State University, as indications that weather conditions may cause the cancellation or early dismissal of school.

Heavy snowfall, ice storms, extreme cold, and strong winds are not the only contributors to an emergency situation. Fog can be equally dangerous. While the sun may be shining in one area, visibility may be reduced to a few feet in another location, creating a potential hazard.

Safe Students/Informed Parents

In any weather emergency, the main objective is to provide protection and a safe environment for students. **St. Cloud Area School District 742, Sauk Rapids-Rice and Sartell-St. Stephen School Districts** will be using a coordinated, weather-related emergency closing plan again this year. **This means that public and parochial schools in all three districts will close (or remain open) according to the same winter emergency schedule.** Radio stations and news services will be contacted on behalf of each district, but area residents should recognize that the three districts are working together on these decisions.

Emergency Closing Procedures

- The three superintendents will try to announce school closings or late starts the night before severe weather as information is available.
- When a morning emergency closing or a late start is required, every effort will be made to reach a decision **prior** to 6:00 a.m.
- In the event of an early dismissal or a school closing, **all** student activities and practices, including KIDSTOP, Community Education classes, Early Childhood classes, Adult Basic Education, ELL, and Area Learning Center classes, are canceled.

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Radio and TV Announcements

Announcements regarding school closings, delayed openings, or early dismissals relative to **St. Cloud Area School District 742, Sauk Rapids-Rice, and Sartell-St. Stephen School Districts** will be made on the following radio and television stations:

<u>Station</u>	<u>AM</u>	<u>FM</u>	<u>TV</u>
WJON Radio	1240		
WWJO Radio		98.1	
KMXK Radio		94.9	
KKSR Radio		96.7	
KLZZ Radio		103.7	
KXSS Radio	1390		
KCLD Radio		104.7	
KNSI Radio	1450		
KZPK Radio		98.9	
KCML Radio		99.9	
KASM Radio	1150		
KDDG Radio		105.5	
WVAL Radio	800		
WHMH Radio		101.7	
KKJM Radio		92.9	
KCFB Radio		91.5	
KVSC Radio		88.1	
WCCO Radio	830		
WCCO TV			Channel 4
KSTP TV			Channel 5
KARE-11 TV			Channel 11
KMSP-TV			Channel 9

In addition to these radio and television outlets, weather alerts are announced on the St. Cloud Times website at www.sctimes.com. You may also tune into the area's cable education access, Channel 6, or the District 742 website at www.isd742.org for up-to-the-minute closing and/or late start reports.

Winter weather and emergency situations are not predictable, and they may happen at any time. The purpose of the weather-related closing plan is to assist parents/guardians and students to be better prepared to deal with emergency situations and reduce their effects. Parents are encouraged to prepare for emergency closings. Special child care arrangements should be made which could be used in the event of a late start, early release, or a school closing. **Ultimately, the parent/guardian should make the final decision whether a child should attend school during severe weather.**