



Welcome to the Webpage of Superintendent William G. Caron, Ed.D.

January 2017

School Closing Procedures

With the winter weather taking a hold of us in Scales Mound Community Unit School District 211, one of the tough decisions a superintendent has to make is to have school or to cancel school. Sometimes this decision is made easy due to the severity of the storm. However, when it comes to cold temperatures the decision can be a tougher call.

The decision to close school is not done in isolation. When the conditions are such that we may have to call off school the superintendents from Galena, Warren, River Ridge, Benton, and Scales Mound begin a phone tree around 4-4:30 AM. We consult with the road commissioners and the National Weather Service to determine the severity of the storm and time it will impact the districts. Collectively, the superintendents then make the call to cancel, delay, or have school.

With cold weather, we have collectively determined that the cut off to cancelling school is usually when the wind chill hits -30 degrees. However, if other conditions are factored in that may have an impact on the safety of our students and staff, a decision to call off

school may be made at a warmer wind-chill temperature.

Timing for School Closure

4:00 – 4:30 AM – Superintendents begin phone tree, drive streets, check with NOAA, and consult the county authorities.
5:00 – 5:30 AM – A decision to close is made and notification begins

Calling off school has an impact on our school community in many ways. Parents and guardians need to make arrangements to find day care for our younger students, scheduled activities have to be cancelled or rescheduled, and by state regulations, we are required to make up the day, which could force families and staff to alter end of the school year plans.

Superintendents have to take all of the data regarding the weather conditions, daily schedule, community impact, and state requirements into consideration as they make this decision. However, the number one concern we all have is the safety of our students and staff. We will always make the decision that we feel protects our students and staff when determining if we should have school, delay school, or release students early.

Illinois State Scholars

Congratulations to seniors Zach Stadel and Jacob Winslow for being selected as Illinois State Scholars. Zach and Jacob are role models for our students at Scales Mound Community Unit School District 211. Their success in the classroom and involvement outside of the classroom propelled them to being selected. We are very proud of their success and achievement.

Go Hornets!
Dr. Bill Caron
Superintendent