

November 16, 2020

Dear UCDSB Parents and Guardians,

Once again, we're approaching the season of snow and ice. With COVID-19 protocols in place, our school board had to re-evaluate how snow days/inclement weather days will work for the 2020-2021 school year.

In the past, when bus transportation was cancelled due to poor weather conditions, schools remained open and welcomed students who either walked or were dropped off by a parent or guardian. The smaller attendance numbers and staff absences due to road conditions usually meant classes were often blended together to continue learning activities while maximizing supervision.

Due to the COVID-19 protocols in our schools, this blended-class practice cannot happen this year with our requirement to maintain existing cohorts. As well, we can't guarantee proper supervision for each cohort as road conditions may not permit all staff to travel to their schools.

For the 2020-2021 school year, schools will be required to close when school transportation is cancelled due to poor weather conditions.

As a result, inclement weather days will be designated **Remote Learning Days and students will be provided material to take part in remote learning from home rather than attend classes in person.**

School staff will provide learning supports for all students on days designated Remote Learning Days.

Staff are working on the details, and more information about how your child can connect with their teacher will come from the teacher or school in the near future. Until then, here is the general overview of what students and families can expect:

- Learning materials will be made available to students on Remote Learning Days. This may be learning activities posted on the classroom's Microsoft Team or Desire 2 Learn (D2L) portal or activities assigned by the teacher from the previous day;
- Materials will be provided in either digital or printed form, whichever suits the students' needs;
- Learning materials will consist of review activities, and not new lessons;
- Student attendance will be recorded exactly as it has been done for inclement weather days in the past, and students will not be marked as absent on these days, and;
- Childcare centres in our schools are independently operated and are not linked to decisions related to student transportation for the school board. Families are encouraged

John McAllister
Chair

Stephen Sliwa
Director



to contact their childcare provider to confirm if they are open on an inclement weather day.

This decision comes after considering student and staff safety during the pandemic, while ensuring there is a continuation of learning on snow days/inclement weather days this season. The safety of our students and staff remains a top priority with the UCDSB.

Thank you,
Stephen Sliwa
Director of Education
Upper Canada District School Board

John McAllister
Chair



Stephen Sliwa
Director