

# CHEVERUS

November 30, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

“So is this the end of snow days?” One of the most frequently asked questions since the start of the school year has been about how we will handle snow days now that we’ve adopted the use of Zoom video conferencing, Owl cameras, and the mechanics of remote learning. These technologies and this possibility have existed for years, and we’ve seen schools locally and nationally move to “remote learning days” as opposed to snow days. So is Cheverus next?

The simple answer is “no,” this is not the end of snow days at Cheverus. Besides the primary reason we cancel school due to inclement weather - safety - we also recognize that snow days offer a break from the routine for our faculty and students. These are days to catch up on assignments and correcting, shovel snow from driveways and walkways, and play with friends and family in the snow. They are gifts during the darkest days of winter.

However, the experience we have gained over the last eight months has reminded us that we are capable of teaching and learning in a variety of ways. On every day of this school year some students have chosen to study remotely. It is an option that has helped us to safely open our campus and allow families to choose what is best for them.

This winter, we will have three specific designations for school days impacted by inclement weather:

- **Snow Days-** in-person and remote classes cancelled; students should check email and Google Classrooms for assignments.
- **Delayed Start/Early Release-** in-person and remote classes occur on a modified schedule.
- **Remote Learning Days-** in-person classes cancelled; remote learning classes follow our Remote Learning Daily Schedule and Protocols.

Over the past five years, we have averaged six snow days, five late starts and one early dismissal per year. In making decisions about any delays or cancellations, we always try to make the best decision for all of our families, but with the widespread locations from which our families travel and with the inconsistencies of weather in our area, it can be hard to make the perfect decision for every family every time. Cape Elizabeth can have rain and clear roads while Westbrook is experiencing heavy snow with impassable roads.

Parents, please feel empowered and encouraged by the school to make the best decision for you and your children in regards to traveling to and from school during times of inclement weather. Even if we have not cancelled or delayed classes, if you do not feel it is safe to commute from your area please contact the Main Office to let us know your child will not be traveling to campus due to the weather.

Who knows what this winter will bring, and with the added complexity of COVID protocols, Red/Yellow/Green designations, and the possibility of shutting down to quarantine, it’s impossible to tell how we will employ the different methods at our disposal for adjusting our school schedule when the weather gets bad.

What I can assure you is that we will always make the choice that we believe is safest for your child. Thank you as always for the trust you have placed in us.

Peace,

Dr. John Moran

Principal