



Weather Emergency Information

Winter weather emergencies, such as snow and ice, may cause disruptions in school operations, including the closure of school, a delayed opening or an early dismissal. The procedures used to address winter weather emergencies are consistent among all schools.

Public Announcements Information – school operations are announced publicly as soon as possible on local radio and television stations, MCPS Cable Channel 60/6, and other media including the MCPS electronic mail service, email and the Internet: Schools-Out.com. You may also call MCPS Telephone information service at 301-279-3673. If schools are closed or delayed, the announcement is made no later

than 6:00 AM (or the night before if possible). If schools are closing early, the announcement is made by 11:00 AM. It is recommended that parents and students subscribe to MCPS QuickNotes to not only receive emergency messages, but to also receive other informational items. (<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/quicknotes>)

School Closings – When schools are closed systemwide, all instructional programs and extracurricular activities in schools are canceled. In extreme conditions, central administrative offices also may be closed. This would cancel all MCJC and MCR activities.

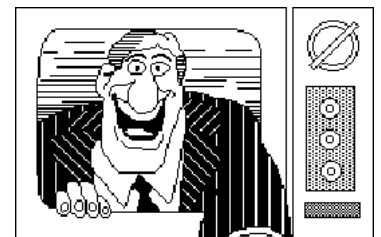
Delayed Opening – A delayed opening means that schools open two hours later than scheduled. All buses operate on the same delayed schedule and, therefore, the pick-up times are two hours later than normal. When schools open on a delayed schedule, field trips scheduled before noon are canceled. This means no MCJC or MCR General Assemblies, scheduled training, etc.

Early Dismissal – An early dismissal means that schools will close 2.5 hours earlier than scheduled. All buses operate on that same early schedule and, therefore, drop-off times are 2.5 hours earlier than normal. All evening activities are canceled, meaning no MCJC or MCR Executive Board meetings or other scheduled committee meetings.



Weather Conditions and Decisions - The school system uses a variety of sources of information to determine whether to close schools, delay the opening of schools, or dismiss schools early. These sources include actual physical inspection of the road and school conditions by transportation officials and other staff at spots throughout the county and an analysis of independent reports from the National Weather Service, Accu-Weather, the news media, and the MCPS Data Transmission Communication Network (DTN). The DTN uses a satellite dish at the Shady Grove transportation facility

to provide long-range forecasts and real-time data on weather and road conditions in Montgomery County. The most severe weather conditions within the county are used as the basis for the decision-making criteria. Consistent procedures are maintained in order to respond quickly to emergency weather conditions and protect the safety and well being of students. All public schools within Montgomery County adhere to the same procedures concerning emergency weather conditions. The decision to change school operations is made by the superintendent of schools or his designee and affects all schools within the school system.



This has been a public service announcement from the Student Affairs Office!