



LAWTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

101 PRIMARY WAY • LAWTON, MICHIGAN 49065

Feb. 4, 2019

LCS Students, Parents, and Staff,

Friday, February 1 marked the ninth day this school year that school was canceled. The Department of Education allows up to six days to be forgiven. There is also a waiver process by which districts can request up to three additional forgiven days. Some are under the impression that the Governor's declaration of a State of Emergency will make the waivers automatic. That is not the case. All districts who desire a waiver of days must submit an official request. The waiver process requires that districts make an attempt, within their current calendar, to make up missed days.

In the last week, I have spent much time in consultation with the Van Buren County Superintendents. The prevailing opinion is that districts who have days off scheduled during the school year, such as midwinter break, would need to use those as makeup days prior to requesting a waiver. The waiver process requires that we upload our calendar and upon seeing that we had a midwinter break and chose not to use it could result in denial of the waiver and extension of the school year well into June.

Area districts, including Paw Paw, have already announced the cancellation of their scheduled midwinter break. I know that others are making similar moves within their calendars.

While it may be unpopular or inconvenient for some, with all of February remaining and the likelihood that we could have more "snow" days, it makes sense for us to do the same. On Saturday February 2, the Board of Education discussed the issue and passed a resolution to adjust our calendar accordingly.

Holding classes on February 15 and 18 still leaves us one day over the limit. When we feel confident that winter is over, we will determine the number of days over the forgiven limit of six, and apply for the waiver at that time. If that number of days is three or fewer and the waiver is granted, by eliminating midwinter break, there would be no need to add days in June.

We will make sure to keep you posted as new information becomes available. Until then, please plan on having students in school on Friday, Feb. 15 and Monday, Feb. 18. These will be full days of school. Thursday, February 14 will also be a full day of school and Thursday March 28 will be a half day of school. Families with travel plans should contact the school building offices regarding those planned student absences.

Feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns you may have.

Chris Rice
Superintendent of Schools



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