



DECEMBER 23, 2008

I just wanted to thank all of our parents and guardians for sending their children to our school district. We will never take for granted your decisions to send your children to the Holly School District. We will always do our personal best to earn your trust.

I do want to clarify a bit of confusion that has emerged about our holiday break. The Holly Area School District will resume classes on Monday, January 5, 2009.

With this year's winter weather already bringing such cold weather and snow fall, families should review their plans for days that classes are canceled. Depending on when inclement weather hits the area, not all decisions to close schools for the day are made by 4:30 a.m.

The decision to close school for the day is made as soon as possible. In the best of circumstances, the decision is made during the evening so that individual families can plan for the following day. Normally, the weather patterns do not allow the decision to be made so early.

In determining whether or not to cancel classes, the usual procedure is to travel the roads between 3:15 a.m. – 4:30 a.m. and have a decision by 5:00 a.m. With that time line, the local radio and television stations can broadcast the closing with their 5:00 a.m. broadcasts. I also use our Connect ED program to telephone our parents and guardians. That phone call normally goes out at 5:45 a.m.

My central point is that I cannot guarantee that a decision to cancel classes will be made every time by a certain time period. I am hopeful that the weather conditions allow for a decision to be made as early as possible. Unfortunately, that time line does not always occur.

I can assure our parents and guardians that a prudent decision will be made in a timely fashion with the safety of our students and staff the primary concern.

On a personal note, on December 31st, I will have been in our school district 9½ years as superintendent. I want to thank our community members, our parents and guardians, and our students for making this 9½ years such a wonderful time for my family and myself.

In the upcoming months, many decisions will need to occur regarding budget, staffing, and curricular issues for the 2009-2010 school year. I look forward to the many discussions that will occur. I look forward to the input that our community members, our staff, our students, and our parents and guardians submit.

May everyone truly enjoy the spirit of the Christmas season, and may 2009 bring the best year ever for all of us.

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