

**From:** Dr. Steven Caponegro

**Subject:** Winter Storm Information (Important District News)

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Dear Parents/Guardians & Staff,

According to our local weather forecast and the Morris County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), our first winter storm is expected to enter our area tomorrow afternoon, further intensifying Wednesday evening, and is scheduled to end early Thursday morning. This storm is projected to bring a significant amount of snow (12+ inches) and high winds, with the potential of power outages. As per my communication on [November 20, 2020](#), due to New Jersey currently being in a state of emergency (COVID-19), the Department of Education has provided options for districts to provide instruction during inclement weather.

Please see below how the district will operate for the rest of this week

**Wednesday (12/16/20) - Normal Hybrid Day**

- The forecast indicates that we will be able to conduct a normal hybrid day of instruction tomorrow, Wednesday (*schools are open with in-person + live streaming instruction*) since the forecast calls for snow to start in the late afternoon. (*Reminder - Ridgedale is still on a 2 week school closure due to COVID*)

**Thursday (12/17/20) - Schools Closed - SNOW DAY! Have fun!!**

- Due to the amount of snow accumulation projected, Thursday is going to be a SNOW DAY (*Schools closed to staff/students, no instruction.... kids play in the snow, sledding, family time, etc.*)

**Friday (12/18/20) - Schools Closed - Asynchronous Learning Day**

- Due to the snow accumulation and the high winds projected to accompany the storm, the county and the OEM communicated that we should prepare for the possibility of power outages. Power outages would impact the delivery of our live streaming virtual component. Therefore, to be proactive, the schools will be closed to staff and students on Friday for asynchronous instruction. Asynchronous instruction are assignments provided by the teacher and do not take place via the live streaming component. Students work on these assignments on their own and at their own pace. Further communication will be provided by your child's school tomorrow as to how students will receive and complete their assignments for Friday. Therefore, this plan provides the parent/student with time to review the assignments prior to the storm impacting our area, and potentially impacting power/internet capabilities. As per the NJDOE, Friday's asynchronous learning day will still count towards the 180-day school requirement for students. If your child is scheduled to receive a related service from the special services department on Friday, the service provider will be contacting your regarding

your specific situation. In addition, IEP meetings are still scheduled to take place on Friday, unless you are contacted by your child's case manager.

Please note that these decisions were not made in haste, but are being made for the safety of our staff, students and community. I would like to thank the administration, staff and school community for their flexibility and quickly pivoting to create quality instructional assignments for the students on Friday. This could not have been done in such a short timeframe without teamwork!

As always, thank you for your understanding, cooperation and support. I know that every decision may not be ideal for a specific family's situation, but we are always trying our best under the circumstances presented to us. Below is the most recent correspondence from the Morris County OEM.

Sincerely,

Dr. Caponegro

*"When it rains, look for rainbows, when it is dark, look for stars." Oscar Wilde*

*Below is the most recent correspondence from the Morris County OEM*

*The Morris County Office of Emergency Management's Emergency Operations Center continues to be actively monitoring this storm in partnership with our Morris County Communications 9-1-1 Center. At this time, The National Weather Service has issued a Winter Storm Warning which is in effect from 10:00AM Wednesday, December 16th until 10:00AM Thursday, December 17th. The Hazardous Weather Outlook has been issued for northern New Jersey, east central Pennsylvania, and northeast Pennsylvania. Storm snow accumulation totals are UP!*

*Keep in mind that this forecast data will likely change. As of this morning, our weather partners have indicated that we can expect light snow to move in tomorrow afternoon (Wednesday). The snow will become heavy later in the evening, with snow remaining heavy through Wednesday night. Some sleet may mix in for a period of time with the snow Wednesday evening before turning over to all snow overnight. The heaviest snows are expected in the area of 9:00PM Wednesday through 4:00AM Thursday. Snow is expected to gradually wind down Thursday morning, with dry conditions developing by midday on Thursday. Snowfall accumulations of 12-16" are considered most likely at the time of our review this morning, with localized totals of up to 18-20" possible in the far northwestern areas of the County. Winds will be*

out of the northeast at 10-20 mph with gusts of 25-35 mph. Strongest winds are expected between 10:00PM Wed - 6:00AM Thurs.

It is important to understand that travel could be extremely difficult to impossible. The hazardous conditions could very likely impact the evening commute on Wednesday and the morning commute on Thursday. The heavy snow could result in power outages. If you must travel, keep an extra flashlight, food, and water in your vehicle along with warm clothing in case of an emergency.

Please make sure you look after your elderly relatives, neighbors and those with special needs as well as your animals since they are also family.