



Darren Hale, Principal

Karen Gardhouse, Office Coordinator

November 13, 2019

Memo Re: School open to students on days that buses are cancelled

Dear parents and guardians,

Each year, the school board and transportation consortium review the list of schools that are closed to students when buses are cancelled. When making a determination whether a school should be open or closed to students on no-bus days, consideration is given to a number of variables, including consultations with local police and municipal roads staff, and feedback from parents. Schools that have been closed to students in previous years have primarily been schools where most students are bused to school, with few or no students walking.

As a result of this year's review, a decision has been made to identify the following schools as 'open' to students when buses servicing the school are cancelled:

- Primrose E.S.
- East Garafraxa P.S.
- Laurelwoods E.S.

Moving forward, on days where there are bus cancellations, our school will be open to students.

Given that this will be a change for families, it is important to note a few things.

Parents are not expected to drive their children to school in bad weather and students will not be penalized for attendance if they do not attend when buses are cancelled. Parents should assess weather and road conditions and make their own decision about whether or not it is safe for their children to be driven to school.

Should parents choose to drive their child to school when buses are not running, they will also be responsible for ensuring that their child/ren are picked up without delay at the end of the school day. Should weather worsen toward the end of the day, parents who may be travelling a distance from work may need to ensure they also have a back-up plan.

On days where the weather and road conditions can be unpredictable, there may be fewer staff in a school. However, staff who are able to safely get to the school will be there to program for and support students. Class organizations and programming on a no-bus day may look different from school-to-school and depend on the number of children attending.

Please also be aware that, depending on the conditions of the roads, we cannot guarantee staff will be able to be here before the start of school. Staff are coming from a variety of different locations; some may live on a road that gets plowed at a much later time in the day, for example. Therefore students must not be dropped off before the start of the school day which is 8:45am.

Considering the safe arrival protocol, we will not be calling parents of students who do not come to school on 'no bus days', and likewise we do not need parents to call the school to let us know their children will not be attending on the 'no bus days'.

Please feel free to connect with the school if you have questions about this change.

Sincerely,

D. Hale