

North Branch Area Schools

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James D. Fish
Superintendent

Monday, November 30, 2020

Dear North Branch Families,

As the calendar turns to December and the weather forecast includes the possibility of accumulating snow, I would like to share with you the North Branch Area School District Policy regarding the closure of schools due to snow days for the 2020-2021 school year. With the high school presently on a remote learning schedule as well as a large number of our students choosing our virtual option for education, it is important there is no confusion when a snow day is called for this school year:

- **Until further notice, when school is canceled due to inclement weather, there will be no classes for all students including our in-person, virtual, and remote students. We will continue to inform all families of school closures through email, text, and social media. We will also contact local radio and television outlets.**

There are a number of reasons for this decision, but primarily we are prioritizing the mental health and well-being of our students. Since March 12, there has been very little in the way of routine or normalcy for our students and their families. The stress of dealing with COVID-19 on a daily basis has taken a toll on everyone. Giving students a day off during a snowstorm could mentally benefit them more than a day of remote learning during a Pandemic.

While North Branch Area Schools will be a 1-1 district soon (1 device for each student), we are still waiting on technology devices ordered back in April to be delivered this year. Right now, if we closed school for inclement weather, we would have a significant number of our students with connectivity issues. Eventually, I do believe we will have remote learning options for all students when school is closed due to inclement weather. However, this year our students can plan on spending time doing fun learning activities outside with family and friends.

Best Regards,



Jim Fish
North Branch Superintendent