



February 6, 2019

Dear RPSA Families,

Due to our school closure today, Wednesday, February 6, 2019 we will not be holding any parent/teacher conferences this evening. Our staff is committed to meeting with each family and sharing the growth of our students. Rather than attempt to reschedule another evening of conferences, we have made the commitment to schedule a face to face conference for 100% of our families at some point in the month of February. Teachers will work with families who have students in multiple classrooms to try to accommodate their needs.

Mother Nature has created significant challenges for us this winter. To be exact, as of today, we have had eleven weather related cancellations. We are allowed six cancellations per year based on Michigan law. A school may apply for three more days beyond the six if necessary. After the ninth cancellation day a school must make up any additional days or risk the loss of a portion of their funding for that year. This means a school must add a day for each day beyond nine that is missed.

Our original school calendar had five days built in for staff professional development. We have had two of those days so far this year on October 1 and January 21. At our School Board meeting on Monday, February 4 the Board voted to change the three remaining professional development days to student days. As a result Monday, February 18, Monday, April 1 and Monday, May 13 are now school days for all students. This change adds three student days to the 2018-19 school year which means we could have 12 school day cancellations without adding additional days to the end of the school year.

Winters in Michigan are long and spring weather in our area can mean ice and fog. I anticipate that we will have more cancellations and will need to look at other ways to ensure our students receive their required amount of school days this year. Schools across Michigan are in the same situation and solutions are being investigated. When there is more information to share I will pass it along to our school community. For now, please plan on your child attending school on February 18, April 1 and May 13. If you have made appointments or other commitments that cannot be changed for any of those days, please communicate that to your child's teacher and the office and we will work with your family.

In Partnership,
Mrs. Bergman