

October 31, 2019

Emergency Closing/Snow Day Notifications

Dear School Community Members,

As winter approaches, please be aware of our delay/closing notification procedure. Whenever we are certain of extremely severe winter weather, school officials will close schools and notify parents, students and employees the night before.

On most occasions, a decision to delay or close school will be made in the morning between 5:00 & 6:00 am. Delays and closings are always posted on the DCSD Facebook page first. Voice broadcasts/robo calls typically go out between 6:00 and 6:30 am.

Closings and delays are also posted early on the District's website at www.dansvillecsd.org. We report closings and delays to the following media outlets as well:

WROC Channel 8

WHEC Channel 10

WHAM Channel 13

WGRZ Channel 2

WKBW Channel 7

Spectrum News

WDNY Radio 93.9 FM

WKPQ Radio 105.3 FM

WYSL Radio 92.1 FM

How is the decision made to open on time, delay or close? Weather events vary but the decision making process is consistent. We review multiple forecasts from different meteorological sources. We review real-time radar images from NOAA and projections/future weathercasts. We begin driving our roads at 5:00 am and we speak directly with highway supervisors for their road assessments. We consult with the

Livingston County Sheriff's Office. Ultimately, the Superintendent of Schools is responsible for the decision unless the Sheriff issues a travel ban for the County.

The decision to close, delay or remain open is always based upon an abundance of information with student and employee safety first in mind.

DCSD covers 125 square miles. Geographically, we are among the largest districts in New York. Road and weather conditions can vary greatly from the Village to other corners of the District. I recall a snow event when it was raining in the Village but 6-10 inches of wet heavy snow accumulated on the hill sides a couple hundred feet up from the valley between 4:00 and 7:00 am. We had to close because we couldn't get our buses safely to students' homes outside the Village where about half of our 1500 students live.

While we strive to keep our doors and services open to children, our first priority is to keep everyone safe.

Please remember that our drivers are well-trained and experienced. Every one of our large buses can deploy chains for added traction when necessary. We are thorough in our review of conditions and we will never knowingly place our children at risk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Alioto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Paul J. Alioto, Superintendent of Schools