

# Darien Public Schools • Administrative Offices

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2 Renshaw Road • P. O. Box 1167 • Darien, Connecticut 06820-1167  
Tel. 203-656-7412 • Fax 203-656-3052

August, 2011

Dear Parents and Staff:

As we approach the start of the new school year, a review of our weather-related procedures is timely.

During adverse weather conditions, the decision to cancel school, delay the opening of school, or early dismiss school is primarily informed by the need to ensure the safety of students and staff. The final decision will ultimately be made by the Superintendent of Schools. I will begin assessing conditions between 4:00-4:30 a.m. unless weather conditions the previous evening warrant a cancellation. My decision will be based upon information from a variety of sources, such as the weather service, the police and public works department.

**If school must be cancelled due to weather related emergencies**, the decision will be made no later than 5:30 a.m. You can expect the announcement of the cancellation within a half hour on radio and TV stations, as well as on our website <http://www.darienps.org>. You will receive an e-mail and/or text message from **Ed-Alert**, if you register. To register, please go to the school district website. Do not call your school or the central office, as our phone lines cannot handle excessive volume. Your best source of information is the media and websites. Since a decision to cancel is rarely made the night before, the most common time to learn of my decision is after 5:45 a.m.

When school is cancelled, no activities will be held in the buildings and all school-related and extracurricular events will be cancelled. A decision to close schools for the day, once made, will not change.

**If schools are delayed due to weather**, the decision also will be made by 5:30 a.m. The decision to have a 90 minute delayed opening is based upon the available information that travel and weather conditions are expected to sufficiently improve to open schools. However, parents should continue listening to designated radio and TV stations following the announcement of a delayed opening. If travel conditions do not improve or if they worsen, the delayed opening may be changed to a full day closing. Any such change will be communicated via the media and website sources.

**If weather forecasts and conditions indicate that an early dismissal would be in the best interest of our students and staff**, we will communicate such a decision via radio, TV, our website, and **Ed-Alert**. These sources will provide more information than can be gained through a call to the schools or central office. An early dismissal decision will be made no later than one hour prior to the dismissal. Again, media announcements will occur within a half hour. It is critical that parents have an emergency plan in place for child care should children be dismissed early from school.

**Please note that there are two early dismissal times for weather related emergencies depending on the timing of the arrival of inclement weather:**

**(1) In the event of a Morning Emergency Dismissal due to inclement weather**, all students, including kindergartners, will be dismissed according to the following schedule:

High School	10:30 a.m.	Hindley, Royle, Tokeneke	11:00 a.m.
Middlesex	10:30 a.m.	Holmes, Ox Ridge	11:30 a.m.

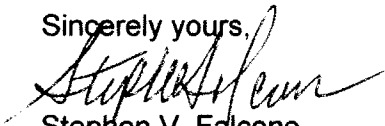
All students will have the same bus stops as they had in the morning. No lunches will be served at school on those days, but elementary students will have a snack prior to dismissal.

**(2) In the event of an Afternoon Emergency Dismissal due to inclement weather**, all students, including kindergartners, will also have the same bus stops as they had in the morning. Lunch, however, will be served to all students. Please note that this early afternoon emergency closing time is the same time schedule as when we have regularly scheduled early dismissals for conference days and before certain holidays. Also note that, regardless of whether we have an emergency closing or a scheduled early dismissal, kindergarten students will be dismissed along with all the other students in grades 1-5. The afternoon emergency dismissal times are:

High School	12:20 p.m.	Hindley, Royle, Tokeneke	1:00 p.m.
Middlesex	12:30 p.m.	Holmes, Ox Ridge	1:25 p.m.

In the final analysis, **parents make the decision whether they will send their children to school on those days when inclement weather is not sufficiently serious to close or delay opening the schools.** Rest assured that we will do our very best to make timely, rational decisions, based upon the best weather and travel information available at the time. Your understanding and cooperation is always appreciated when these decisions are made.

Sincerely yours,



Stephen V. Falcone  
Superintendent of Schools

**P.S. The Darien Public Schools has instituted an emergency notification system called Ed-Alert. To subscribe to the free Ed-Alert service, go to the school district website at [www.darienps.org](http://www.darienps.org) and log on as a subscriber to the emergency/urgent announcements that will go directly to your computer or cell phone.**

SVF:nv  
Attachments

Radio/TV Stations	AM Setting	FM Setting
WEBE-Bridgeport	--	108.0
STAR 99.9-Bridgeport	--	99.9
WICC-Bridgeport	600	--
WLAD-Danbury	800	--
WGCH-Greenwich	1490	--
WNLK-Norwalk	1350	--
WEFX-Norwalk	--	95.9
WSTC-Stamford	1400	--
WKHL-Stamford	--	96.7
WTIC-Hartford	1080	96.5
Cablevision - Channel 12		
WTNH-Channel 8-New Haven		
Channel 3		
WVIT, NBC 30 Connecticut		
WTIC FOX 61, Channel 5		
Web Site -- Darien Public Schools	<a href="http://www.darienps.org">http://www.darienps.org</a>	

The school system itself, except for a major emergency or extraordinary road conditions, will remain open until the usual closing time. For everyone's safety, we suggest that you allow your child to be transported home on his/her regular school bus.

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#### DELAYED OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

(decision made by 5:30 a.m.)

During the year there may be times when reports will indicate that the weather will clear and the traffic conditions will improve in a short period of time. Based on these reports, the Superintendent will delay the opening of schools for 90 minutes. The schedule would be as follows.

	<u>Regular Opening</u>	<u>Delayed Opening</u>
Darien High School	7:40 a.m.	9:10 a.m.
Middlesex Middle School	7:55 a.m.	9:25 a.m.
Elementary Schools:		
Tokeneke/Hindley/Royle	8:25 a.m.	9:55 a.m.
Ox Ridge/Holmes	9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.

The announcement over the radio, television and cablevision stations will state that the Darien Public Schools will start 90 minutes later than usual. However, please keep listening to the radio as a delayed opening may change to a closing, if the situation gets worse.

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#### MORNING EMERGENCY DISMISSAL SCHEDULE FOR WEATHER RELATED EMERGENCIES

(decision made by 9:30 a.m.)

Darien High School:	10:30 a.m.
Middlesex Middle School:	10:30 a.m.
Hindley, Royle, Tokeneke:	11:00 a.m. all students including kindergartners
Holmes, Ox Ridge:	11:30 a.m. all students including kindergartners

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#### AFTERNOON EMERGENCY DISMISSAL SCHEDULE FOR WEATHER RELATED EMERGENCIES

(decision made by 11:20 a.m.)

Darien High School:	12:20 p.m.
Middlesex Middle School:	12:30 p.m.
Hindley, Royle, Tokeneke:	1:00 p.m. all students including kindergartners
Holmes, Ox Ridge:	1:25 p.m. all students including kindergartners