

Caledonia Community Schools

www.calschools.org

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Character ~ Curriculum ~ Climate ~ Community

February 14, 2019

Dear Caledonia School Community,

While we all try to stay warm and safe during this highly unusual winter, this weather pattern has placed us into the position of having to make some adjustments to the balance of our school year calendar. I would like to make you aware of a few calendar adjustments and some clarifications. With the closure of the last two days, we are now at 14 lost instructional days due to weather, plus one additional day for both middle schools, Caledonia Elementary, and Duncan Lake ECC program.

Based on my February 4th communication, we will have a full day of school on February 22nd (March 22nd for Emmons Lake) instead of the planned Mid-Winter Break. Additionally, **I would like to inform parents that we will modify the calendar by shortening the Memorial Day break and having school on May 24th.**

At this time, we cannot confirm the final day of school for several variables beyond our control:

- First, we must get official approval of a 3-day waiver from the Michigan Department of Education; (we feel fairly confident that MDE will work with our districts under this situation)
- We are aware of legislative discussions that could provide additional days due to the State of Emergency declaration called by Governor Whitmer; (it is unknown how many additional days this will provide or if it will occur at all at this point)
- We are still in the winter season and could possibly see additional snow days given the unpredictability of Michigan weather.

Assuming that we will receive 3 more days from MDE, we would be forgiven for 9 of the 14 (or 15) days missed and the February 22nd (March 22nd for EL) and May 24th days will account for 2 of the 5 (or 6) days that we must make up at this point in time. Once we gain more clarity on possible legislative action that could allow for more snow day forgiveness and move beyond the current winter period, we should have more clarity regarding the final day of school.

Under recently revised law (MCL 388.1701) effective in the 16-17 school year, all districts must plan for 180 instructional days and no less than 1098 hours of instruction. It is our understanding that under this revision, we will not be able to simply add minutes to the school day as done in past years with situations such as this. This means that once the final day of school has been

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chosen for the district, we will need to extend one additional day for both Middle Schools, Caledonia Elementary, and Duncan Lake ECC.

Other important planning items:

- The High School graduation date and locations will remain as previously planned;
- The conclusion of the 2nd trimester has been extended at the high school by one week to accommodate for exams;
- The High School Interim schedule will remain the same;
- High school final exams schedule will be modified only if necessary;
- Our administration will work with each Middle School and Elementary building administrator to determine other necessary adjustments for various end of year trips, events, etc. as needed and these changes will be reported through the building administration;
- Spring Break will not be canceled;

We realize that this unpredictable weather can get a bit frustrating at times for parents and staff as we try to adjust to the many changes this winter has caused. Unlike many of our neighboring districts, our school boundary covers over 100 square miles and three different counties; as such, the patterns of snow plowing and road conditions can vary greatly in various parts of our school community. Regardless of this, rest assured that we will continue to keep safety in mind as we make decisions around school closings.

We wish we could provide more clarity on the final day of school and other items but are not able to at this time. I would strongly urge students, staff, and families to prepare for the possibility of this school year extending into the second full week of June and will notify our school community as soon as this becomes clear.

Thanks,



Dr. Dedrick Martin
Superintendent
Caledonia Community Schools