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Dear Parents,

I hope this message finds you well as we embrace the winter season. When I first assumed the role of superintendent, the prospect of canceling school for the first time filled me with excitement, as it had always been a childhood dream of mine. As we navigate through severe weather, I want to share some tips to help you stay informed and prepared.

**Stay CONNECTED:** Receive timely updates through our free CCPS Mobile App. and text alerts. Weather forecasts change quickly! CCPS alerts keep you up to date. Download the CCPS Mobile App for your Android or Apple device and sign up for text alerts, by texting Y or Yes to 67587. We also promptly report school closings and delays to local news media.

**Road Conditions Awareness:** Drawing from my experience as a former Catoosa County Sheriff's Deputy, I am well aware that our county has about 1,300 roads. Like all counties, when we get lots of rain, some will flood. Familiarize yourself with flood-prone areas, especially during heavy rainfall. Also, even though roads are treated during freezing weather, some shady back roads may remain hazardous.

**Parental Choice and Excused Absences:** You always have the option to keep your children home if you feel it is unsafe for them to drive or send them to school. A simple note from you will excuse your child's absence on such days.

**HHS Bridge Information:** The HHS bridge on the side entrance was designed to allow crossing floodwater. This design solution was intentional as it was much more cost-efficient for our taxpayers. When flooded, please use the main entrance.

**Delay vs Cancellation:** CCPS is committed to ensuring our kids get the most out of each school day while prioritizing the safety of everyone. 5 hours of school may not be 7 hours of school, but it is much better than no school at all. A two-hour delay may only change the temperature a few degrees, but that can mean the difference in rain or ice! A delay also makes travel much safer, by allowing greater visibility for our parents, bus drivers, and student drivers.

**Decision-Making Process:** The decision to delay or cancel school is a careful judgment call made with the safety and well-being of all of our 10,000 CCPS students and 1,800 employees in mind. I make this determination after consulting with weather, safety, emergency, and education experts. Sometimes, uncertainty regarding the forecast makes the decision difficult. In those instances, we prepare for the worst and prioritize safety!

**Consideration for Families:** Recognizing that our schools play a vital role in our community, serving as far more than just educational institutions, I am always conscious of the impact of schedule changes on our families. As a fellow parent, I want to assure you that while there may be days when getting our kids to school is inconvenient, their safety will always be my top priority. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me. I appreciate your understanding. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Warm regards,

**Chance Nix**

Catoosa County Public Schools Superintendent

Connect today!



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