

Sherman County School District

65912 High School Loop

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November 7, 2017

Dear Sherman County School District Students, Parents, Families and Staff,

With the 2017-18 school year in full swing, I would like to extend an invitation to you and communicate information regarding the approaching winter season. First, I invite all parents and guardians to join us for Parent/Teacher Conferences. They are scheduled for November 9th from 12:45 p.m.-7:45 p.m. and November 10th from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. This will be a wonderful opportunity for parents/guardians and teachers to engage in meaningful conversations about academic achievement.

As the leaves fall and the temperature drops, it is obvious that the winter season is approaching. Although various types of emergencies may cause the closing, early dismissal, or delay of schools anytime of the year, the winter months always carry the increased likelihood of such occurrences. As always, our top priority is the safety of our students and staff.

Please understand that we make the decision to open, delay, or close school during inclement weather conditions based on an extremely thorough analysis of all relevant factors continuing until a final decision is made prior to 6:00 a.m. These decisions are not always perfect and are often complicated by our varied elevations and unpredictable weather in our geographically diverse county. With all of this being said, we completely understand that you as parents/guardians know what is best for your child. If you believe your child would be safer at home during inclement weather conditions, we respect and understand that decision.

If a school delay, early dismissal or closure occurs, I will communicate through our School Messenger system. This method of communication has proven to be very effective. Please remember that parents/guardians/staff can be prepared to receive prompt communication from the District by ensuring that phone numbers are up-to-date with school office staff. You can do this by calling Sherman County School at 541-565-3500. In addition, closings and delays are also reported on local TV and Radio stations and on the web at www.FlashAlertMessenger.net.

In the event we need to implement or alter certain bus routes, this will be communicated to you through the School Messenger system. Oftentimes representatives from Mid-Columbia Bus Company will also personally contact certain families to communicate any alterations to transportation plans.

Lastly, the Sherman County School District is committed to maintaining open communication lines with the entire school community. With this in mind, I want to remind everyone of Board Policy (EBCD) regarding ½ Day Friday Schedules and emergency closures. If the District closes for a full day due to inclement weather or other emergency situations, the ½ Day Friday at the end of that week will automatically become a full day Friday unless there is a school closure on that particular Friday. When there is a 2-hour delay, the ½ Day Friday at the end of the week will not be altered. The reason behind this policy is that the Board believes students are better served by being in school as much as possible during the entire school year.

As always, I encourage your feedback and participation in the life of the Sherman County School District. I welcome your comments, feedback and questions. Please give me a call at Sherman County School at 541-565-3500 or send me an email at wowens@sherman.k12.or.us.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wes Owens', is written over a light blue background.

Wes Owens

Superintendent