

# Northern Wells Community Schools

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Dr. Scott A. Mills, Superintendent

Jan. 17, 2019

RE: eLearning days for the remainder of 2018-2019

Dear NWCS Parents:

On Jan. 15, 2019, the Northern Wells Community Schools Board of Trustees revised the eLearning process. Prior notice will no longer be necessary for NWCS to conduct eLearning on days when school is closed due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

So, with winter weather upon us, we note that NWCS will be utilizing eLearning whenever possible on days when school is closed during the remainder of the 2018-19 school year. We aim to maintain continuity in student learning and reduce the need for make-up school days that could have to be added to the current end of the school year.

NWCS will announce eLearning days at the same time typical school closings would be announced. This is most likely to occur between 5:00-5:45 AM. However, it is important to note that not all school closings will automatically result in an eLearning day. Therefore, make-up school days may not be eliminated entirely.

## **Here are some points you need to know about NWCS's approach to school closings and eLearning:**

1. If we close school due to inclement weather, NWCS will announce, "School Closed-eLearning Day". This message will be sent to the TV stations and radio stations, posted on our website, distributed via Instant Connect, Twitter, and on Facebook. A make-up day of school **WILL NOT BE REQUIRED** in this situation.
2. We will limit the number of consecutive eLearning days to four (4). At this time, we believe we can appropriately conduct four days in a row, but reserve the right to review and modify that number if needed.
3. On days when we conduct eLearning, we will make every effort for Ossian Elementary and Lancaster Elementary Schools to be open for latchkey (Bear Care/Bobcat Care) for the entire day, 6:30 AM – 6:00 PM. The standard attendance rate of \$2.50/hr will apply. This service is for K-5 students who attend NWCS. Students may bring their lunch or the cafeteria will have a school lunch available for the regular price.
4. When an eLearning day occurs, students can expect to use the time normally spent in school as time dedicated to learning activities provided by the teacher and found on the student's iPad. Learning activities will be saved in Schoology for your student(s) to access.

5. During an eLearning day, teachers will be available via email and by phone to assist students from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Teachers will provide their school email addresses and phone numbers to their students prior to any eLearning day. If a teacher is unable to take a phone call from a student, the student should leave a voice-mail message and the teacher will return the call at his/her first opportunity.

6. We provide up to a five (5) day grace period after an eLearning day for students who experience technical difficulties preventing them from completing their learning assignments. **This grace period is not intended for students to have an excuse to not participate in the learning activities and assignments required on an eLearning day.**

7. All students will be taking an iPad home each night until further notice.

Unfortunately, we cannot answer all of your questions in this letter. If you have further questions, please access our eLearning information on our school website. We will be updating information when necessary to help families understand and prepare for eLearning. The link below will give you direct access to the eLearning page on our website. A “Frequently Asked Questions” link is included on this web page.

<http://www.nwcs.k12.in.us/eLearningInformation.aspx>

Because NWCS is dedicated to continual improvement, we will monitor success of eLearning days when they occur and will work to refine the eLearning day process so that it represents the highest level of learning for our students. If you have any questions not answered in the FAQs or on our school website, feel free to give us a call or send us an email and we will be happy to answer any of your questions.

Sincerely,  
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Superintendent  
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