

November 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Seeing our temperatures dip into the upper 30s recently was a stark reminder that we are entering the inclement weather season. Please be advised that it may be necessary to alter our school schedule due to potentially dangerous road conditions and other hazards, as a result of bad weather.

In these situations, our staff monitors weather conditions and predictions from multiple sources very closely. Typically, we monitor local Doppler radars, consult with the Tennessee Highway Department and the National Weather Service, and personally examine roads before making weather-related decisions. Often East Tennessee weather is unpredictable and we find ourselves adjusting plans to complement Mother Nature.

Before an inclement weather condition occurs, I would like to request that you take this opportunity to do three things:

1. **Make a back-up plan for child care.** If you are unable to pick up your child in a timely manner once an early dismissal is announced, please ensure your child's school has the names, as well as work and home phone numbers for the family/friends/neighbors/care-givers permitted to pick your child up.

If your student attends the Friends before or after school program, please note the processes for inclement weather days have changed significantly. By now, you should have received a note from the Friends program explaining those policy changes.

2. **Know where to get the most up-to-date information on Blount County School closures.** Once a closure, early dismissal, or delay has been determined, this information is forwarded to local media (WBIR Channel 10, WVLT Channel 8 and WATE channel 6). We will also post this information on our social media outlets, as well as our website ([www.blountk12.org](http://www.blountk12.org)).
3. **Follow or like us on Twitter and Facebook.** These forums will not only provide inclement weather announcements, but also features a lot of news about BCS, our students and teachers.

We will also begin using a new communication tool this year. The program, SchoolMessenger, allows us to send information to parents and guardians via pre-recorded telephone messages, email and text.

We understand that inclement weather days are difficult on families and their schedules. Please know that we do not take inclement weather decisions lightly, as your child's safety is priority #1. I truly appreciate your patience and cooperation with these matters.

Sincerely,

Rob Britt  
Blount County Director of Schools