



February 11, 2010

Dear Parents / Guardians of North Allegheny Students:

The winter weather has made this a most extraordinary week for all of us and our fellow citizens across Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. With record-breaking snowfall, power outages and difficult road conditions, the challenges have been many. It is our sincere hope that you and your family have made it through this time safely.

Along with the many accommodations all of us have made this week as a result of the severe winter weather, we must also address the fact that the school closure on Thursday, February 11, 2010, was our fifth of this school year. When the North Allegheny School District plans the school calendar, we build in four snow days to allow for the possible need to close school due to winter storms or other emergencies. We also identify contingency dates on which classes will be held, if it is necessary to cancel more than four days during the year. These are published in the Activities Calendar under the topic of *School Closing and Delay Information*. The District is obligated to plan ahead in this way because, by law, we are required to provide 180 days of instruction each year.

Our first contingency date is Monday, February 15, 2010. This date was originally scheduled as an in-service day for teachers. The District has cancelled the in-service and will hold classes for all students.

**School will be in session on Monday, February 15, 2010.**

Of course, it will be necessary for the District to continue to monitor weather and road conditions between now and Monday morning to ensure that it will be safe to bring students and staff into our buildings. However, since we are only about halfway through our winter season, it makes good sense for us to try to utilize this up-coming contingency date, in case we need our remaining contingency days to cover additional closures that may occur.

Our Administration will be writing an appeal to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) requesting that they grant a pupil attendance waiver to us based on the weather-related difficulties experienced this week. However, the PDE has indicated that they will consider these requests on a case-by-case basis, taking into account whether the District has made an effort to make up the lost days.

Please continue to monitor our District website for updates to this information. Today we are working diligently to get our campuses ready in the hope that we will be able to bring staff and students back on Friday, February 12. As of this morning, a number of secondary roads across our District were not accessible to our buses. We hope that road crews will be able to get to them today.

Thank you for your on-going cooperation and support. Again, the safety of students and staff is always our first priority.

Sincerely,

Patricia P. Green, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools