

A SNOWY WINTER'S FAQ!

(or, what you need to know when it really snows a lot...)

What is the school's basic philosophy on canceling school? We will only cancel school when Mother Nature simply won't be denied, or when the city has called a parking ban. We know that students and families build their routines around us, and we try our very best to fulfill that expectation. That said, we live miles apart, we drive different kinds of cars, and our comfort levels vary. **If Wheeler is still in session on a day you feel the roads are unsafe, we respect your decision to keep your child at home, or pick them up early. All absences are "excused absences" if you feel the roads are unsafe. We completely understand that, ultimately, the decision to send your child to school is yours.**

How do we find out if Wheeler will be closed? We change our outgoing voice mail, post on the homepage of our website and in the calendar section, and run announcements on all local major media outlets. The television news stations also announce school closings on their websites.

When is the decision made to cancel school? Typically between 5:00 and 5:30 AM. If possible, a cancellation will be made the day before to allow families more time to plan. (If, for instance, a Providence parking ban is called well in advance.)

Who makes the call? The Heads of Wheeler, Providence Country Day, Gordon, Lincoln, and Moses Brown make a collective decision and announce simultaneously.

What about parking bans? If the city of Providence declares a parking ban, **Wheeler must automatically close.** (We have no choice because almost 2/3 of our faculty as well as many high school students park on the street.)

What about kids who take city or charter buses? If Providence Public Schools close, neither public nor charter buses will run. This does not guarantee that Wheeler will close, but it is a factor in the decision as many students depend on these buses each day.

Will you ever have late starts or early dismissals due to weather? On rare occasions, we will have a delayed start, and we will almost never close early. We have found it safer and easier for parents and children if we stay open for the regular school hours.