



# Battle Ground Public Schools

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District Switchboard: (360) 885-5300

November 16, 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian:

It's time to plan for possible school closures, late starts and buses on snow routes due to inclement weather. WE hope this is valuable to you.

**1. Late Starts** -- In the event of late starts, school begins two and one-half hours later than the regular starting time and there is no morning kindergarten or morning pre-school.

**2. Notification to families and employees** -- There are five venues for our announcements: **(1)** TV and radio stations; **(2)** automated phone calls and emails to all parents and employees except those who have opted out of this free service (target time for the calls is 5:45 a.m.); **(3)** the district's Website, [battlegroundps.org](http://battlegroundps.org), where it will be posted at the top of the home page and also under "Key Links" on the right under "In the event of snow or ice..."; **(4)** The Columbian's Website [Columbian.com](http://Columbian.com), and **(5)** the district's "Snow Line" recorded phone message (885-5343).

**3. Update your phone numbers** -- Our automated-phone calling system is the most efficient way for us to reach most families quickly in the event of delays or closures. Please be sure your child's school is notified of any changes in your phone-contact information.

**4. Split-district ("partial") closures** -- When winter weather forces us to close some schools but not others it is because roads in the north part of the district are more hilly and at higher elevations than the roads in the southern part of the district. Those north-end roads can be hazardous for school buses as well as parents and students in cars even though roads farther south might be free of snow and ice. In the event of split-district closures, it is important to know whether you are in the north or the south part of the district. Schools are divided as follows:

**North** – Battle Ground High School, Tukes Valley Primary and Middle, Yacolt Primary and Amboy Middle.

**South** – Prairie High School, Captain Strong Primary, Chief Umtuch

Middle, Daybreak Primary and Middle, Maple Grove Primary and Middle, Pleasant Valley Primary and Middle, Glenwood Heights Primary and Laurin Middle.

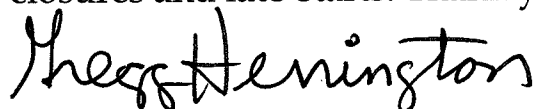
**Students in south schools who live in a north-school attendance area will not have bus service if the north schools are closed and south schools open.**

**5. Alternative schools -- Summit View High School, Battle Ground Homelink, Homelink River and CAM Jr- Sr high schools will follow the lead of the worst case in the district. If **any** school in the Battle Ground district has a late-start-or-closure scenario due to bad weather, alternative schools will do the same.**

**6. Parental discretion --** Even when a school is open, parents and guardians may use their own judgment whether it is safe to send their children to school. Weather-related absences are excused if they are reported to the school by the parent or guardian.

**7. Bus Snow Routes --** In some cases, schools are open but with some buses on snow routes. If snow routes are in effect in the morning those same buses will be on snow routes in the afternoon, too, regardless of the weather by that time. For snow-route information, see the Website [battlegroundps.org](http://battlegroundps.org) and click "In the event of snow or ice..." at right under "Key Links", then scroll to the bottom of that page. You also can get bus information from the bus company (Petermann Northwest) at 687-7137 ext. 12 or the school district transportation office at 885-6577.

We welcome suggestions for future improvements in communicating closures and late-starts. Thank you, and happy sledding



Gregg Herrington  
Communications Director  
Battle Ground Public Schools

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