

November 21, 2019

Dear Pennoyer Families,

As we all know, winter in the Chicago area can mean snow and cold temperatures which brings the potential for school closings. Over the course of the past several years, we have been engaged in collaborative discussions with the administration from Maine Township 207 and Ridgewood 234 high schools and elementary partner schools. Together, we are committed to a process that ensures decisions are made wisely and in a timely fashion regarding the safety and well being of our entire school community.

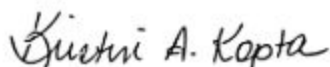
Our first priority is the safety of students and staff. At the same time, we know that closings create child care and work schedule problems for families. For many reasons, we always prefer to keep schools open. In deciding, superintendents consult with local municipal departments and use National Weather Service data. Some factors we consider include:

- Safety of students and staff.
- Severity of weather (extreme cold, flooding, etc.)
- Timing of the weather.
- Ability of vehicles to travel safely and ability of students to walk to and from school safely.
- Operable condition of our buildings and ability to maintain safe conditions around our buildings, sidewalks and parking lots.

There may be a situation unique to Pennoyer that could factor into the decision to close. I want to assure you that the safety of our students is our first priority and a responsibility that we take very seriously. The decision whether or not is based upon careful analysis of all relevant factors. In the event that school will be closed due to extreme weather or other emergencies, families will be contacted through our Skylert phone call system. The District will update its website and the Emergency Closing Center website <http://www.emergencyclosingcenter.com/> as soon as a decision has been made.

Although the decision to remain open or closed is made with the best of intentions, it is an imperfect system due to the unpredictability of the weather and the individual circumstances of each of our families. We appreciate your support in making certain all of our students get to school safely on the cold wintery days ahead.

Sincerely,



Kristin A. Kopta, Ed.D  
Superintendent  
Pennoyer School District 79