

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #13

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October 6, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This year the school districts of SAU #13 (Freedom, Madison, and Tamworth) will be using up to five “Remote Instruction School Days” when weather or other emergencies necessitate the closing of school for the entire day. These days are also known as “Blizzard Bag Days.” In an effort to recover days of instruction lost due to school cancellation and prevent adding make-up days to the school calendar in June, the New Hampshire Department of Education allows school districts the flexibility to use online instruction with students on days declared by the superintendent as Remote Instruction School Days versus regular snow days.

I will use ALERT NOW, the school’s automated phone announcement system, to notify you when I declare a Remote Instruction School Day. The message you receive from me will inform you that school is cancelled **and** I have declared a Remote Instruction School Day. Please bear in mind that not every school cancellation day will be declared a Remote Instruction School Day. When declared, the Remote Instruction School Day will be posted on school websites. Although school cancellation notifications will be sent to local radio and television stations, the declared Remote Instruction School Day will not be advertised on radio or television stations. Thus, it is very important for you to pay close attention to my phone message.

Teachers have been hard at work preparing academic assignments to be used on Remote Instruction School Days. The assignments provided to students will be equivalent in effort and rigor to those on days when students are physically present at school. Students are expected to complete a minimum of three and one-half (3.5) hours of academic work in grades 1-8. Students in kindergarten are expected to complete two (2) hours. In order for a Remote Instruction School Day to count as a typical school day, 80% of the students must complete their academic assignments. If not, the day must be made up in June. It is expected 100% of the teachers will participate. Teachers will be available online for students from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Plans are in place for students and teachers who do not have online access and can be found on the “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQs) document enclosed.



On Wednesday, October 15, students and teachers will engage in a shortened version of a Remote Instruction School Day practice trial for homework. Students will complete online academic assignments after school that day. Teachers will provide specific directions and expectations for the practice trial. Please note that school will not be cancelled that day.

The teachers and administrators are excited to use Remote Instruction School Days. During the year we will evaluate the use of this form of instruction. As part of the evaluation process, you will be surveyed. In the meantime, we welcome your feedback. Please consult the FAQs document enclosed. In addition, please contact your child's teacher or principal if you have any questions or suggestions.

Thank you for your continued cooperation, support, and assistance as we strive to provide innovative ways to engage our students in 21st Century learning.

Kind regards,


Lou Goschinski
Superintendent

Enclosure: Remote Instruction School Day - FAQs