



ST. JUDE SCHOOL

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Inclement Weather Decision Making Process

The decision making process for closing the school due to snow includes:

- assessment of sidewalks & stairways
- assessment of parking lots
- assessment of staff driving routes
- assessment of general driving conditions
- assessment of weather, current & projections
- consultation with neighbouring schools and principals
- consultation with PEC and staff that live in the area
- prayer

Some of the factors which make St. Jude School unique when considering these decisions include the following:

- we're not a neighbourhood school, but nearly exclusively a commuter school
- students travel from different parts of Vancouver, Burnaby, Surrey, and Richmond
- staff travel from Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond, North Van, and Maple Ridge
- we live in a region that does not get much snow and many drivers are ill prepared (no snow tires) to drive in snow yet do so anyway. The risk of car accidents greatly increases in such conditions and commute times become exceptionally long with many arriving very late.

Other factors all schools must consider:

- are we able to provide a quality learning experience if we have 1/3 or 1/2 of our students in the building?
- if some teachers aren't able to make it to school, do we have the support from our Teacher On Call pool to handle the sudden demand?
- are we able to provide adequate supervision if staff cannot make it to work?
- can we confidently say that we made the best decision to open if an injury or fatality occurs?

When the school is closed due to inclement weather, communication will be through the Facebook and Twitter first, then the school website by 7am at the latest. Lastly an email will be sent out through MailChimp. It is the responsibility of the parents to check our Facebook or Twitter feed, the website and their email when snow is in the forecast.

In difficult weather, our hope is to open our schools as soon as it is possible while considering all educational and safety perspectives. We thank you for your prayers and support!