



Timothy Edwards Middle School

100 Arnold Way • South Windsor, CT 06074

Phone: 860.648.5030 • Fax: 860.648.5029

Web: www.southwindsorschools.org/tems

Melissa Morgan-Hostettler
Principal

Jarrid Clifton
Associate Principal

David St. Jean
Associate Principal

December 10, 2019

Dear Timothy Edwards Families,

'Tis the season! It's getting to be that time of year...! The weather in Connecticut during the long winter months is unpredictable, and it often impacts the school schedule. Effective this school year, the South Windsor Board of Education has approved a districtwide pilot of the *Snow Day Scholars* program. This pilot is intended to allow students to demonstrate independent learning from home during emergency closings.

What is the *Snow Day Scholars* Program?

As Dr. Carter shared in her August newsletter, the *Snow Day Scholars* is a pilot program that will assess the merits and feasibility of allowing students to demonstrate independent learning from home during emergency closings. Students will engage in independent learning that reinforces core academic content in addition to promoting core competencies that contribute to their long-term success: resilience, innovative thinking, personal wellness, and social consciousness. The learning from home will happen with the understanding that a make-up school day will not need to be added to the calendar in June.

What are the benefits of the *Snow Day Scholars* program?

The benefits to this pilot program include:

- limiting the disruption of learning when emergency closings occur;
- minimizing the impact of summer planning for families and staff, such as planning vacations, camps or other activities;
- encouraging students to take ownership of their learning;
- assisting families and staff in their planning as this program further protects the April vacation from being shortened.

How many *Snow Day Scholars* days could we have?

For the first three occurrences of an emergency closing (inclement weather or otherwise), schools will be closed with no formal expectations of independent learning. The *Snow Day Scholars* program will only be initiated after the first three (3) emergency closing days. Upon the 4th and 5th emergency closing days, students will be engaged in independent learning. We will have no more than 2 independent learning days, which means that the 6th and all subsequent emergency closing days would continue to be added to the June calendar, as indicated in the table below.

Emergency Closing Day	Impact to School Calendar
1	School year extended by 1 day
2	School year extended by 2 days
3	School year extended by 3 days
4	Snow Day Scholars program. Students and teachers engaged in independent learning. No extension of the school year.
5	Snow Day Scholars program. Students and teachers engaged in independent learning. No extension of the school year.
6 - 9	School year extended by 1 day for each occurrence 6 - 9
10+	Days taken as needed from April vacation or from other days as recommended by the Superintendent

How will I know that a *Snow Day Scholars* day has been initiated?

On the 4th and 5th emergency closing day, you will receive a call from Dr. Carter as usual announcing the school closing. Principals will send out communication to all families reminding them that it is a *Snow Day Scholars* day. Teachers may also help remind students (using See-Saw and/ or Google Classroom) that the 4th and 5th school closing will be a *Snow Day Scholars* day.

How will students know what to do on a *Snow Day Scholars* day?

You can find student independent learning “menus” for *Snow Day Scholar* activities on the “Student” section of the South Windsor Public Schools website. The menus include activities from various content areas and provide different levels of challenge to accommodate all of our learners. Prior to the 4th emergency closing, Timothy Edwards students will also receive a printed copy of the first menu during homeroom, and they will be given the second menu in advance of the 5th emergency closing. On a *Snow Day Scholars* day, students will choose and complete at least 4 of the 16 options on the menu.

Who collects the students’ completed work?

Students will have the opportunity to complete a survey to identify which activities they selected. This will be done in homeroom. Some menu options require the student to complete a written assignment. If your child chooses a task that has a written component, homeroom teachers will collect that work when students return to school. All students will be encouraged to share what they did when they return from the 4th and 5th school cancellation.

How will the work impact my child’s grade?

During this pilot year, *Snow Day Scholars* work will not impact students’ grades. However, the projects and assignments have been carefully designed by teachers to promote student independence, as well as reinforce and enrich grade level learning.

If you have any questions about the *Snow Day Scholars* pilot program, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are excited to pilot this program, and thank you for your cooperation and support from home.

Wishing you a safe winter season!

Sincerely,

Melissa Morgan-Hostetler