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Sauk Prairie School District  
440 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin 53578  
608-643-5980

Sauk Prairie School District Families:

January's weather caused more cancelled school days than in any month in recent memory. The National Weather Service called the frigid temperatures a "once in a generation" event. We write to explain changes to our school calendar that will be made to ensure we meet the instructional hours requirements set by the state and to keep you informed about the district's weather-related decisions.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS:**

The state sets minimum requirements for the number of instructional hours the district is to be in session each year. The district anticipates we will have several snow days each year and therefore builds a calendar that includes more instructional hours than required. As of Thursday, January 31st, the district ran out of these extra instructional hours. We need to make changes to our calendar to make up for these lost hours.

### **CALENDAR CHANGES:**

To make up for these lost instructional hours, the district is making the following changes to this year's calendar:

- **Monday, March 11th will be a regular student attendance day.** The calendar lists this day as a non-attendance day. Students will be expected to attend school on March 11th.
- **The High School will cancel the Wednesday afternoon collaboration time on specific dates.** Students will be expected to attend ARP from 2:40-3:25 instead of being released on 2/6, 3/6, 3/20, 4/10, 4/24, 5/8, 5/22, 6/5.
- **Trimester 2 will end on Friday, March 15th** instead of Monday, March 11th.

### **FEBRUARY 7th AND 8th:**

Students don't have school this Thursday and Friday. Why can't these become snow day make-up days? It is too late to make this calendar adjustment. Several facility upgrades are scheduled for these days while students are not in the buildings and the district food service and transportation contracts need more advanced warning to add days back into the calendar.

### **HOW WE DETERMINE WHEN TO CANCEL SCHOOL:**

It is a very serious decision to delay, close, or dismiss school due to inclement weather. District leaders consult directly with the National Weather Service, Lamers Bus Lines, Sauk Prairie and Sauk County law enforcement, and county and municipal road crews. If it is determined we cannot safely transport students to school or back home, or is too cold to do so, then schools are delayed, dismissed early, or closed.

### **STUDENT SAFETY:**

Sauk Prairie School District staff have the responsibility to cancel and change school schedules due to weather, but our decision does not override the judgment of a parent. If weather conditions lead parents to have sincere concern for the safety of their child, they can keep students home or remove them from school early.

Keeping our 2,800 students safe as they travel to and from school and while they are at school is one of our most important responsibilities -- a responsibility the Sauk Prairie School District takes very seriously.