



October 20, 2020

Minnewaska Area Parents, Students and Staff:

October has arrived and that means the winter season is upon us! The purpose of this letter is to share the **MAS Weather Related eLearning Plan** that is in place for the 2020-2021 school year.

Please note the Weather Related eLearning Plan is different from the Distance Learning Plan that we have been following since September 1. Please take the time to review the pages that are included with this letter so you are fully prepared for the rest of our winter season.

If the decision is made to close school and conduct a Weather Related eLearning Day, it will be made prior to 6:10 a.m. the day eLearning is scheduled. *(If it is possible to make the decision the night before, we will try to do that.)*

The decision will be communicated to you via the local television and radio stations, as well as the district website. If we have your contact information in our school emergency communication system, you will also receive a telephone call, an email and and/or a text announcing the following:

“Due to weather conditions, Minnewaska Area Schools will not be hosting on-site or in person learning and will be conducting an eLearning Day”.

Once you receive notification of a weather related announcement, please follow all guidance shown on the pages that follow. These pages identify specifics about how the “**Weather Related eLearning Plan**” will work as well as “**Expectations for Students and Teachers**”. All of this information will help your family be prepared for the eLearning Day when you get one of those late night or early morning weather related calls. Should you have any questions about eLearning or these expectations, please contact your school level principal or your child’s teacher.

It is important to note that when the schools have to be closed it will continue to be considered a school day that counts towards student attendance. Students and staff are expected to participate in all eLearning Days.

If this is like most years, some days we may not be able to notify you prior to 6:10 a.m., or we may experience a late start or early dismissal. If any of these situations occur, these will **NOT** be eLearning Days.

We are very appreciative of your support in this “year of change.”

Most Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Ellingworth".

Rick Ellingworth



Minnewaska Area School District eLearning Plan

Information for Students and Parents:

Again this year, the Minnewaska Area School District will implement **eLearning** for the 2020-21 school year.

We are fortunate to be able to address a school closing, due to inclement weather, through an eLearning day. This document is intended to provide background information as well as inform you how eLearning days will be conducted. The closing of school for inclement weather is a serious matter and safety is the prevailing factor in reaching this decision. After consultation with officials from the bus company and neighboring school district superintendents, a decision on school closure is made as early as possible.

It is important to note that when the school is closed it will continue to be considered a school day that counts towards student attendance. Students and teachers will be expected to participate in an eLearning day.

Our preference is to have students in school with teachers and classmates. However, technology offers opportunities to continue to learn in the event a decision is made to close school. Because of the commitment our School Board has made to technology, and the fact that over 95% of our students have Internet access, learning does not have to stop.

If the decision is made to close school and conduct an eLearning day, it will be made prior to 6:10 am in the morning the eLearning day is scheduled. The decision will be communicated to you via the television, radio, the district website, a voicemail, e-mail or text via School Messenger (emergency messenger system).

The following information describes our eLearning Day:

1. The assignment/activity for each class will be Posted on Seesaw for grades E-3 and on Google Classroom for grades 4-12 by 9:00 am. Students in grades K-3 will also receive a paper copy of eLearning activities prior to any school cancellation that they can follow in the event that they do not have access to the internet or a device that can access Seesaw.
2. Teachers will be available during regular school hours (8:10 am-3:30 pm) by video conference and email for questions that students or parents may have. Check the eLearning tab for the teacher's direct contact information.
3. The eLearning day is considered a student day requiring attendance. Students and teachers are expected to participate in the eLearning day and attendance is required.
 - a. **Grades K-3:** Attendance will be determined by the student submitting assignments to their teacher within the next 2 days following the weather experience.
 - b. **Grades 4-6:** Attendance will be determined by the student submitting assignments to their teacher within the next 2 days following the weather experience.
 - c. **Grades 7-12:** Attendance will be determined by students logging in online as they do during their traditional hybrid days. Students can log in on our website at
 - i. Middle School at: <https://www.minnewaska.k12.mn.us/middle-school/>
 - ii. High School at: <https://www.minnewaska.k12.mn.us/high-school/>
4. Students who choose not to participate will receive an unexcused absence unless an illness or other excused reason for absence is reported by the parent to the school's attendance line.
5. If you do not have access to the internet, or if there is an insufficient amount of technology for the number of children in your home, please contact your child's teacher or building principal to discuss options. Paper copies of eLearning activities will be provided to all students in grades K-3.
6. Student and teacher responsibilities are specifically identified in the **eLearning Day Expectation Document**. [Click here to view the document](#)

Should you have any questions about these procedures, please feel free to contact your child's teacher(s) and/or the respective building level principal



Minnewaska Area Schools eLearning Day Expectations

If an eLearning day is scheduled, MAS staff, students and parents will be notified at least 2 hours prior to the start of the school day - no later than 6:10 am

	Teacher Expectations	Student Expectations	Information
Minnewaska Area Elementary School	<p>*Assignments/Activities will be posted by 9:00 am on the teacher's website on the eLearning tab or will be sent home prior to an eLearning day.</p> <p>*Teachers will be available during regular school hours (8:10 am-3:30 pm) and will respond to any communication from parents, students, staff or administration in a timely manner. Check specific teacher webpage for contact information.</p> <p>*Attendance will be determined by the student submitting to the teacher the assignments/activities indicated on teacher's website within 2 days of school being back in session.</p>	<p>*Students will know where to locate their assignments/activities.</p> <p>* Students will complete their assignments/activities as directed.</p> <p>*Students will return assignments/activities within 2 days of school being back in session.</p> <p><i>Parents and students will follow their teacher's eLearning lessons in Seesaw or using the paper copy provided by the child's teacher.</i></p>	<p>The proposed guidelines for total amount of work time per grade level for a student are listed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Kindergarten: 45 minutes-1 hour •First & Second Grade: 1-2 hours •Third & Fourth Grade: 2-3 hours • Fifth-Twelfth Grades: 30 minutes per class <p>The eLearning day is considered a student day requiring attendance. Students and teachers are expected to participate in the eLearning day and attendance is required.</p> <p>If you do not have access to the internet, or if there is an insufficient amount of technology for the number of children in your home, please contact your child's teacher or building principal to discuss alternative options.</p> <p>Check specific teacher webpage for contact information.</p>
Minnewaska Area Middle School	<p>*Assignments/Activities will be posted by 9:00 am on the school website under the eLearning tab. Learning choice boards will be made available in hard copy, as well as on the school website.</p> <p>*Teachers will be available during regular school hours (8:10 am-3:10 pm) and will respond to any communication from parents, students, staff or administration in a timely manner.</p> <p>*Attendance will be determined by students completing assignments/activities assigned on teacher's website.</p>	<p>*Students will know where to locate their assignments/activities</p> <p>* Students will complete their assignments/activities as directed</p> <p>*Students will return assignments/activities within 2 days of school being back in session.</p> <p>*Students will check in with teachers to ask questions or to get feedback on assignments</p> <p><i>Parents and students will find eLearning activities posted in Google Classroom.</i></p>	
Minnewaska Area High School	<p>*Assignments/Activities will be posted by 9:00 am on the teacher's website on the eLearning tab.</p> <p>*Teachers will be available during regular school hours (8:10 am-3:30 pm) and will respond to any communication from parents, students, staff or administration in a timely manner. Check school webpage for contact information.</p> <p>*Attendance will be determined by students completing assignments/activities assigned in teacher's Google Classroom page.</p>	<p>*Students will know where to locate their assignments/activities</p> <p>* Students will complete their assignments/activities as directed</p> <p>*Students will return assignments/activities on the next scheduled school day</p> <p>*Students will check in with teachers to ask questions or to get feedback on assignments</p> <p><i>Parents and students will find eLearning activities posted in Google Classroom.</i></p>	