

Dear East Rochester Families,

As the weather turns cooler, I am writing to inform you about a new district policy regarding snow days. In the past, snow days were added to the end of the school year, but beginning this winter, all students in our district will be completing “Blizzard Bags” at home on up to 3 select snow days. *Successfully completed Blizzard Bags will be considered school days that will not need to be made up in June.* Blizzard Bags have been piloted successfully in other school districts in New Hampshire, and we are excited to be on board with this initiative.

At its core, a Blizzard Bag consists of no more than 4 hours of academic tasks at home that will substitute for a day of school. Your child’s teacher will customize learning activities in the core subject areas for your child to complete at home with your support as needed. The unified arts teachers (in physical education, art, music, and tech), the guidance counselors, interventionist, and the occupational/speech/physical therapists (if your student receives these services) will also create assignments that students will be required to complete for the specific classes or sessions they would miss on the day of the Blizzard Bag. All learning activities will need to be completed and submitted within 2 days of the Blizzard Bag.

Each teacher will be posting his/her Blizzard Bag assignments on Google Classroom, which will be accessible through our school’s website <http://www.rochesterschools.com/ers>; paper copies of all assignments will also be made available during Parent Teacher conferences in November in case computer/internet access is limited. Your child’s teacher will be dedicatedly available to answer emailed questions from 9:30-10:30 am and 1:30-2:30 pm on all Blizzard Bag days.

Blizzard Bags will be announced by the superintendent as a part of the school cancellation process. The first snow day will be a traditional snow day, and Blizzard Bags will begin on alternating snow days after that. If power issues may be widespread, a Blizzard Bag day may not be declared.

Again, we are very excited to offer Blizzard Bags as an opportunity for both meaningful learning and a longer summer.

Sincerely,

*Christine Hebert*

Principal