

# Wondering about Winter Weather?

## **Winter Weather: Snow Day Decisions and Notifications**

When winter weather arrives, schools may be closed or delayed or buses may use snow routes. (GILHAM DOES NOT HAVE SNOW ROUTES.) These decisions are made district wide and are the same for every 4J school.

**How the decision is made:** Typically, weather-related school schedule decisions are made in the early morning, before school, when current weather conditions can be assessed. We believe students and families are best served when we are open. Our main concern and the reason for any school closure is the safety of our students and staff.

### **How to find out if there is a change:**

- If the district decides to make a change to the school schedule or bus routes, it is communicated as quickly as possible in several ways, all well before 6:30 a.m.
- If schools and buses are on their regular schedule, there will NOT be an announcement.
- Sign up for text-message alerts via Twitter.
- Check the district website homepage: [www.4j.lane.edu](http://www.4j.lane.edu)
- Follow district social media channels: • *Facebook:* [facebook.com/4Jschools](https://facebook.com/4Jschools) *Twitter:* [twitter.com/4jschools](https://twitter.com/4jschools) and [twitter.com/4Jweather](https://twitter.com/4Jweather)
- Tune in to local news media.

### **What does the announcement mean?**

*School Closure:* There is no school for students, although some staff will be at work. The district will decide by noon about whether any after-school student activities or community use of buildings may take place.

*Two-Hour Delay:* School will start two hours late (9:55 for Gilham) and end at the usual dismissal time. If a delay occurs on an early release Friday, school will still be dismissed at the early release time. Buses will drive cautiously, adjusting to conditions, so pickup and return may be delayed.

*Snow Routes:* NO SNOW ROUTES FOR GILHAM. Some school bus routes have alternate “snow routes” that may be used when snow and ice make road conditions hazardous at higher and steeper elevations. This helps limit the need for school closures in harsh weather. When school buses operate on these snow routes, some students will have a different bus stop location and time than on the regular route. More information is at [www.4j.lane.edu/transportation/snow](http://www.4j.lane.edu/transportation/snow) routes.

*Parent Choice:* When school is in session during wintry weather, families are encouraged to consider the road conditions in their areas, make their own decisions based on safety, and notify the school if their student will be staying home. Parents’ decisions about student absences for hazardous weather safety reasons will be honored.

**For more information,** please see [www.4j.lane.edu/weather](http://www.4j.lane.edu/weather)