

GREENWOOD MILL



Office Phone: 540-667-7863

Web: www.frederick.k12.va.us

September 2017

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

August 2017

When a storm brings snow, ice, freezing rain, flooding, or other hazardous conditions to Frederick County or an emergency situation occurs, care for safety may necessitate closing schools, dismissing early, or opening them later than usual in the morning.

WHEN THE DECISION IS MADE

If weather conditions occur that make it obvious our schools will not be able to operate the following day, an announcement for the next day is sent out on the FCPS Rapid Communications System and is communicated to radio and television stations. If the situation is uncertain or a storm develops during the night, the decision is not made and announced until early the following morning. A decision for the county must be made no later than 5:30 a.m. in order for announcements to be made in a timely manner.

HOW THE DECISION IS MADE

The assistant superintendent for administration, director of transportation, and other transportation employees check weather and road conditions in different sections of the county. They also coordinate with the highway department, public safety officials, and each other. In addition, school officials take a firsthand look by driving some county school-bus routes. The next step may involve checking with other school superintendents, particularly those in Winchester City, Clarke, Shenandoah, and Warren Counties. Finally, a recommendation from the assistant superintendent for administration and the director of transportation is presented to the superintendent, and a final decision is made.

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DATES TO REMEMBER—SEPTEMBER

Sept. 1	No School Professional Development Day
Sept. 4	No School Labor Day
Sept. 5	Chipotle Night
Sept. 12	PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m.

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LINES OF COMMUNICATION

After a decision to close school or delay opening is made, an announcement is sent out on the FCPS Rapid Communications System and is communicated to radio and TV stations listed below:

Radio Station Call List

WINC-92.5FM/1400AM	WRNR-740AM
WUSQ-102.5FM/WFQX 99.3FM	WSIG-96.9FM
WZRV-95.3FM/WFTR1450 AM	WBOP-106.3FM
WKMZ-97.5FM/WEPM 1340AM	WFTX 610AM
WYII-95.9FM	

TV Station Call List

Cable Channel 18	Channel 4 (WRC-TV)
WHSV Harrisonburg	Channel 5 (WTTG-TV)
Channel 25 Hagerstown	Channel 7(WJLA-ABC7)
Channel 99 (WAZT)	Channel 9 (WUSA TV9)

The decision will be broadcast shortly after the station is called. In addition, Frederick County Public Schools' information line at 540-722-6443 or 540-662-3889, ext. 6, and Cable Channel 18 will have information on emergency school closings.

Frederick County Public Schools also utilizes a free email service that will notify parents immediately of announced school closings or opening delays. Parents with the ability to receive e-mail may register free of charge at www.schools-out.com. In the event of school closings or cancellations, parents who subscribe to the service will receive an e-mail message sent to the address that they specify notifying them of schedule changes. This is a free service provided to the school division and control of the www.schools-out.com site rests with the non-profit group that sponsors the site. Additionally, the information may be accessed by going to the Frederick County Public Schools web site at www.frederick.k12.va.us and clicking on the "Info for Parents" graphic on the opening screen.

It is important that parents and students not telephone the stations for information about school closings. Such efforts may block delivery of the very information the individual wishes to obtain by preventing a call from a school official with the announcement.

ONE-HOUR DELAY

The one-hour delay schedule is employed when the weather situation is not sharply defined or when some roads are not clear and daylight will improve safety. A decision on this must also be made by 5:30 a.m. Use of the delay means that all schedules are moved one hour later. For example, a student who usually boards a school bus at 7:30 a.m. will be picked up at 8:30 a.m. Use of the delay allows schools to operate a full day if conditions significantly improve after 6:30 a.m. On occasion, if weather conditions worsen, schools will be closed and the announcement made before 7:30 a.m.

TWO-HOUR DELAY

A two-hour delay may, at times, be announced. When this occurs, students will be picked up two hours later than usual, and no breakfast will be served at school.

EARLY DISMISSAL

A storm can develop or conditions become hazardous at anytime in the morning necessitating an early closing. If this occurs, the high schools will be dismissed at 12:00 p.m., middle schools at 12:15 p.m., and elementary schools at 1:00 p.m. When early dismissal is announced, parents may go to the schools and pick up their children. We ask your cooperation in parking to avoid dangerous situations for students and buses. During serious weather conditions, these times may be changed and announced on the identified communication channels.

DIFFERING ROAD CONDITIONS

The condition of relatively narrow secondary roads bears heavily on the decision to close schools as well as to reopen them. Sometimes patrons ask why schools are not in session after students have been out a day or two and roads in Winchester and the suburbs are clear. The decision for the entire school system is made in relation to the condition of all roads in Frederick County. Many times city and suburban streets are in good condition for travel, but some secondary roads remain icy and very dangerous.

Frederick County has approximately 650 miles of highways. This includes 26 miles of I-81, 101 miles of primary highways, and 523 miles of secondary roads, including 172 miles of unpaved roads. The heavily traveled routes (I-81, Rt. 37, and U.S. 11, 50, and 522) are always cleared prior to secondary roads.

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Frederick County Public Schools shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, political affiliation, disability or veteran status in the education program and activities, or employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Questions concerning the application of this non-discrimination policy may be made to:

Title IX Coordinator (Adults) John Linaburg Executive Director of Human Resources	Title IX Coordinator (Students) Teresa D. Ritenour Director of Student Support Services	Section 504 Coordinator Michele Sandy Director of Special Instructional Services
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1415 Amherst Street, Winchester, VA 22601, 540-662-3888

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, see list of OCR enforcement offices for the addresses and phone numbers of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

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EMERGENCY SNOW-SCHEDULE ROUTES

If icy conditions persist, it may be necessary to operate schools and have reduced bus routes. If this occurs, the radio announcement will state that buses will operate on the emergency schedule. Parents on roads where buses will not operate should get their children to the location designated on the emergency snow schedule until the bus can resume its regular route. This information will be sent to parents living on the emergency snow-schedule routes.

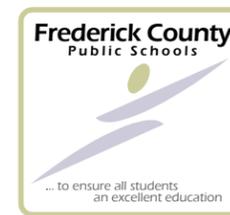
BAD WEATHER DAYS IN SCHOOL CALENDAR

The School Board reserves the right to change the calendar in relation to holiday observance and make-up days (see school

FCPS RAPID COMMUNICATION SYSTEM TEXT MESSAGES

The Frederick County Public Schools' Rapid Communication System includes a SMS text message function. In order to receive text messages sent through the FCPS Rapid Communication System, parents must have the phone number of the device on which they want to receive text alerts included on their child's student record. In addition, they must opt-in to receiving the text messages if they have not done so previously. To opt-in, text "Y" or "Yes" to 67587 from the device on which you want to receive text messages. Once the opt-in process has been completed, you will receive a confirmation text message. The FCPS Rapid Communication System is used to contact parents in a variety of situations ranging from severe weather and power outages to other emergencies that may cause a school to evacuate, relocate or go on lockdown. The system also is utilized to inform parents when schools are closed, opening late or closing early due to inclement weather. Individual schools also utilize the system to communicate information to their school communities.

NEW FCPS MOBILE APP



Frederick County Public Schools is launching a custom mobile app which will be available for both Apple and Android devices in the next few weeks. Download the app from Apple's App Store or Google Play. The app connects to important information such as Parent/Student 360, school calendars, staff directories, bus routes, menus, news and FCPS social media.

board policy). Five (5) inclement weather days are built into the 2017-18 school calendar. The first five days missed are made up one for one. If more than five teaching days are missed, one day will be made up for each two days missed in excess of 5 and up to 9 make-up days. Fourteen or more teaching days missed will require subsequent school board action to adjust the school calendar.

CONCERN FOR SAFETY

Any decision about closing schools is made with safety of the students as the primary concern.

SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY

Frederick County Public Schools is committed to providing a safe environment for all students and staff. Several new initiatives are being launched divisionwide this year to enhance security including:

Raptor Visitor Management System

Each school and the FCPS Administration Building is now equipped with the Raptor Visitor Management System. Beginning September 5, everyone visiting a school will be required to present a valid, government-issued ID which will be scanned through the system and checked against registered sex offender and other databases that may include custody orders and those individuals prohibited from visiting school grounds. Those who are cleared by the system will be issued a badge bearing their name and photo as well as the date, time of entry and destination.

School Bus Stop-Arm Cameras

Each school bus will be equipped with a stop-arm camera that is activated whenever a bus stops to pick up or drop off students. The cameras capture high-definition video of any vehicles that illegally pass a stopped school bus. The video is automatically transmitted to the Frederick County Sheriff's Office where a deputy determines whether a summons should be issued to the owner of the vehicle that was seen passing the bus illegally.

COPsync911

Frederick County Public Schools and the Frederick County Sheriff's Office have partnered to utilize the COPsync911 threat alert service to inform first responders when an emergency situation arises at a school. Once activated, COPsync911 notifies the 911 dispatch center and the closest law enforcement officers at the same time which allows officers to arrive at the scene sooner. The system also enables the school to have real-time, live communication with law enforcement and the dispatch center.

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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER



As Principal of Greenwood Mill Elementary school, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2017–18 school year. We are excited to have students and staff back in our classrooms filling them with energy, passion and a love for learning. We pride ourselves by making every child feel welcomed, important and part of our Gator family. We challenge each student to grow and learn academically, socially and emotionally. We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential. We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities. Our staff spends hours planning and creating classroom activities to engage our students in learning. We continue to learn about and utilize research based best practices, as well as analyze data to set goals for growth and improvement by providing students and parents with feedback. Please stay connected with happenings at Greenwood Mill by following us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GreenwoodMillElementarySchool/> and on Twitter @GreenwoodMill. We love sharing the great things happening here on a daily basis and want you to share in our successes.

Jen Muldowney
Principal

ECLIPSE GLASSES?

Do you still have your Eclipse Glasses? Please consider bringing them to the library so we can donate them to school children in South America and Asia. They will be experiencing an eclipse just like we did in two years!

APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN FCPS 101

Frederick County Public Schools is launching a community engagement program called FCPS 101. The program will provide parents and others with an opportunity to learn about Frederick County Public Schools and its operations, including instructional and administrative services. Individuals interested in participating in FCPS 101 must submit the application form by Friday, September 15. The application and additional details about the program is available on the school division's website- www.frederick.k12.va.us.

FCPS MOBILE APP NOW AVAILABLE

Frederick County Public Schools has launched a custom mobile app that provides students, parents, staff and members of the community with instant access to a variety of school and division information. The new app is available at no cost from Apple's App Store or Google Play. Information that will be delivered through the app includes news, school calendars, student grades and assignments through Parent/Student 360, breakfast and lunch menus and bus routes. In addition, users can access MySchoolBucks to pay various school fees or add funds to a student's cafeteria account through the app.



Apple Mobile App QR Code Google Play Mobile App QR Code

SPEAK UP, STAY SAFE

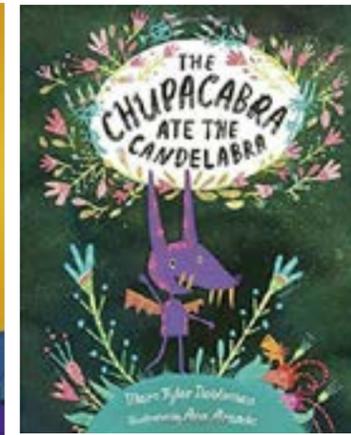
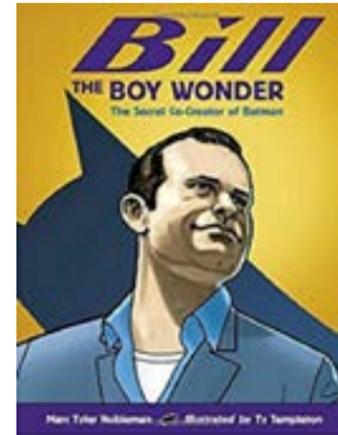
Keeping schools safe is everyone's responsibility. If you see suspicious activity, report it to school staff and the authorities. Suspicious activity may include: a vehicle or individual in an odd or concealed location; an unattended package or backpack; individuals seeking information about a school, its operations or security procedures beyond mere curiosity; or unusual, repeated or prolonged observation of school buildings, bus stops or students. Contact the Frederick County Sheriff's Office at 540-662-6168.

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AUTHOR VISIT

Marc Tyler Nobleman, author of *Bill the Boy Wonder* and *The Chupacabra Ate the Candelabra*, will be visiting on Wednesday, October 4. Autographed books are available for purchase. Forms have been sent home by classroom teachers.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

It is exciting to begin another school year at Greenwood Mill! This year, Mrs. Hall will be working with Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades and Ms. Carson will be working with grades 3, 4 and 5.

We are here to help your child in any way we can throughout the year. We offer a comprehensive counseling program with small group offerings, individual counseling, and periodic classroom visits to your child's classroom. Please contact us at 667-7863 if there is something we need to be aware of to support your child.

All new Gators are receiving an invitation to join the Welcome Wagon Club. This is a lunch bunch that will meet weekly three times during lunchtime to help students get used to their new school.

Ms. Carson is a new Gator, too. Please join me in welcoming her. She has written a short introduction she would like shared in our first newsletter of the year:

"Hello! My name is Ms. Carson. I am so excited to be working with the wonderful staff and students at Greenwood Mill Elementary. I can't wait to see how each student progresses throughout the school year. I know they are in good hands. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns. My email address is carsonj@fcpsk12.net."

JMG GARDEN CLUB



Greenwood Mill's JMG Garden Club will begin a Fall session beginning September 12th! Master Gardeners will work with our JMG Garden Club to enrich our gardening experience. Children grades K-5 will learn about plants, weeds, bugs, and more! For more information about Master Gardeners or 4-H, visit www.nsvmga.org.

This program will be offered at Greenwood Mill Elementary to all K through fifth graders on TUESDAYS from 8:00–8:40 a.m., September 12–October 17.

A GARDEN CLUB THANK YOU!

We give a BIG THANK YOU to Mrs. Upson, Candice Crum, Julie Angelo, Lisa Bonilla and Thuy Oliviera and families who helped water our grounds all summer! We thank them tremendously for their commitment to watering our garden beds and flower pots all around Greenwood Mill. We appreciate your help in doing this all summer! Our flowers and garden beds look wonderful!

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PHYSICAL EDUCATION

What to Expect This Nine Weeks

- ◆ Dribbling, kicking and passing (soccer)
- ◆ Throwing and catching (football)
- ◆ Throwing and catching (flying disc)
- ◆ Fitness testing

Reminders to Students

- ◆ Drink water before class
- ◆ Go to the bathroom before class
- ◆ Tie your sneakers before class

Reminders to Parents

- ◆ Make sure your child wears sneakers and appropriate clothes on PE days

PE Rules

- ◆ **Be Respectful:** to the teacher, to your classmates and take care of the equipment
- ◆ **Be Responsible:** listen, share, work together, learn safely
- ◆ **Be Ready:** wear sneakers, tie your shoes before class, be seated in your squad
- ◆ **Be at Your Best:** try everything, try your hardest and never give up
- ◆ **Be Physically Active:** during class and at home



What Days Does My Child Have PE?

Teacher (5th)	Days	Teacher (4th)	Days	Teacher (3rd)	Days
Pardue	4 & 5	Cook	1 & 5	Turner	4 & 5
Bartlett	3 & 4	Alley	3 & 4	Campbell	3 & 4
Clowser	2 & 3	Craig	1 & 2	Hillyard	1 & 2
Jones	1 & 5	Barr	2 & 3	Homans	2 & 3
Fune	1 & 2	Sevinsky	4 & 5	Marker	1 & 5
Teacher (2nd)	Days	Teacher (1st)	Days	Teacher (K)	Days
Ware	4 & 5	Jenkins	3 & 4	Melnikoff	2 & 3
Snyder	1 & 5	Krueger	2 & 3	Stopha	1 & 2
King	3 & 4	Look	1 & 5	Morris	1 & 5
Matthews	2 & 3	Slaughter	1 & 2	Richards	4 & 5
McCurry	1 & 2	Kieffer	4 & 5	Combs	3 & 4

GMES PE Teachers

Mr. Huddleston and Mr. Walton