



Van Independent School District

Don Dunn

Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents,

Winter is here and with it comes the possibility of snow and ice. While our kids may love playing in these weather conditions, they make driving hazardous. We want to be proactive and give you as much information as possible in the event we do have inclement weather conditions that force us to make decisions that affect the school day. I encourage you to visit our website which has been updated to include procedures for inclement weather. Talk to your family about pickup or drop-off in the event of a delay, early release, or closure. Planning now can save a lot of anxiety and worry during a naturally stressful time, especially when it involves your children.

Thank you for taking the time to update your notification preferences in Family Access. While we hope we have a mild winter, it is always best to plan and prepare to respond to whatever Mother Nature throws our way.

Sincerely,

Don Dunn
Superintendent, Van ISD

PROCEDURES FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

As we enter into the season for inclement weather, please see the following and make your family plans accordingly.

Notifications

In the event of inclement weather, if a decision is made to cancel school, release early, or delay the start of the school day, the decision will be made between 6:00-6:30 a.m. Students and parents are urged to tune to the following:

District/Campus Facebook Pages

Television Stations

KLTV Channel 7- Tyler	Fox 4 News- Dallas
KETK NBC 56- Tyler	WFAA 8- Dallas
CBS 19- Tyler	CBS 11- Dallas

Radio Stations

KMOO- 99.9 FM	KNUE- 101.5 FM
KWJB- 95.7 FM	KTBB- 600 AM & 92.1 FM

Van Independent School District

www.vanschools.org

Time(Approximate)	Where to find info
5:30 am	Posted on the district's website, Facebook pages, and media outlets
5:45 am	Parent and staff emails, phone calls and text alerts sent through Skylert*

Reopening of school the following day will only be announced on the district and campus websites. The closing announcement will be made each day as necessary.

SKYLERT

Van ISD uses Skylert to inform parents and staff of pertinent information via email, phone, and/or text. Families are automatically signed up for notifications but they may change their contact preferences at any time. Families may update their Skylert notification preferences by going to the Van ISD website at www.vanschools.org and clicking on the Skyward Family/Student Access link.

Start/Release Timing

During possibilities of inclement weather, the following chart shows approximate times of early dismissal or late start situations for Van ISD schools. Please make plans in advance for childcare arrangements in case any kind of severe weather closes school during the day. Discuss your family's plan of action with your children to avoid last minute confusion. In the case of early dismissal, children should know ahead of time if they are to ride the bus, walk home or wait for a parent or other arrangements.

Early Dismissal Procedure

In the event of weather conditions deteriorating after school starts, there may be some occasions where it will be necessary to dismiss school three hours early to allow sufficient time for safe transportation of all students. Phone messages, texts, emails and postings on the district/campus Facebook pages will keep parents updated regarding the progress of early dismissal. Early dismissal notifications will most likely go out by 11:00 a.m.

Early Dismissal (3 hours early)

<u>School</u>	<u>Regular Dismissal Time</u>	<u>Early Dismissal Time</u>
JE Rhodes Elementary School		
• PPCD/Head Start	2:45pm	11:45am
• Kindergarten/1 st Grade	3:22pm	12:22pm
Van Intermediate School	3:11pm	12:11pm
Van Middle School	3:11pm	12:11pm
Van Junior High School	3:38pm	12:38pm
Van High School	3:32pm	12:32pm

Late Start Procedure

Late start procedures will be implemented when there is clear evidence that if the start of the day is delayed approximately two hours, it will be safe to transport your child. Bus routes will be adjusted, with pick-up times starting two hours later than a regular school day. The starting times differ depending on the normal starting time for your school. All schools will begin exactly two hours late.

**Late Start
(2 hour delay)**

<u>School</u>	<u>Regular Start Time</u>	<u>Delayed Start Time</u>
JE Rhodes Elementary School		
• PPCD/Head Start	7:50am	9:50am
• Kindergarten/1 st Grade	7:50am	9:50am
Van Intermediate School	7:50am	9:50am
Van Middle School	7:50am	9:50am
Van Junior High School	7:50am	9:50am
Van High School	7:50am	9:50am

How Decisions are Made

In times of inclement weather, the Van ISD administrative team uses an established decision-making process to determine if school should be cancelled, delayed, or released early. The safety of your child is at the forefront in the decision-making process. The team consults with the local Department of Public Safety, other school districts, and local meteorologists before making a decision. Members of the administrative team are responsible for driving and assessing the road conditions of various bus routes from across our district. The team then meets at a predetermined location at 5:00 a.m., discusses the road conditions and weather forecast, and then makes a decision to close or delay school. Consideration is also given to event schedules, staffing and any special conditions that may affect student safety.

Makeup Days

The district will hold a makeup day when school is cancelled for the day. Late start and early dismissal days are usually not made up. The Board of Trustees has built into the calendar two replacement days (bad weather days) in the event of school closures. Please refer to the district calendar for the specific bad weather days.