

Prepare your student for winter weather

The extreme cold we experienced in December and January's "polar vortex" are frigid reminders that winter weather can be dangerous. It takes only minutes for exposed skin to become frostbitten if the temperature is below 20 degrees F and the wind is blowing at 20 mph or more, according to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

The Cherry Creek School District asks that parents and guardians make sure their students are prepared for winter weather. Please send your student to school dressed appropriately for daily conditions. Layers are a good idea for days that are cold in the morning and milder during the middle of the day.

Protect your student's head, hands and feet. Substantial heat loss occurs through the scalp so a hood, hat or scarf is essential. Keep hands warm with mittens or gloves and keep feet warm and dry by ensuring that your student wears socks and appropriate shoes or boots.

If the temperature or wind chill factor is **below 20 degrees** during the school day, indoor recess will be held. If school is cancelled or delayed because of bad weather, families will receive an automated phone call no later than 6 a.m. The Weather Hotline, 720-554-4701, is updated and notifications are posted on the district website, www.cherrycreekschools.org, and sent to local media agencies.

Because the Cherry Creek School District is 108 square miles conditions may vary in different areas of the district, even from neighborhood to neighborhood. Parents and guardians are encouraged to make decisions based on conditions in their area and what is best for their family. If parents choose to keep their children home from school on a day school is held, the student's absence will be excused.