

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

101 Peachtree Road
Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920
www.bernardsboe.com

NICK MARKARIAN
Superintendent of Schools

Phone: 908-204-2600
Fax: 908-766-7641
e-mail: nmarkarian@bernardsboe.com

January 26, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing to provide you with an update on the status of our schools. Unfortunately we had to be closed on Monday and Tuesday in order to have extra time to deal with the mountains of snow that initial plowing created. There were many large piles of snow in critical areas of our parking lots and driveways to the point where buses, parent vehicles, staff vehicles, student vehicles and pedestrians could not coexist. Several other districts in our area that were hit the hardest by this storm are also closed today with similar problems.

I assure you that extra effort is going into the removal and relocation of snow in these critical areas even now as I write this letter. The necessary heavy equipment and heavy equipment operators for these jobs are in scarce supply right now. However we have these resources currently working in combination with town and district equipment and we are doing everything we can to have the schools open on time for tomorrow. Please know that I am acutely aware of the inconvenience and hardship created for families when it is necessary to close school.

While I am optimistic for an on time opening tomorrow, I am sure that you can see from your own observations of the snow piles that normal conditions may be many days away. As you and your children return to the schools please be mindful of the following:

- Many sidewalks are still buried.
- Buses may have difficulty navigating some areas and their time schedules may be somewhat disrupted. Check you bus stop locations to see if there is space for children to stand.
- Snow piles around town and on school property are creating narrow lanes and greatly reduced visibility for drivers. Vehicle operators should use extreme caution and keep speeds to a crawl, watch for pedestrians.
- Parent drop off lines will require patience, car-pooling and using buses where possible would assist in this area.
- Due to the huge volume of snow some parking spaces at each school are inaccessible as they are buried. Parking will be at a premium. School visits should be minimized. At Ridge High School in particular, the following spaces in the D-Lot adjacent to the Performing Arts Center are unavailable until further notice: 268-277, 553-555, and 571-580. Student drivers should plan alternate arrangements as necessary.

Again, at this stage we anticipate being ready for a regular opening tomorrow, if that is impossible a notice will be issued. I apologize for all the difficulty that this storm has brought us and I thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,



Nick Markarian