



## Prairie Heights Community School Corporation

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February 23, 2026

Dear Parents,

Over the years, our district has remained committed to the belief that the best instruction takes place in the classroom. For that reason, we have not previously pursued virtual or remote learning options. However, several recent developments have led us to reconsider this approach when necessary.

First, the state has changed its position regarding waiver days. In previous years, after the first five make-up days were addressed, the state would often consider waiving additional days. That is no longer the case.

We recently received the following guidance from the Indiana Department of Education:

Since the corporation has three asynchronous days, the IDOE expects those to be used. IDOE always prefers instruction over cancellation, so asynchronous instruction would be preferred. Currently, waiver requests for weather-related reasons are only being approved for the week of 1/26–1/30.

In short, districts are expected to use the three allotted asynchronous days before additional waivers will be considered. To clarify, **asynchronous learning** means students would complete assigned learning activities independently on their own time rather than attending live virtual classes. There would be no real-time Zoom or Google Meet instruction. Instead, teachers would provide lessons, assignments, or activities that students can access and complete during the day, with reasonable flexibility. Staff would be available for questions or support as outlined in each building's plan.

Second, we have several significant construction projects scheduled for this summer. It is critical that this work begins as soon as possible to ensure we are fully prepared for the start of the next school year. Extending the calendar further into June would disrupt carefully coordinated timelines and could impact our readiness for August.

With that in mind, our intent is to begin utilizing our allotted three asynchronous learning days for future weather-related cancellations this school year. Students in grades K-5 will be completing packets that will be sent home, and students in grades 6-12 will be accessing assignments through Google Classroom.

Will this become our new normal moving forward? I'm not certain. If we utilize any asynchronous days, we will take time to reflect and engage in thoughtful discussion about whether this is the right long-term direction for our district. If you have any questions, please

reach out to your child's building principal. Below is a reminder of our current make-up schedule.

Respectfully,

Jeff Reed

Superintendent

<b><u>Date Cancelled</u></b>	<b><u>Make-up Day</u></b>
December 2, 2025	February 4, 2026
January 19, 2026	February 16, 2026
January 22, 2026	May 22, 2026
January 23, 2026	May 26, 2026
January 26, 2026	Waived
January 27, 2026	Waived
January 28, 2026	May 27, 2026
February 6, 2026	May 28, 2026