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Instruction for Midway Star students will continue this winter even on days when winter weather makes travel difficult. The state of Minnesota has approved up to five “e-learning days” for schools annually. E-learning days allow students to continue learning and also reduce the chance that schools will have to make up days at the end of the school year due to snow days.

When severe weather occurs this winter and determines that travel to schools and buildings is unsafe, families will be notified that students should remain at home and continue instruction via e-learning. The decision to move to e-learning will be announced by 6 p.m. the night before or no later than 5:30 a.m. on the day of an e-learning day. Information will be shared via all major with families through one call, media, the Midway Star homepage, social media, emails, robocalls, and texts to families. Please ensure that your family’s contact information is updated by contacting your school office.

Important preparation for families and students

Technology is a key component of e-learning, so please ensure your student has both a device and an internet connection.

- Devices should be brought to and from school every day, ensuring that students have their devices at home with them each evening should e-learning be needed. Every student who needs one should have been assigned a device that allows them to connect to an online learning platform, Seesaw for 6-8 grades and K-4 Google Classroom. Please see your school if you have questions about this.
- Internet service at your home should be available for your student. If your home is not currently connected to the internet, consider:
 - The Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB), is a low-cost program to help households pay for internet service and get a discount on a device.
 - Contacting your school about alternative internet options such as a hotspot. Midway Star has limited hotspot availability, so other options should be explored first.

Expectations for e-learning

E-learning will include the time when teachers are online and available to students (synchronous) as well as the time when students are learning on their own using assigned materials (asynchronous). Teachers and schools will communicate to students and families their school start- and end times, when staff will be available to students, and information about additional e-learning activities or enrichment. Student lessons will be posted on online platforms by the start of each e-learning day and e-learning schedules will be displayed on school websites and learning platforms.

When e-learning days will be called

The guidelines for calling e-learning remain unchanged and can be read in more detail on the [severe weather page](#). They are, in general:

- 6-8 inches of snow within 24 hours
- More than 8 inches of snow within 48 hours
- Wind chill below -35 degrees at 6:30 a.m.
- Heat index above 105 degrees for 3 hours for 2 consecutive days

Food Resources

If you need support with food resources when our school buildings are closed, visit local organizations or call the school for support.