



To: Parents/Guardians of Win-E-Mac Students

Re: e-Learning Days

Date: May 16, 2019

In 2017, legislators passed a law allowing Minnesota public schools to hold e-Learning days on days of bad weather. This means students will receive learning activities and assignments provided by their classroom teachers that students would complete at home or wherever they go on a snow day. Students would receive instruction in each of their classes on an e-Learning day. Therefore, even though the weather may prevent staff and students from coming to the school building, students can have a school day that does not have to be made up later.

High School Students: This concept currently exists with the integration of technology into our classrooms. Teachers and students utilize Google Classroom (or other digital learning systems) to post instruction materials and assignments. Students often submit assignments to Google Classroom rather than turning in paper copies.

The e-Learning day may look different for each grade level. Those without internet access or devices will be doing lessons prepared in an at-home folder that will include assignments and activities for each subject they have. Learning activities for all students will also be posted through the Win-E-Mac website so that both students and parents can have access to all subjects and assignments.

Teachers will be available to answer questions by email or other communication methods designated by the classroom teacher. Accessibility will be provided to the students from 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on these days. Students will have two days following the bad weather day to turn in assignments to their teachers, allowing for individual family situations. Attendance for bad weather days will be based on homework completion within the two-day window.

With any new initiatives, there are often bumps and details to work through. We ask for your patience and support as we move forward. Enclosed is information that may help answer some of the more frequently-asked questions that you may have about an e-Learning day. If you have questions other than those included, please feel free to contact me at (218) 687-2236 or (218) 563-2900, or via email at kmckeeper@wemschools.org.

Sincerely,

Kevin McKeever,
Win-E-Mac Principal



**Win-E-Mac Public Schools
e-Learning Day FAQs**

What is an “e-Learning Day”?

An e-Learning day is used in place of a school day that has been cancelled due to bad weather. This means that students will complete learning activities and assignments provided by the teacher at home. Students will receive learning activities and assignments for each subject that would have originally taken place during a regular school day.

How will we be notified that a “snow day” is an “e-Learning Day”?

Students, parents and staff will be notified through the District’s School Messenger System (Instant Alert) that is already being utilized. In the message it will be clearly stated and written that it will be an e-Learning Day. If you are not on this system, please contact the school office at (218) 687-2236 or (218) 563-2900 to be added to the School Messenger System.

What about two hour late starts and when school closes early? Will those days also be considered an e-Learning Day?

No. In the event of late starts or in the event of early dismissals due to bad weather, e-Learning days will not be utilized.

What about preschoolers? Will they be required to complete any activities on an e-Learning Day?

There will be no expectations for preschoolers to complete activities on an e-Learning day.

What happens if a student does not complete the “e-Learning Day” assignments?

Students will be given two days after the e-Learning Day to complete and turn in assignments. Teachers will post the due date so students and parents are clear about when assignments are due. If a student does not complete the assignments by the stated due date, they will be counted absent for the snow day and will lose points on the assignment according to the teacher’s classroom procedures. Students/parents should contact the classroom teacher to communicate circumstances that prohibit your child from completing the assignment.

How will e-Learning Days affect attendance for semester testing?

As stated above, if a student does not complete assignments given within the stated due date, that student will be marked absent for that day. This will be counted as an excused absence, which, depending on a student’s grades and attendance on the other days during a semester, may result in taking a semester test for one or several classes. See the Win-E-Mac High School Student Handbook on the district website for more about semester tests.

What if a student does not have access to a device and/or internet to access the lesson or complete activities?

The student can obtain the assignment in a hard copy or electronic version before or on the next regular school day. Either way, students will have two days to complete the required learning activities and assignments.

What if a student is on a prearranged absence?

The student would be expected to make up the learning activities and assignments just as if it were any other absence from school.

How is a student expected to complete the activities if they go to daycare when there is an “e-Learning Day”?

Students will have an at-home folder with learning activities for them to complete. A student could take the folder with them to their daycare on a snow day to work on their assignments. Students will have two days to complete assignments, so if it is not possible to do the work at a daycare, or at home that evening, it can be completed within those two days.

Will the school buildings be closed on an “e-Learning Day” to students as it is on a regular snow day?

Yes. The school district building will be closed to students and activities on an “e-Learning Day”.

Will staff be accessible during an “e-Learning Day”? And if so, how?

Yes. School staff will be available via email or via other communication methods designated by the classroom teacher (such as Remind or Google Classroom) between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on an e-Learning Day. Teachers’ emails can be found on our school website at: <http://wemschools.org>. Teachers will respond to emails in a timely manner. If a student or parent cannot contact a teacher due to lack of internet connectivity, they have two days to complete all assignments given on a snow day.

What if there is only one computer in the house but multiple students?

Students may need to share resources in the home or other locations. Some students may want to work on offline options while others complete online assignments.

May a student access the assignments or complete the online assignments from their smartphone?

The school website can be accessed from a smartphone. Also, Google Classroom can be accessed from a variety of tablets, smartphones, laptops and desktop computers, either via the website (classroom.google.com) or via the app, which is available on iOS, Chrome OS or Android operating systems. The assignments themselves, depending on the classes or the teachers, may use a variety of websites and applications that may or may not work from a variety of devices, including smartphones.

Will make-up dates still be used on the district calendar?

Yes. If the number of e-Learning dates exceeds the allowed maximum of five as set by the state legislature, or if the e-Learning days are not meeting district expectations, make-up days may be added to the school district calendar.

Other questions?

If there are other questions, please don’t hesitate to ask and we can add them to the frequently asked questions list.