

Conway Chronicles is written and produced by Conway High School students in cooperation with the Laclede County Record

# R-1 will make up two snow days this month

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CONWAY CHRONICLES

Everyone knows Missouri weather is very unpredictable. One day it could be 30 degrees and snowing, and the next day it could be sunny and 50 degrees. It is difficult for school districts, including Conway to be prepared for the weather.

Conway Schools have many students and staff that live on gravel roads which makes it very hard for buses to travel those roads when they are snow and ice covered, which makes snow days very common for the district.

With snow days being common, students often have to make these days up during the year on days they would normally have off or tack them on to the end of the year. No one wants to cut into their summer vacation, making up snow days while they could be spending their days at the lake, on vacation, swimming or any other fun summer things. So this year, the Laclede County R-1 School District added a new snow day policy to make it



more efficient for everyone while missing school during those harsh winter days.

Under Missouri State Statute Chapter 171, School Operations, schools are mandated to provide 1,044 hours of student attendance. The law has been revised from requiring a set number of school days to hours of attendance. In chapter

171.003, schools must make up the first 36 hours of missed school time. After 36 hours, schools must make up half the number of hours missed not to exceed 60 total hours of make-up time. Laclede County R1 is no longer required to have a school year of at least 174 days in length, but must simply meet an hour requirement,

which sits at 1,044.

"This new law also gives school districts scheduling flexibility. For example, next year Conway Junior High/High School could start at 8 a.m., which is five minutes earlier than 2019-2020. This extra five minutes would give our school an extra 12 hours compared to the current school year," stated Conway

High School Principal Jaymes Wapp.

Superintendent Mark Hedger sent home a letter with all students on Feb. 7, stating, "With the two additional snow days we had this week, our students have had a total of 18 days of instruction since Dec. 13. As you may know, due to new legislation, not all snow days are required

to be made up. However, we have already missed 10 full days this school year due to inclement weather, and we feel that the missed instruction during these absences is a concern. Because of this, we are looking at some solutions to make up this missed instruction time. Currently, we are planning to forgive (and not make up) the first eight snow days. We do, however, plan to make up the two snow days we had this past week."

The district will be using the PD Day on Feb. 14 and President's Day on Feb. 17 as make up days. The district also will use the early release days on the first Wednesday in March, April and May as full days instead of the typical early release in order to gain some instructional time.

"We understand this may not be ideal for some; however, we are trying to stay away from having to add any days during spring break since we realize many families made plans in advance during that time," Hedger said.

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