



**MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
WEATHER AND EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING
2024-2025**

Telephone: 763-488-7900
www.mcamustangs.org

ALL MCA PARENTS AND PERSONNEL

This communication aims to provide you with information and answer questions about possible school closings and other interruptions to school or school activities. We believe that when parents, students, staff, and others are informed of procedures and rationale in advance, they can respond responsibly when severe weather or other emergencies occur.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Emergency decisions to **close in-person on-campus school** are made to protect students from the potential harm of severe weather and other hazards.

- MCA will conduct in-person, on-campus school if there is a reasonable expectation that 85% or more of the students will be in attendance. Please realize the school draws students from a wide geographic area.
- When possible, decisions to close in-person, on-campus school will be made by 5:30 a.m. or no later than 6 a.m. the day of closing.
- MCA will work closely with the Osseo school district, Mn/DOT, and other appropriate offices in making decisions regarding closings, etc.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communication during any emergency is critical to safety. In-person, on-campus school closing announcements, and other emergency-related information will be broadcast primarily via TV, websites, MCA App, email, Facebook, Instagram, and X. When possible, early morning decisions are reported to stations by 5:30 a.m. or by 6 a.m. The TV stations, and

websites that will have our closing information are as follows:

TV

- FOX KMSP— Channel 9
- KSTP— Channel 5 and 45, mobile app
- KARE 11—Channel 11
- WCCO—Channel 4

Phone

- You will receive an automated FACTS message alert to the cell phone number on file with the school.
- Please do not phone the school with questions during an emergency. Such phone calls only delay emergency operations, tie up phone lines needed for school-wide action, and consume the time of staff when their time is needed to respond to the emergency.

Text

- Parents listed in the school information system will receive a text with information on any school closing, delays, or emergencies.

Email

- Parents will receive an email informing them of any closures.

Websites

- www.mcamustangs.org
- www.wcco.com
- www.kare11.com
- www.kstp.com
- www.fox9.com

Facebook

- Facebook.com/maranathachristianacademy

X:

- @mcamustangs

Instagram:

- @mcamustangs

INCLEMENT WEATHER:

E-LEARNING DAYS

The first inclement weather day will be a snow day. All other closures will be E-Learning unless otherwise noted.

E-Learning requires all students to participate in prescribed school lessons assigned by their teachers. The following is a detailed description of how students will access their assignments and expectations for participation.

Grades Pre-K–4 Teacher Expectations

- Classroom teachers will email parents their grade level E-learning Day activity matrix by 8:30 a.m.
- Teachers will be available via email or Schoology messaging from 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Grades Pre-K–4 Student/Parent Expectations

- Students complete a portion of the activities as directed and record them with a checkmark on the activity itself.
- The activity is to be sent back to school with a parent or guardian's signature the next day school is in session.
- Teachers will be available for students from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. via email.
- Students should return the activity sheet to determine the day's attendance.
- Students will be graded on the returned activity with an overall completion/participation grade, which the homeroom teacher determines.

- If this poses an extreme hardship on the parent or guardian's work schedule, please inform the classroom teacher and a 24-hour extension can be given to families to finish the assigned work.

Grades 5–12 Teacher Expectations

- On an E-Learning Day, teachers will post all assignments for the day on their Schoology course home page for that day's scheduled classes.
- Teachers will design lessons on the premise that the students do not have anything at home except their device; all materials for successfully completing the assignment will be provided through Schoology.
- Teachers will be available for students from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. via email or Schoology messaging.
- Teachers will take attendance based on completion and submission of the E-Learning day's assignments by 8:00 a.m. the following day. Credit will be given in the grade book for completed assignments.

Grades 5–12 Student Expectations

- Students will "attend" each class during an E-Learning Day by successfully accessing and completing each Schoology course home page assignment for that day.
- Assignments from the E-Learning Day will be submitted by 8:00 a.m. the following day to be counted as present for E-Learning.
- For AA/PSEO classes, students should check their Moodle course page for assignments to be completed.

TWO-HOUR LATE START (VERY RARE)

- Designated first-tier staff will report to school at 7:00 a.m. and will be responsible for supervising students until the remaining staff arrives by 8:15 a.m.
- School will officially start at 10:00 a.m.; however, students arriving before the start time may report to the cafeteria as early as 7:00 a.m.
- At 8:15 a.m., lower school students will be released to an assigned grade level classroom (s) and provided with ungraded activities until the official start time.

- At 8:15 a.m., upper school students will be released to an assigned advisory classroom and be in an unstructured study hall until the official start time.
- At the official start time, the upper school's first couple of class periods will run on a shortened schedule, and the afternoon classes will run as normal.
- There will be no breakfast option available for late start days.

EARLY DISMISSAL

MCA will not do an early dismissal due to weather once school is in session. Our primary reason is the risk of sending students home to unsupervised or locked homes and the hardship presented to working parents. Parents may elect to pick up their children or call to have them released early from school.

OTHER PROCEDURES

Procedures for extreme cold

Extreme wind chill can be very dangerous. If the wind chill is excessively bitter at 5:30 a.m. and is predicted to remain the same or worsen, the school will be canceled. Usually, additional adverse weather conditions are necessary to cause school interruptions other than wind chill.

Procedures during snow or ice storms

If a storm occurs or continues during the night, we will consult with snow removal officials when possible and follow weather reports. When possible, a decision will be made by 5:30 a.m. or by 6 a.m. whether the school can be started with reasonable safety. If a storm occurs or worsens during a school day, the same procedures will be followed with a decision by noon for extra-curricular activities. X-Tended Day will not be canceled if school is in session.

Extra-curricular Activities (when school is closed)

When school is canceled, all school-related activities are also canceled, i.e., extracurricular activities, clubs, X-tended Day, and athletic events, except Section or State competitions determined by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL). Exceptions may be made to accommodate unique situations, i.e., theater productions, etc.

Procedures for other emergencies

It is impossible to outline all hazards and conditions that can cause the dismissal or disruption of the school day. Most hazards rarely occur. Parents should be assured that MCA will cooperate fully with other agencies and officials whenever dangers due to fire, tornadoes, power failure, gas leaks, or other emergencies occur. We will do everything in our power to protect the health and safety of the students.

Obligation of parents

Parents should be certain their children are appropriately clothed, instructed, and otherwise prepared for emergencies, particularly weather emergencies. Parents should monitor communication outlets for reports during times of severe weather. **If parents disagree with a decision to hold school on a day when they feel the weather is hazardous, they are encouraged to keep their children home.**

OTHER THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW...

- The school has a Crisis Management Plan to deal with emergencies.
- State law requires schools to have five fire drills per school year. Every effort is made to hold fire drills when the weather is good. Five lockdown drills and one tornado drill are required by law and are scheduled each school year.