

Atkins High School



403 Avenue Three NW
Atkins, AR 72823
479-641-7872; 479-641-1000
Mary Beth Cox, Principal

December 21, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As winter weather is just around the corner, we begin to think about the possibility of snow days. Historically, Atkins Schools have missed minimal days due to inclement weather. However, those days missed have typically been made up at the end of the school year. We are excited to announce that the Atkins School District was granted 5 alternative methods of instruction (AMI) days for the 2017-2018 school year per Act 862. This will allow us to have a plan in place to be able to count the first 5 days as school days in the event of a school closing.

“Act 862 of 2017 allows a public school district and open-enrollment public charter school to develop a plan for alternative methods of instruction to be used on days when the superintendent closes school due to exceptional or emergency circumstances. As stated in the legislation, the Commissioner of Education may grant up to the equivalent of ten (10) student attendance days for public school districts that have an alternative instruction plan approved by the Commissioner of Education for the use of alternative methods of instruction, including without limitation virtual learning, on days when the public school district is closed due to exceptional or emergency circumstances such as: a contagious disease outbreak, inclement weather or other acts of God, or a utility outage.”

After Christmas Break, the teachers will compile a packet to send home with students that has materials for 5 days of instruction. The students will complete the packet's paperwork or an online version posted via the Enrichment teacher's webpage. Those Vo-tech students who do not have an enrichment teacher will be assigned to Mrs. Ward, librarian. Each enrichment teacher will send home a packet with specific details about his/her expectation for the students. Attendance will be taken on these days. Students will be counted as present if they return the completed work the first day that school is in session after the AMI day. Students who do not complete the work will be counted as absent. In the packet, the teachers will include a way to be contacted on the AMI days should they have any questions about the assignments.

For each school day deemed to be an AMI day, the school will notify students and parents via the school website, the school's messenger system, and social media. Be looking for the packet to be coming home with your child. You will want to find a safe place to place the packet, so you know where it is in the event of a school closing. If you have any questions, you may contact your child's teacher or the office.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Cox, Principal