

Dear De Queen School District Families:

We are excited to share that De Queen School District has been granted approval to offer “Alternative Methods of Instruction” or AMI days during the 2018-19 school year. This plan will allow the opportunity for all De Queen students to be engaged in meaningful learning on inclement weather days or emergency days when conditions prevent schools from being in session. It will be at the district’s discretion on whether the school is considered “closed” or if an “AMI” day needs to be implemented.

WHAT DOES ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION (AMI) MEAN?

AMI simply allows for the continuation of learning when students miss days of regular instruction. Students will have the opportunity for skill reinforcement, remediation and enrichment through electronic or conventional paper lessons. The Arkansas Department of Education has granted the De Queen School District five (5) days this school year on which students will be expected to continue learning off-site (home, etc.). Some benefits of an AMI day include: more instructional time before State testing; assist in eliminating gaps in learning by providing individualized learning activities; and reducing the need for days to be added at the end of the school calendar.

HOW WILL AMI DAYS WORK?

Kindergarten through 12th grade students will be given educational lessons and assignments in paper format. Instructions and information will be provided by your child’s teachers, and students are expected to complete the work in the same number of days that were missed. For instance, if the students are out of school on Tuesday for inclement weather, they would have until Thursday to turn in their work. Teachers will be available on-line (email, messenger, etc.) from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. to provide assistance to students (providing there are no power outages).

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER FOR AMI DAYS AT DE QUEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT:

- Students will NOT attend school on an AMI day. All students will have assigned work to be completed at home on these days.
- AMI days count as instructional days and do not have to be made up at the end of the school year if students and staff complete assigned work.
- Students who do not complete the work will be marked absent for the related AMI day and will receive a zero for that assignment.
- The first 5 days missed will be considered AMI days.

As we implement this new method, we anticipate that we will learn lessons along the way and make necessary adjustments to improve our AMI plan to best meet the needs of our students. If you have further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to phone or email the school.

Sincerely,

Bruce Hill, De Queen Superintendent