

3/15/2020 - 5pm

Dear Families,

Here is some information on Blizzard Bags. This is our first time using Blizzard Bags and would love your feedback on how long it is taking your child to complete the assigned work. Please make adjustments for your child's individual needs and your schedule. Do not exceed 4 hours even if you don't complete everything that is assigned. Feel free to break the work up throughout the day if that works better for your family. Your feedback will help the teachers as they prepare the next set of Blizzard Bags. We will have times set aside for you to come to the school to drop off completed work and pick up new bags. If coming to the school isn't an option for you, we will be happy to deliver the bags to your home. We will let you know when the next set is ready. Please communicate with your child's teacher via email. Teachers will be available between 9-1 on Blizzard Bag days to answer questions. You can also call the school with questions. Teachers may or may not be at the school working but we will be happy to get a hold of them for you.

### **WHAT IS A BLIZZARD BAG DAY?**

A Blizzard Bag day is "snow day" or school cancellation during which students will work at home on assignments planned by their teachers.

### **Why Blizzard Bag days?**

A school cancellation day disrupts the learning process and the time missed must be made up. A Blizzard Bag day keeps the continuity of learning intact and, with at least an 80% attendance rate, counts as a school day.

### **How long should my child be working on Blizzard Bags?**

Teachers design their blizzard bag work for a half day of school or approximately 3 to 4 hours.

### **Should my child be working on school work for the exact number of hours he/she is in school?**

No. Five to six hours of constant school work without lunch breaks, recess, moving between classes etc., would be difficult for any child. When at school students have many opportunities for learning together and for social interactions. However, with regard to the time frame, it is likely to be a more focused, useful and productive day for students if the time on task is around 3-4 hours.

### **Does four hours meet the State requirement?**

Yes, the hours of instruction required by the Department of Education are met through this program. The district has been given approval by the Department of Education.

**When are the assignments due?**

You can turn any completed work in when picking up the next set of Blizzard Bags or when we return to school. Please let your child's teacher know if you need more time to complete the work.

**What if my child is sick and does not do the assignment?**

If your child is sick please let them rest and make up the work once they are feeling better.

**When are teachers available?**

Teachers will be available from 9 to 1 on Blizzard Bag days via email.

**Do I need to help my child?**

Your child should be able to complete most activities independently. Teachers will be available during the day to: clarify directions, answer questions, make suggestions for additional resources, and to explain concepts.

Do the best you can ... this is new for all of us. We will work through any issues that arise.

Thank you,

Kristen