

GFSD SCHOOL NEWS

NOVEMBER 14, 2022



ANNUAL COMMUNITY SURVEY

**ANNUAL COMMUNITY SURVEY - TAKE
ACTION NOW!**

The Granite Falls School District seeks feedback from our community. Your opinion is extremely important to us as we strive to continually improve our services and student learning opportunities. One of the District's foundational beliefs involves strong

communication that is informing, encouraging, intentional, and collaborative with the community. Please take a moment to complete the brief [Annual Community Survey](#) about the district to tell us how we are doing. The survey will close **Wednesday, November 30th**. The results of the survey will be posted on the district website and published in the Annual Report Card. Thank you for your time and feedback. It is greatly appreciated! << Read More.

JOIN US - NOVEMBER 21 @ 6:00 PM!

COME JOIN US!

SUICIDE AWARENESS



FAMILY & COMMUNITY INFORMATION NIGHT

NOVEMBER 21, 2022

6:00-7:30 PM

**GRANITE FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT - DISTRICT OFFICE
205 NORTH ALDER AVE, GRANITE FALLS, WA 98252**

JOIN US VIRTUALLY:
[https://gfalls-wednet-
edu.zoom.us/j/87929785147](https://gfalls-wednet-edu.zoom.us/j/87929785147)

Refreshments will be provided for those who
attend the in-person session.



Brought to you in partnership by the Granite Falls School District and the
Community Coalition.

Attendance Update! New Tool!



NEW - NOW YOU CAN EXCUSE ABSENCES VIA THE SKYWARD MOBILE APP!

The district is always trying to find ways to make processes more convenient for families and we have done it again! You can now excuse your child's absence through the Skyward Mobile App.



To download the App, visit any iPhone or Android store and search Skyward Mobile Access. Select the Skyward Mobile Access (Education). Once downloaded, you will be asked to locate district and then for your login credentials.

In order to excuse an absence, please follow the steps in the attachment. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact your building secretary.

INCLEMENT WEATHER & SCHOOL CLOSURE/DELAY INFORMATION

Please Note: Information will be posted on the homepage of the Granite Falls School District website—If no information is posted, schools are operating on normal schedules.

[Subscribe to FlashAlert to receive school closure/delay information via email and/or text.](#)

Here are just a few reminders to help keep everyone safe and informed:

- Every effort is made to have information available by 5:30 am
- When the decision is made, the information is listed on the district website, district [Facebook](#) and [FlashAlert](#) (you must register by clicking on the link). Local TV, radio and newspapers pulls information from FlashAlert. Parents will also be notified of a closure/delay through the phone messaging system and school newsletter.
- Parents and community members should be prepared for school changes. Each family should have a plan in place for their children.
- [Limited Bus Routes](#) are used throughout the year for snow, ice, or other situations that cause buses to alter normal routes. Always keep in mind snow routes/limited transportation may NOT be announced – light snow or unexpected ice may close roads without announcements. Visit the [Transportation page](#) for more information.
- **IMPORTANT!** Always make sure schools have up-to-date phone numbers (home, work and cell) and email addresses for parents/guardians and emergency contacts. Please call the schools ASAP with any new contact information.

Communication methods:

1. **District Website:** The District will post school closure/delay information to the new district website under the Emergency Info page. All emergency preparation information and updates will be posted here.
2. **School Messenger:** The District will send an automated phone message to the phone number provided by the parent(s). All closure/delay information will be sent using this messaging system. All district emergency notifications will be sent via school messenger.
3. **FlashAlert:** [subscribe to FlashAlert](#) to receive school closure/delay information via email and/or text message. FlashAlert allows you to receive information at the same time the news media receives the information.
4. **Facebook:** “like” our Facebook page to get updates, news, and information from the district.
5. **Newsletter:** You are strongly encouraged to [subscribe](#) to receive to the district newsletter.

MORE INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION

School closure during a weather event

Our top priority is the safety of students and staff. Decisions are generally made in the early morning hours so that physical inspections of roadways can be made. Occasionally, conditions may be so bad that a decision will be made the evening before, but this is not typical because weather conditions can change so quickly. Issues such as temperature, power outages, downed trees, snow/ice in the forecast are considered during inclement weather that helps decide if schools are closed, open late, or on limited transportation (snow routes). After careful scrutiny and analysis, one of the following options is decided:

- Schools start on time
- Schools start on time with snow routes/limited transportation
- Schools start two hours late
- Schools start two hours late with snow routes/limited transportation
- Schools are closed

How the decision to close schools is made:

The district recognizes that school closures/delays disrupt family schedules and the school year may have to be extended. The decision to close schools is not an easy one. The process is complex and involves many people. The district geography is taken into account when the decision is made. One part of our area may be clear while other areas are struggling with several inches of snow. It is not possible to close some schools in the district while leaving other schools open.

To help make the best possible decision, district staff drive the roads beginning at 3 am checking schools and routes that are frequently impacted and report road conditions to the district superintendent by 5 am. The District consults with neighboring districts regarding road conditions into Granite Falls and makes every effort to inform parents/community by 5:30 am.

Emergency school closure during operating hours

In the event of an earthquake, utility failure, weather event, etc. during school hours, the district will determine if it is necessary to close a school or the district. Parents will be notified of the closure through the messaging system the school uses. Staff will send a school messenger to all parents; the district will post information on its website, as well as through flashalert.net. The district office and Transportation Department will implement the emergency response plan when needed.

Family Preparation

Each family should plan in advance so everyone knows what to do if a child arrives home early due to inclement weather conditions; this plan should make note of alternate bus drops and who your child should call if school is dismissed early and you are not available.

Parents and community members are reminded to be prepared for school changes. Every effort is made to have information available by 5:30 am.

Bus Routes/Transportation–

Always keep in mind snow routes/limited transportation may NOT be announced – light snow or unexpected ice may close roads without announcements. It's also important to keep in mind that because conditions can change so rapidly and vary from one area to another throughout the district, that some roads may be closed to school buses without notice. The rule of thumb for school bus transportation: if in doubt that the bus can make it up or down your road, assume it will not and send your child(ren) to the main road. Visit the

[Transportation page for more details>](#)

Parents always know the conditions in your own neighborhood best and are urged to use their judgment in sending children to school in severe weather conditions. And always make sure schools have up-to-date phone numbers (home, work and cell) for parents and emergency contacts.



GRANITE FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT

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We Expect Success!

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