

One of the concerns we have heard in the recent past is that our website needed an update. After looking at many ideas and working with our web design company, we now have a really nice looking and hopefully more functional webpage that now has two more staff members assigned to update photos, make changes to the calendar, add submitted stories, etc. Take a look at www.swpschools.org. I hope that you will find the new look more modern and the information more up-to-date. Things still change at the last minute, of course, so there may be a situation that arises that we don't have time to change before the event. Those types of changes are usually handled by the blackboard messaging systems that sends a text, phone call and e-mail to those patrons that are signed up to receive the notices. If you do not receive these messages and would like to be on the list, please call the school at 308-692-3223 and we will gladly add you to the list.

Fall is in the air, which means that winter is just around the corner. Severe weather plays havoc with school schedules and busing issues. We take safety very seriously, keeping in mind that we have a very large geographic district where we can have very different situations from one side of the district to the other. Also, it may be snowing to beat the band in McCook and be bright and sunny in Indianola. We are in constant contact with administrators from all of our surrounding districts, checking to see how things are developing and if it could be moving our way. We work with the National Weather Service and monitor forecasts carefully. You know how it goes, sometimes it's correct, and sometimes there's a slight change in a weather pattern and a storm moves right around us. It can be a tough call to make, and Mr. Springer is up and driving as early as 3:00 am to check roads. I guess to summarize I will say this: we will make the best call on school delays or closings with the latest information we have available to us. If at any time you feel that it just doesn't feel safe to put your child on the road then keep them home. That's ok, not a problem at all. The great thing about laptops is that most of our kids and teachers can connect with assignments, etc. in these kinds of situations. Be safe first. All radio and television stations that use the "Weather Threat" system will receive our notification as soon as we make it. That's what creates that crawl across the bottom of your TV screen or sends an update list instantly to our local radio stations. You'll also get the call, text and e-mail from our blackboard system.

Sincerely,

R. Todd Porter