

# ***Highmore-Harrold School District***

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March 18, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds everyone in good spirits, especially our agricultural and rural families who struggled during the “bomb cyclone”/winter storm Ulmer. Although I know we will be dealing with the aftermath of this storm for some time, especially with our warmer weather and melting snow, I am hopeful that the added moisture in the ground will be beneficial to us all. Especially once it stops being mud!

I am also hopeful that this difficult winter is coming to an end. Last week we had our eighth snow day of this semester, which once again puts us in a position to decide how we want to make up school. As a district, Highmore-Harrold is well beyond the statutory amount of school days set forth by our state legislature, even with missing eight days of school. The number one concern we have as educators now is the amount of classroom time we have missed. Although we do not plan to make up all eight days of school, the decision has been made to add three more days to the calendar to help our teachers deliver as much of their curriculum as possible to maximize our students’ experiences in their classes. The following days have been added as school days to our calendar:

- March 29: This was originally an in-service day for the teachers, but it will be an instructional day with students with a normal 2:25 Friday dismissal.
- May 20 and 21: These two days have been added to the end of the school year. Semester tests for grades 7-11 have also been pushed back two days, and we will dismiss at 11:00 on the last day of school. IF we have more weather cancellations, we will not add more than five days to the end of the school year.

Some other items of note:

- The graduation date and last day of school for seniors has not changed. Many seniors have already ordered graduation announcements and have family who have made plans to be here for that original date.
- Our Friday dismissal plan has not changed. Other than March 29, we will continue to dismiss at 3:25 as part of our plan to make up two snow days on the following Fridays: 3/22, 4/5, 4/12, 4/26 and 5/3.

I know these added days will interfere with some families’ plans. If it is impossible to change those plans, or if you have any other concerns or questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school. Thank you, and thank you for supporting the Highmore-Harrold School District and our efforts to educate all of our children.

Sincerely,  
Quinton Cermak, Superintendent/7-12 Principal  
[Quinton.Cermak@k12.sd.us](mailto:Quinton.Cermak@k12.sd.us)

***Tomorrow's Success Starts Here Today!***

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