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**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 23, 2019**

***Principal's Pen***

I trust everyone enjoyed their snow days. Everyone is wondering about the "Snow Day" policy and calendar for snow days. Our calendar had two built-in snow days. The next five snow days will be used with "On Task E-Learning Days" if possible. We have possible snow make up days in this order: Friday, May 24; Monday, April 22 and Monday, February 18 if available.

**"On Task" or E-Learning Days**

Beginning last year, the Minnesota Department of Education has allowed schools to use up to five days of "E" learning days in place for making up snow days. Albert Lea School has utilized this new ruling last year and this year. HCS School Board approved a calendar for this school year which has two built in snow days and then the next five snow days will use the "On Task" E learning days. Since we have used up our two built in snow days this past week, we are now going to the "On Task" days. I will review the expectations and guidelines for the "On Task" days:

- 1). Students will be given school work assignments by way of email communication by their teachers. Students will be expected to complete these assignments at home and stay "On Task" with their school work. The assignments they receive will be work they can complete on their own and not a new learning concept. 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders will receive about three hours of work to complete for the day. Younger grades will be less. This is considered a school day and students will have work to do.
- 2). If a "Winter Storm" watch is issued the day before on a school day. Teachers will send home assignments with the students for the next day. (We are in a Storm Watch for tonight January 24 and tomorrow for blizzard conditions; therefore; all students will have work for them to do tomorrow if we cancel school).
- 3). Each teacher has set-up their respective classroom "On Task" structure and will communicate how that works with the parents.
- 4). Teachers will be available by way of email for any student's or parents' questions from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm on the day of the storm. (Please do not call the teachers on the phone)
- 5). If we have three consecutive school days or more for a snowstorm, there will NOT be an "On Task" day on that third day. The intent of our "On Task" days is to give students materials that keep them on track not just "busy" work for sake of work.

This is a new system and may take some time to work through the process. We think that our students can have a great day at home on these snow days and easily complete the tasks assigned.

**PAPA MURPHY'S FUNDRAISER**

Papa Murphy's in Albert Lea will donate 20% of your regular priced online purchases to the school from January 20-February 2. Place your order online at PapaMurphys.com and enter this code at checkout: SUPPORT.