

Edgerton Public Schools "Virtual Learning Day" Frequently Asked Questions

What is a "Virtual Learning Day"?

A virtual learning day is used in place of a school day that has been cancelled due to inclement weather. A virtual learning day means that students will complete learning activities and assignments provided by the teacher at home. Students will receive learning activities and assignments for each subject that would have originally taken place during a regular school day.

Why is the Edgerton Public School District exploring and preparing for the use of "Virtual Learning Day"? Historically, winter weather in southwest Minnesota can be persistent and disruptive. Now, in the 2019- 20 school year, it seems that with the resources available and if prepared for carefully, we can mitigate the disruptiveness our winter weather can have on student learning. The core mission for the Edgerton Public School District is "to insure that students have the acquired the essential skills, concepts and attitudes that will allow them to lead productive lives" in providing students and teachers more opportunities for learning and the ability to provide learning without disruption during snow days is consistent with our district's focus on student achievement. Additionally, a virtual learning day reinforces 21st century job and post-secondary educational opportunities for working and learning remotely. The viability and continuation of this type of flexible learning option as an alternative to a snow day will be reviewed.

How will we be notified that a "snow day" is a "Virtual Learning Day"?

The school will communicate to all parents and staff through the JMC Parent notification System that is already utilized. In the message sent it will read that this snow day is a "Virtual Learning Day or E Learning Day"?

What about two hour late starts and when school closes early? Will those days also be a "Virtual Learning Day"?

No. In the event of two hour late starts and early dismissals, a digital learning day will not be expected. Specifically, students and staff are typically either getting to school or going home during those school hours missed and assignments and activities are not expected for either students or staff.

What If my Child doesn't complete a Virtual Learning Day?

What happens If a student does not complete the "Virtual Learning Day" assignments? Students would have the virtual learning day (plus one additional day) to complete assignments.

Students are expected to complete assigned work in a timely manner. Parents should contact their child's teacher if there are extenuating circumstances that prohibit your child from completing the assignment satisfactorily. If a student doesn't turn in the assignment the child will be marked absent and receive a 0 for the assignment.

What if students in grades 3-12 don't have access to a computer and/or internet to access the lesson?

The student can obtain the assignment in a hard copy or electronic version during the next regular school day. Either way, students will have 1 additional day to complete the required learning activities and assignments.

What if a student is on a pre-arranged absence?

The student would be expected to make up the learning activities and assignments just as if it were any other absence from school.

How is a student expected to complete the activities if they go to daycare when there is a "Virtual Learning Day"?

The school district plans on providing daycare facilities with these activities. If the student cannot access the internet or gain hard copy of the learning activities and assignments to their daycare for that day, they would have an added school day to complete them.

How much time is my student expected to take to complete the assignments?

Teachers have designed learning activities and assignments that are equivalent time to a regularly scheduled class period. Students working independently on an assignment will likely take less time to complete the assignment compared to a large group setting. Estimated around 15-20 minutes per assignment per subject.

Will the school building be closed on a "Virtual Learning Day" to students as it is on a regular snow day?

Yes. The school district buildings will be closed to students and activities on a "Virtual Learning Day".

Will staff be accessible during and "Virtual Learning Day"? And if so, how?

Yes. The school district staff are expected to be contacted through their school email, which can be found on our school website. Staff are expected to have assignments posted no later than 9:30 am and will remain available until 3:30 p.m. Staff may not respond immediately to questions, but are expected to respond in a timely manner. If students struggle with an assignment because they can't contact with a staff member due to lack of internet connectivity, they would still be allowed 1 day to make up their work.

What if there is only one computer in the house but multiple students?

Students may need to share resources in the home or other locations. Some students may want to work on offline options while others complete online assignments. The public library is also an option for in-town students that could get their safely. Early elementary students will have Academic "Bingo" worksheets to complete. These will be placed in student folders at the beginning of the year, available on that teacher's online web site, and handed out to all the day cares in the district.

May a student access the assignments or complete the online assignments from their Smartphone?

Yes, in discussions with districts that already have this in place this was a preferred method by many students. Teacher websites can be accessed from a variety of tablets, Smart phones, laptop and desktop computers. The assignments may use a variety of websites and applications that may or may not work from a variety of devices.

Will there still be make-up dates built into the district calendar?

Yes, the school district has built in an additional 4 make-up dates that will be determined by the school board. The school is allowed by MN state law 5 E-learning days to be counted towards student's attendance in the case of inclement weather. Our plan is not to have more than two virtual learning days in a row until we can reflect on how this works.