

# Let It Snow

## WHY Blizzard Bags?

Providing students with an opportunity to complete learning on-line or via a Blizzard Bag option is valuable for several reasons:

- promotes a variety of engaging learning opportunities for our students
- allows continuity of educational opportunities despite emergency weather-related closures
- enables our District to document the development of students' 21st-century learning skills

## Newington Public School

### Mission Statement

The Newington Public School fosters the intellectual, social, and physical growth of every student in a safe and supportive environment that promotes responsibility, self-discipline, respect and excellence in learning.

### *We will...*

- Foster a strong partnership between the school, students, parents and the community.
- Create and support a school environment in which all children and adults feel welcomed, respected, and safe.
- Develop individualized instruction plans and cultivate an environment in which students will take ownership for their own learning.
- Maintain high expectations and promote academic excellence for all students.
- Provide opportunities for students to practice problem-solving skills, effective communication skills, collaboration, and good citizenship.
- Infuse energy, humor, and caring in learning.
- Build a positive school climate which respects and values diversity and nurtures self-esteem.



# Newington Public School

**REMOTE INSTRUCTION DAYS**  
(a.k.a. Blizzard Bag Days)

2018-2019

## From the Principal

Dear Newington Families,

I am pleased to share that Newington Public School will be participating in the Remote Instruction Days (Blizzard Bag Days).

The purpose of a Remote Instruction Day is to allow Newington Public School students the ability to use time out of the classroom due to snow, inclement weather or other emergency days as school days. The New Hampshire Department of Education will consider a Blizzard Bag day a school day when students engage in at **home learning opportunities** that align with school and state standards and the school district has 80% participation by students.

We are excited about the opportunity to offer this program in our School and feel it will promote a variety of engaging learning opportunities to our students. In addition, we are thrilled that our students' educational opportunities will not be disrupted due to emergency weather-related closures.

You, as a parent and community member, will be given opportunities for feedback. Your input, opinions, and suggestions will be an important component in the overall success of this program.

Sincerely,



Pete Latchaw

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***Is every snow day a Blizzard Bag Day?***

No. There will still be traditional snow days. You will receive notice of a Blizzard Bag Day via the School Messenger Alert System. Time of year, the nature of the closure, and other extenuating circumstances impact the decision of a Blizzard Bag Day.

### ***What if I don't have internet access?***

All students will receive copies of lessons in their Blizzard Bag. Internet access is not a requirement to participate on a Blizzard Bag day.

### ***What if the lessons are not completed?***

Please contact the teacher and/or school administrator for specific questions. Student engagement and completion of Blizzard Bag assignments is how attendance is calculated at each school.

### ***What do teachers do on Blizzard Bag Day?***

A Blizzard Bag Day is a school day for teachers too. Teachers will be interacting with their students online, working on lesson planning, professional development, etc ... Most importantly, teachers and administrators will be available to answer student/parent inquiries throughout the day. Students and parents can email the teacher assigned to their student at the teacher's Newington Public School email address (@sausd.org). Students in grades 3-6 will also have access to a Google Classroom site where they can also interact with the teacher and other students.

## How Will Blizzard Bags Work?

- Teachers have worked collaboratively to develop and design lessons to be used during the days designated as Blizzard Bag days.
- Hard copies for 3 days of Blizzard Bag lessons will be sent home with each student at your Parent Teacher Conference.
- Parents, students, and teachers will be notified of Blizzard Bag days through our Power Alert telephone system.
- Learning happens everywhere and anytime. The Newington Blizzard Bag program allows students to develop their understanding of the ways of learning. By promoting independent, hands-on/experiential learning, students are setting the stage for lifelong learning. By using technology and the many resources available to them outside of the walls of the classroom, students develop skills they will need for future academic success!
- In June, instead of going to school extra days to make up for snow cancellations, we'll get out earlier... IF and ONLY IF, we have 80% student participation. Work will be collected and student participation calculated for each snow day. Missing or incomplete work will render the student "absent" for the snow day.