

## *Blizzard Bag Program*

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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 to 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

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### *Blizzard Bag Day Follow-Up*

On the day following a Blizzard Bag, teachers and students will meet in their Blizzard Bag Communities to:

- Take attendance
- Collect work
- Make plans for makeups with students and
- Discuss issues



## *Mission Statement*

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The Derry Cooperative School District's mission for school age children is to create a safe and successful learning environment for all students; one that fosters challenging situations, promotes self worth, encourages learning as a lifelong activity, and produces healthy young adults who will contribute to society.



Derry Cooperative School District

18 South Main Street

Derry, NH

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## *Derry Cooperative School District*

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### *Blizzard Bag Program*



## *From the Superintendent*

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### ***Dear Parents, Guardians, and Members of the Derry School Community:***

The Derry Cooperative School District is pleased to continue the Blizzard Bag Program again this year. The school district must have 80% student participation rate to count the day as a school day. The district plans to participate in Blizzard Bag days up to five (5) times in the current school year.

The purpose of the Blizzard Bag Program is to allow Derry School District 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 District and feel it will promote a variety of engaging learning opportunities to our students. Further, 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,

Laura H. Nelson, Superintendent



## *Frequently Asked Questions*

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### ***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 District's Power Alert System. Time of year, the nature of the closure, and other extenuating circumstances impact the decision of a Blizzard Bag Day.

### ***Do all schools have the same lessons?***

Lessons were developed for the elementary and middle school. Each grade level assignments are the same across the district. Please refer to the Blizzard Bag you received at Parent Teacher Conferences. If you did not attend, please contact your child's teacher.

### ***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?***

Blizzard Bag Days are 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 Derry School District email address. Students in grades 4-8 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?*

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- Teachers have worked collaboratively to develop and design lessons to be used during the days designated as Blizzard Bag days.
- Hard copies for 5 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 Derry 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!

