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Elk Rapids Schools Parents/Guardians and Staff,

Due to inclement weather conditions, Elk Rapids Schools has had to cancel school on 10 occasions this year. The State of Michigan forgives six inclement weather days which results in our district having to make up four school days. I thank those of you who participated in the survey sent out last week. March 28 was a consideration for one of the make up days. However, this day will not be an option because the district is unable to locate enough substitute positions to cover staff. The parent survey overwhelmingly indicated that parents support having school on Good Friday, April 18. After considering this feedback, **the following four days will be added to the school calendar:**

**Friday, April 18**  
**Monday, April 21**  
**Thursday, June 5**  
**Friday, June 6**

I have been asked about Good Friday, April 18 in regards to a child being excused to attend church service. If a parent/guardian decides to make arrangements for their child to attend church, we certainly would excuse the absence.

Please keep in mind that if history holds true, we will have poor weather conditions in March/April that may cause additional days off. If we would have to call school off for any additional days, the make up days would need to be added on during the week of June 9. There is the possibility that legislation could be passed to allow schools some flexibility in making up missed days of school. However, that is not currently the case and therefore days would need to be made up by adding days to the end of the school year. It should be noted that these missed days of school must be made up because it is law and any violation would result in the withholding of State funds.

Mill Creek Elementary also has two additional missed days of school due to heating/boiler issues. I do not have a definitive answer for you on whether or not these days need to be made up. We are working with the Michigan Department of Education on our options to address these two days and will hopefully have an answer within the next two weeks.

Inclement weather conditions are something we are all too familiar with in Northern Michigan. Thank you for your cooperation during this process.

Yours in Education,

Stephen R. Prissel  
Superintendent

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