



Inclement Weather- Balancing Safety with Exercise

One of my roles as Executive Director is ensuring the physical safety of your children, our staff, and visitors. This is most often thought of as those factors inside our building to include physical security, emergency preparedness, and a safe facility. Being on a seven acre campus, however, means that safety extends to every aspect of our operations including outdoor activities and recess. Making the decision on when outdoor conditions are unsafe can be difficult unless we have a consistent way to measure the unsafe conditions.

As the weather in Colorado can change significantly from hour to hour, a decision to hold outdoor activities, or suspend them, may change throughout the day and could also change multiple times. Temperature alone is not the deciding factor when it comes to making the decision to hold outdoor activities such as recess or an outside class. Other factors such as winds, precipitation, and severe weather are taken into consideration as well.

Temperature:

Temperature alone is not a determining factor. Especially for a short duration such as recess, properly clothed students can endure sub-freezing temperatures for significant periods of time well in excess of our recess schedules. Wind Chill is a better determination factor when considering temperature as a limiting factor. Please be sure your children have winter jackets, mittens, and hats for recess.

Outdoor activities will be ceased when Wind Chill is 0° or below.

Wind Speed	Air Temperature (F)								
	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0
5	36	31	25	19	13	7	1	-5	-11
10	34	27	21	15	9	3	-4	-10	-16
15	32	25	19	13	6	0	-7	-13	-19
20	30	24	17	11	4	-2	-9	-15	-22
25	29	23	16	9	3	-4	-11	-17	-24
30	28	22	15	8	1	-5	-12	-19	-26
35	28	21	14	7	0	-7	-14	-21	-27
40	27	20	13	6	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29
45	27	19	12	5	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30
50	26	19	12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31

Flagstaff Academy has a WeatherBug station on our roof, which provides a “Feels Like” temperature reading that includes the Wind Chill Factor and will be used as part of the outdoor recess and classroom determination.

High Winds:

Regardless of temperature, high winds can pose a safety concern on their own, including blowing sand and debris, which can cause significant injury.

Outdoor activities will be ceased when sustained winds are in excess of 25 mph, or when wind gusts exceed 40 mph.

Precipitation:

Precipitation can also significantly amplify the effects of temperature. Additionally, wet students returning inside the building create safety issues with wet floors and equipment.

Outdoor activities will be ceased when active precipitation is occurring.

Severe Weather:

Lightning is one of the most unpredictable and deadliest weather phenomena. An approaching storm can produce lightning from any edge, or the center of the storm. As a general rule, lightning is one mile away for every five seconds that elapses between seeing the lightning flash and hearing the thunder.

Tornadoes can be common in Colorado and there is no need to justify the safety implication.

Outdoor activities will be ceased when lightning is within 5 miles of the campus or a Tornado Warning has been issued for Longmont, Niwot, and/or Northeast Boulder County.

I have created this Inclement Weather plan to provide for the safety of your children and our staff. My two decades of law enforcement, emergency management, and festival and event planning was used to incorporate the best practices from my experience to the safety at Flagstaff Academy.

Thank you,

Wayne Granger,
Executive Director
Flagstaff Academy
wgranger@flagstaffacademy.org