

Garrard Schools to Use Non-Traditional Instruction During Some Snow Days

During the 2014 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly, [House Bill 211](#) was passed and signed into law. One part of this bill had to do with the "Snow Bound Pilot" program for schools. This plan gives districts a method for conducting school through non-traditional means on days when classes would normally have to be cancelled due to inclement weather.

Garrard County is one of 44 school districts that applied for and received the go-ahead to plan for use of non-traditional means to deliver instruction on a few snow days during the 2015-16 school year. Districts must show evidence of student and staff participation in submitting requests to use non-traditional days. If approved, the districts will not have to make up the days designated in this way.

Garrard County has developed a plan that mirrors several surrounding districts' Non-traditional Instructional Plans. A primary focus of these days will be using the time to offer quality learning experiences. These days will provide a connection to school and learning on days when there is often a lapse in learning that creates gaps for students once school resumes. Listed below are some of the main points of the Garrard plan:

- Quality work for students on days when traditional school cannot be in session.
- Teachers will plan for three (3) days of instruction by creating paper packets with instructions for students to complete appropriate work.
- These days will be called **Golden Lion Days.**
- Paper packets will be developed by teachers and sent home with students on or before **January 15.**
- Students work will be sent home in RED packets.
- Parents should place the packets in a location for safe keeping until they are needed.
- **Not** every snow day will be a Golden Lion Day. Parents, students and staff will be notified by phone when a Golden Lion Day is going to be utilized.
- Teachers will be available by phone and email during the following hours each day if students need assistance. **8:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:00-3:00 p.m.**
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) will be posted on the district website at www.garrard.kyschools.us.

Superintendent Paul Mullins shared these words with staff members last week concerning the use of non-traditional days during inclement weather, "Our Admin Team met on Tuesday and we had a lot of information for principals that will be shared with all staff as we prepare to move forward. It is important that we develop a comprehensive plan that will address all aspects of how this is going to work. The responses to our polls (last fall and another last week) were strongly in favor of using this opportunity to keep learning in the forefront with well over 90% in favor of this approach to learning on snow days." Look for more information to be posted and communicated on the Garrard Non-Traditional Day Plan during the next weeks.

