

Dear Students and Parents:

Again this year the Pembroke School District will institute Blizzard Bags. The Pembroke School District will enact a “Blizzard Bag” curriculum which extends the activities and work being completed in the classrooms. Teachers have developed plans so that students do not miss the day of work, but instead will work on the assigned projects at home and turn in the work the day that school resumes. This will ensure that the school year will conclude as close as possible to the day scheduled on the school district calendar.

Some assignments may be paper based or through the use of students’ school Google accounts, in addition, submission of some assignments may be made electronically. The assignments will be carefully selected by teachers and are meant to practice skills already attained. Some assignments may involve choices for students in case there are scattered power outages or other problems with work completion. Teachers will review with students the expectations for completion of Blizzard Bag assignments. Teachers will be available through electronic means to answer questions and provide support throughout the day primarily via email. The addresses for this support are the standard school emails for teachers (first initial and last name [@sau53.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@sau53.org)). Some teachers may opt to use other forms of communication and support through Google Applications.

The call you receive stating that school is cancelled for the day will also include information about the decision that “Blizzard Bags” should be completed on that day. In the event of widespread power outages, Blizzard Bags will not be used and the day will be treated as a regular school snow day. Assignments must be completed and submitted online or to teachers on the day students return to the classroom as explained in the directions. Work will become part of that day’s assignment and will be graded. It will also be used to account for student attendance on the Blizzard Bag Day. If a student does not complete the required assignments, he/she will be marked as absent for that day. In order for a Blizzard Bag to count as an actual day of school, assignments for that day must be turned in on the next school day. A minimum of 80% completion rate for the district must take place in order for the blizzard bag day to count.

We are excited to offer this program in Pembroke and feel it will promote a variety of engaging learning opportunities for our students. We are pleased that learning will not always be disrupted during the winter months due to weather-related closures. The success of this program relies on everyone’s involvement. Thank you for your support as we embark on this new path for learning.

Sincerely,

Paul Famulari
Headmaster
Pembroke Academy