

## **Vernonia School District and Curl School Bus Service**

# **How We Determine When to Delay the Start of School or Cancel School for the Day Due to Weather**

Special thanks to Rob Curl, owner of Curl School Bus Services, for providing this information and for his unwavering dedication to the safety of our students.

On days when road conditions are questionable Rob is out driving the bus routes by 4:15 a.m. He communicates with truck drivers in the Vernonia, Mist and Birkenfeld communities getting first hand reports of road conditions from one end of the district to the other.

With the enhancement of technology Rob monitors temperature gauges and radar to help assist in his recommendation. As most people do, he watches the temperature gauge in his truck. However, to take it a step further, Rob has infrared technology that shows him the temperature on the surface of the road. The infrared temperature gauge is advantageous as proven on those days when the air temperature is below freezing but road temperatures are above 32 degrees. When this occurs our busses run on schedule.

Another tool Rob relies on is his cell phone antenna booster. It allows him to have access to the internet regardless of where he is driving. He is able to look at multiple radar systems with real time data and thanks to Google Earth technology, he can look at individual routes to see where the moisture is tracking.

By 5:30 a.m. Rob contacts the Superintendent and provides his recommendation. Together they make the decision to go on schedule, delay the start of, or cancel school altogether. The most important factor in determining a delayed start or a full cancellation is the forecast for the remainder of the day. If conditions are forecasted to improve as the day goes on likely a delayed start will be the call. However, if conditions look to remain the same or become worse, a closure is in order.

As soon as the decision is made the Superintendent generates a Blackboard Connect communication through phone and email to our school parents and staff. Local TV and radio stations are provided the important information and it is shared to the District's Facebook page.