

## HawkBlast, 1/4/2018

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### HawkBlast Update | January 4, 2018

Parents & Students, I hope you are all enjoying a warm and restful break today. Below are some updates as a result of the closing today. If we are closed tomorrow (and I don't know anything that you don't), we will include any next information in the standard weekend HawkBlast. Stay safe, Hawks!

### Calendar Changes

As a result of the inclement weather, please note the following calendar updates:

- While we have not received official word yet from the district, based on the approved calendar we anticipate that Monday, Jan. 8 will become a school day and the first day of spring semester classes.
- Based on past experience, the last day of the fall semester will not change and exams will go ahead on the existing schedule which you can find at [this link](#).
- Wednesday night's basketball games against FVHS are rescheduled to Monday.
- Thursday night's HSTC performance of Our Town will be rescheduled to a date after the start of the spring semester.
- Thursday night's wrestling match has been rescheduled to January 24 at 6pm.

### Senior Exam Exemptions & Waivers

The guidelines for senior exam exemptions are clear and can be viewed at [this link](#). This year we instituted a new process aimed at being proactive in clearing unexcused absences that has accomplished the intended outcomes of cleaner data and slightly higher attendance rates but has also led to some unintended outcomes. As a result, we will make some adjustments to process around senior exam exemptions.

- If a student has 3 or less unexcused absences (A=3; B=2; C=1) that would make them eligible to be exempt for the fall semester, they can document (parent note is fine) that it should/could have been excused, that can be emailed to Mr. Pittman for review. This needs to be received by Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 2:30pm at the latest. If the absence(s) are excused and this makes the student exempt from the exam based on the standard exam exemption policy (not waivers or AP waiver), then the student can be exempt. Mr. Pittman will respond as quickly as possible on whether those absences are excused. The student or parent can call the email. If the student sends the email, the parent must be copied on the email.

**Important note:** This opportunity does not extend to the waiver process or the AP waiver process. This means that any absence being requested through the waiver must already be excused. It also means that a student in an AP class who is planning to take an AP Exam can only request for unexcused absences to be reviewed in accordance with their grade (A = 3; C = 1).

- Due to the weather closings, waiver requests for documented, excused absences beyond the exemption policy ([click here for info](#)) can be submitted until 2:30pm on Tuesday, January 9. No late requests will be considered after this deadline. Requests without documentation beyond a student / parent note are not likely to be approved.

While I do not necessarily think that the process outlined above is perfect, I do think it is the best balance at the moment between adjusting for unintended outcomes of our new process and honoring the process that is currently in place. Feedback is welcome via email to [bpittman@wcpss.net](mailto:bpittman@wcpss.net). That feedback will be used to inform the spring semester, not alter the process outlined above. Based on discussions around this, we will be revisiting the process overall for the spring. That will be shared with seniors in their class meeting later this month.

## Go Hawks!



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