District Plays it Safe in Cold Weather

With harsh winter weather pounding the region, the faculty and staff of the New Paltz Central School District are making sure students are protected from the outdoor elements. District staff members are following strict guidelines to ensure students’ safety during participation in outdoor activities, such as sports, physical education, clubs, and recess.

Guidelines include:

* Outdoor activities will be suspended when temperatures or wind-chill is below 20 degrees Fahrenheit. The on-line Accuweather Forecasting System will be used to gauge local outside temperatures. This tool can be found at <http://www.accuweather.com/us/ny/new-paltz/12561/forecast-current-conditions.asp?partner=accuweather&traveler=0>
* Students not properly dressed for outdoor activity will remain inside.
* Students who feel cold or get wet will be sent indoors.
* Any students reporting pain or numbness will be sent immediately to the nurse.
* Outdoor activities may be suspended, regardless of temperature, if there is danger from high winds or snow and ice conditions.

Exceptions may be made for those activities that are specific to cold weather, such as downhill or cross-country skiing. As long as students are properly dressed, such outdoor sports may still be held, with frequent warming breaks and adequate hydration made available. In addition, students will be educated annually about the dangers of temperature extremes and instructed in how to prepare themselves to engage in activities under such conditions.

If parents have any concerns or questions about outdoor activities, they are invited to contact the principal of their child’s school.