

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Dec. 19, 2014

Experience is a great teacher. Last year's harsh winter, which resulted in numerous snow days and delays, necessitated the use of blizzard bags.



The blizzard bag concept was implemented by the Ohio Department of Education to allow students to make up learning time in the event that a school used all of its calamity days.

Because of slight scheduling changes, Pickaway-Ross built in about seven days flexibility in the school year. As we go into the winter break, we've already used one day, plus two hours.

"With the change by the state for schools to count attendance by hours, not days, two-hour delays will now factor into the calamity-day time," said Shara Cochenour, high school principal.

"Once we use up those hours, blizzard bags give us three more days without having to make up the days at the end of the year" to meet the 1,001 hours of instruction required by the state, Shara said.

In preparation for potentially falling below the minimum required hours for this school year, Pickaway-Ross will be using blizzard bag assignments.

In the event of extreme weather after our extra time has been exhausted, students will be directed to access their blizzard bag assignments from Progress Book.

Blizzard bags can be found under the homework section in each of their assigned classes.

Students who have Internet access will be able to



Photo by Kirk Hewitt / PRCTC

Snow rollers, like the one pictured above, became a frequent sight last winter. According to the National Weather Service, rollers occur when the ground has a layer of ice covered by wet, loose snow with a temperature near the melting point of ice. The wind must be strong enough to move the snow rollers, but not strong enough to blow them too fast.

access the coursework online. Lessons are to be completed and returned to the classroom teacher upon the student's return to school.

If, however, Internet access is needed to complete the online lesson, students who do not have Internet and a working computer will have two weeks to complete the work. Due dates will be posted at the time a calamity day is called.

All students are required to complete the assigned blizzard bag assignments. Failure to complete the assignments will result in a zero (0) for each assignment not completed and they also will be counted absent for that assignment date.

We used blizzard bags for the first time last year and Shara said she was pleased with the process.

"I think it was very successful last year."

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