



Winter Haven Christian School Hurricane/Tropical Storm Procedures

Before the Storm Hits:

Winter Haven Christian School will be closed in the event of an approaching hurricane or tropical storm when the Administration and the Board of Directors deem it necessary to close the school to prepare the school for the storm and when we feel the safety of our students will be compromised by opening. In prior hurricanes, Polk County Schools closed days before potential impact as they had to prepare their schools for being possible shelters from the storm. Since WHCS is not a designated public shelter, WHCS may remain open when a storm is approaching, even if Polk County Schools close. We will inform the school family of our opening and closing status via our website, school messaging systems, our digital sign, and social media.

After the Storm:

After a hurricane has passed, the headmaster or designee will visit the school for a damage assessment. If the following criteria are met, Winter Haven Christian School will reopen even if Polk County Schools are still closed:

- Availability of water and electricity
- The functioning of sanitation and air conditioning systems
- The functioning of safety systems and alarms
- Safety of the building structure and windows.

Again, all communication with the school family will be made via our website, school messaging systems, our digital sign, and social media.

Depending on the status of our contracted vendors, lunches may also be put on hold in the immediate days following the storm. We will let you know if the lunches are unavailable as soon as possible.

Upon the reopening of school, students will still be expected to arrive at school on time. If traffic lights are out or road conditions hinder travel, the Principals may, at their discretion, waive any punitive action on a case-by-case basis. However, a student will still be considered tardy if the family overslept. If you cannot wash school uniforms, please speak to the administration, and we will make alternate dress arrangements until the family has water and power restored to their home.