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Section 1 - Overview:

Surveying teachers, students, and parents provided some important insights into the implementation of Blizzard Bags in the district as well as identifying areas for improvement. Overall the surveys showed a large majority of respondents wanted to move forward with Blizzard Bags for the next school year (with teachers being the most supportive and students being the least supportive).

Process: The Gateway Regional School District implemented “Blizzard Bags” during the 2016 - 2017 school year to provide meaningful work for students to accomplish during five selected school cancellations so that those days would count as student attendance days for purposes of meeting our 180 day state attendance requirement. Our internal data showed that the work was accomplished at a similar ‘attendance’ level as a regular school day but we wanted to gather input from different constituent groups to help determine if we should continue this practice and, if so, how we could improve the program. The information was gathered anonymously and is only displayed in the aggregate.

Blizzard Bag Surveys were made available via the website, Breaking News, and the district App. Very similar questions were asked of students, parents, and teachers. Each group had approximately 4 weeks to complete the surveys with the parent and teacher survey running throughout April and the student survey running from mid-April to mid-May.

Through these surveys we hoped to gather data related to:

1. How did Blizzard Bags impact the delivery of instruction?
2. Were Blizzard Bags related to established curriculum?
3. What types of assignments were provided for Blizzard Bags (stand alone, project based, themed)?
4. Were assignments for Blizzard Bags related to current classroom activities?
5. Were Blizzard Bag assignments equivalent to classroom assignments?
6. Were Blizzard Bag assignments made appropriately in terms of timing?
7. How did groups feel about the savings in time and money?
8. Feelings about grading and attendance regarding Blizzard Bag Assignments.
9. Was the time allowed for completion adequate?
10. Ideas for improvements from participants.
11. Impact of assignment format and broadband services.
12. Whether we should continue the program.

The first section of this report is an overview, section 2 shows the responses by group and provides some interpretation, section 3 highlights areas of agreement/disagreement and importance of various aspects of the Blizzard Bag, section 4 summarizes the answers to our original questions including suggestions for improvement, section 5 has all of the comments gathered through the surveys, and section 6 contains copies of the actual surveys.
Section 2 - Survey Responses

The data in this section comes directly from the survey program used for the process (Google Formality Forms) and is put together from the three separate surveys.

Respondent Information:

Chart 1 - Number of Respondents/Percentage Supporting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage for Expand or Maintain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>58.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>63.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>86.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chart 2 - Depiction of Educational Level of Respondents

The large differences shown from Chart 2 in grade level respondents between students (overwhelmingly middle school), teachers (primarily elementary), and a more even split in parents, may lead one to wonder about what caused this disparity. It may also be interesting to note that the only negative comments and recommendations for not continuing the blizzard bag program in the teacher survey all came from middle school staff. Given that many middle school students were
provided time in school to complete the survey, this may indicate some influence by middle school staff on the middle school student responses.

**Chart 3 - Completion Rate of Students by Grade/School**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Middle School</th>
<th>High School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/12/16</td>
<td>90.7%</td>
<td>93.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/24/17</td>
<td>89.4%</td>
<td>85.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/7/17</td>
<td>91.8%</td>
<td>89.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/9/17</td>
<td>91.0%</td>
<td>84.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/14/17</td>
<td>98.6%</td>
<td>99.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td><strong>92.3%</strong></td>
<td><strong>90.3%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Despite this, Charts 1 and 4 show that both teachers and parents were supportive of continuing the use of blizzard bags (average of 75%) and even among students the majority supported continuing blizzard bags. Coupled with the fact that blizzard bag assignments were completed at a substantial
level (91.5% across all grade levels, Chart 3), blizzard bags seemed to be a success in developing a model of how to make up days missed due to inclement weather.

**Blizzard Bag Sentiments:**

**Chart 4 - Support of Blizzard Bags**

- **Students**
  - Select the statement that best embodies your sentiment about Blizzard Bag Days.
  - 28.4% We should eliminate the use of...
  - 30.4% We should minimize the...  
  - 30.4% We should keep the...  
  - 30.4% We should expand the...

- **Parents**
  - Select the statement that best embodies your sentiment about Blizzard Bag Days.
  - 24.7% We should expand the number of...
  - 29.4% We should keep the...
  - 34.1% We should minimize the...

- **Teachers**
  - Select the statement that best embodies your sentiment about Blizzard Bag Days.
  - 20.7% We should expand the number of...
  - 65.5% We should keep the...
  - 17.5% We should minimize the...
  - 65.5% We should eliminate the...

**Use of Blizzard Bags:**

The use of blizzard bags was primarily focussed on providing a comparable educational experience for students during days school was cancelled rather than on saving money. The responses in Chart 5 seems to echo this and the surveys were completed before the estimated savings were calculated and may have been different if that information was provided as part of the survey. The savings however much a secondary benefit were fairly substantial for such a small district with an average daily savings of approximately $11,000 (see Chart 6).
Chart 5 - Blizzard Bags and Saving Money

**Students**

- **Disagree**: 26
- **Undecided**: 36
- **Agree**: 40

**Parents**

- **Disagree**: 20
- **Undecided**: 11
- **Agree**: 54

**Teachers**

- **Disagree**: 1
- **Undecided**: 8
- **Agree**: 20

Chart 6 - Estimated Savings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation (Regular Education)</td>
<td>$25,182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation (Special Education)</td>
<td>$9,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities (Electrical and Heating Costs)</td>
<td>$7,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staffing (Food Service/Lunch Aides)</td>
<td>$6,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substitute Costs (Based upon average daily cost)</td>
<td>$6,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (Approximately $11,000 per day)</td>
<td>$55,382</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chart 7 summarizes the question of whether the use of blizzard bags was appropriate to ensure a reasonable date for the last day of school. In this case the responses were much more favorable than in reviewing cost savings, potentially due to the fact that respondents were knowledgeable regarding what the last day of school was and that it was comparably earlier than other area
schools. The fact that we had 8 school days cancelled for inclement weather and that we made up five of these days by using blizzard bags meant school ended a week earlier than it would have without blizzard bags. Later responses confirm that the days that blizzard bags were used were appropriate and comments by both staff and parents indicated that additional days tacked on in mid to late June are not particularly educationally effective.

Chart 7 - Blizzard Bag and School Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Parent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags was appropriate to ensure a reasonable date for the end of the school year....</td>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags was appropriate to ensure a reasonable date for the end of the school year....</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teacher

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>The use of Blizzard Bags was appropriate to ensure a reasonable date for the end of the school year....</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chart 8 displays the quandary that we face in using blizzard bags to replace actual time with a teacher in front of the class and shows a much more nuanced response than just looking at saving money or time. However, as one parent’s comment seemed to suggest, there is a difference between face time during the year and at the end of June “Further explain to families the importance of staying on track academically for finals, class progression, and testing. A greater understanding of how that does NOT occur on june 20-25th would help some families.”
Related to Curriculum/Class Work:

There were questions related to how the blizzard bag assignments related to course content, i.e., was it related to the curriculum for the course, to the curriculum but not what was currently being taught in class, as well as to how much the work was equal to what students did in school. Chart 9 shows the relationship to current class work while Chart 10 shows what the respondents thought regarding whether the work was related to class subject area/curriculum. Charts later in the summary address difficulty of work and staff/teacher assistance. In summary these charts all demonstrate that respondents believed that blizzard bag assignments were related to course curriculum, tracked closely with what is normally accomplished during a regular school day, and that the difficulty of the work was appropriate.
It is of interest to note that the parents and teachers had much more agreement that the assignments were related to the curriculum than did the students. This may be an area that could use additional review in future surveys.
While the information in Chart 11 and Chart 12 is informative and interesting, the reality is that there is no 'right' answer. The district provided a good deal of flexibility for teachers to design blizzard bag assignments, i.e., they could be related to what was happening at that point in class related to the curriculum, they could be a long-term assignment based upon a specific theme or activity, or they could be a series of linked assignments that related potentially to something that teachers have found that they had difficulty covering in class due to the time commitments to state standardized testing. That so many students and parents agree with both statements yet teacher respondents seemed to indicate that they provided assignments that were not long-term projects indicates some significant differences in opinion. Comments such as this one from a parent "Our student enjoyed
the one long term assignment that she received. It was related to the curriculum, but was most likely not a project that they would of had time for in class. It gave the students more of a chance to explore the topic and offer their opinions on it while creating a finished project instead of just completing a worksheet” seem to support the idea of a longer term assignment as did this comment from a teacher “I would like to make mine more of an ongoing project rather than individual assignments.” Student comments seemed to be more in line with reducing the amount of work overall and making assignments of whatever kind easier.

Chart 12 - Blizzard Bag assignments were part of an overall theme/project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Parent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The assignments provided for Blizzard Bag Days were part of an overall theme or project...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assignments provided for Blizzard Bag Days were part of an overall theme or project...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The responses around time had slightly different aspects from the different groups, partially based upon minor differences in the questions. Students and parents had fairly similar answers (weighted at 2.4 for students and 2.6 for parents) that seemed to point to a minimal amount of agreeing that the work was somewhat equal. If you review the comments you’ll also see variances between individual students and parents with some comments indicating the work was much more involved, time consuming, and difficult than what was given in class while some indicated the assignments were simple busywork. As we move forward, this is an area slated for improvement through a more extensive review of the assignments by the building administrators.

Chart 14 shows that there exists a distinct difference of opinion between student/parent respondents and teacher respondents for this item. Students and parents just reached the level of agreement with this statement whereas teachers reached a ‘strongly agree’ consensus. You can also track the high school completion rate that gained strength over time and yielded a 99% completion rate for the last assignment. The high school administration indicates that this was due, at least in part, to students recognizing that this was impacting both their grades and their attendance records, that in some instances could lead to a change in either class rank or even to losing credit for a course.
Chart 14 - Failure to complete equals no credit and an absence from school

Students

I support the idea that failure to complete a Blizzard Bag Assignment results in both no credit for the as...

- Strongly Disagree: 30
- Disagree: 20
- Agree: 28
- Strongly Agree: 24

Parents

I support the idea that failure to complete a Blizzard Bag Assignment results in both no credit for the as...

- Strongly Disagree: 21
- Disagree: 12
- Agree: 28
- Strongly Agree: 24

Teachers

I support the idea that failure to complete a Blizzard Bag Assignment results in both no credit for the as...

- Strongly Disagree: 1
- Disagree: 2
- Agree: 10
- Strongly Agree: 15

Chart 15 - Assessment of completion rate by respondents

Students

I completed the majority of my Blizzard Bag Assignments. Submissions: 102...

- Strongly Disagree: 10
- Disagree: 12
- Agree: 35
- Strongly Agree: 45

Parents

My children completed the majority of their Blizzard Bag Assignments. Submissions: 85...

- Strongly Disagree: 3
- Disagree: 7
- Agree: 33
- Strongly Agree: 42

Teachers
Despite any differences in opinions regarding how these assignments should be counted, all three groups of respondents agreed to a similar degree that the assignments were completed. Given the high level of overall completion as tracked by the district, this seems to indicate a strong and accurate assessment of this item.

**Effort:**

Chart 16 - Time and effort equal to classwork.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Parents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The amount of time and effort I put into completing Blizzard Bag Assignments was equal to that req...</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>Disagree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>Agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Students were required to put in the same amount of effort in completing Blizzard Bag Assignments as they...</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Once again the survey responses showed a strong agreement between students and their parents regarding the time and effort they put into the blizzard bag assignments but the differences are
more evident when one reads the various comments, more from the students complaining about the difficulty, time, and effort they had to expend to complete the assignments. Teachers generally agreed or strongly agreed that the time and effort for these assignments was equal to class assignments. Given these results, the comments, and the high level of completion across all grade levels, Blizzard Bags appear to be somewhat equivalent to the work occurring during the school year and potentially more relevant to academic success than work done in make up days at the end of June.

Chart 17 is also related to this as it shows the feelings of respondents regarding the work put in by parents for blizzard bag assignments, i.e., both students and their parents indicated general agreement with the statement that parents put in with these assignments was equal to what they did for non-blizzard bag assignments.

A key question to be answered was whether five school days (which always meant that students had a weekend to complete the assignments) was sufficient time to complete blizzard bag assignments. The majority of respondents, from all three categories, agreed that five school days (essentially 7 days) was sufficient time to complete these assignments as shown below in Chart 18.
Chart 18 - Five schools days were sufficient time to complete assignments

**Student**

Five school days were sufficient for me to complete the majority of my work....

- Strongly Disagree: 16
- Disagree: 12
- Agree: 44
- Strongly Agree: 30

**Parent**

Five school days were sufficient for my children to complete the majority of their work....

- Strongly Disagree: 8
- Disagree: 8
- Agree: 41
- Strongly Agree: 28

**Teacher**

Five school days were sufficient for the majority of my students to complete their Blizzard Bag Assign...

- Strongly Disagree: 2
- Disagree: 8
- Agree: 17
- Strongly Agree: 10

Assignment/Format/Internet:

Chart 19 - Blizzard Bag Assignments were made appropriately

**Students**

The assignment of Blizzard Bag Days for school cancellations were made appropriately....

- Strongly Disagree: 15
- Disagree: 25
- Agree: 43
- Strongly Agree: 19

**Parents**

The assignment of Blizzard Bag Days for school cancellations were made appropriately....

- Strongly Disagree: 7
- Disagree: 8
- Agree: 46
- Strongly Agree: 24

**Teachers**
Blizzard Bag assignments had to be made based upon the threat of, or actual, inclement weather. The question of how often, and if, Blizzard Bags were to be used to make up a cancelled school day had many facets, i.e., should they be used if school was cancelled two days in a row, if there were school cancellations close together but not consecutive, and if there would be a maximum number of blizzard bag assignments in one week. This year the district had a scheduled half-day for exams that was impacted by inclement weather but for which blizzard bags couldn’t be given to high school students due to exams, thus that day counted as a weather cancellation. The district also had consecutive days cancelled due to inclement weather, the first was a blizzard bag day, the second was a weather cancellation without a blizzard bag assignment. In addition, the district assigned blizzard bags for two days in a week during two weather cancellations separated by a day of school. Chart 19 highlights the results for this question for which parents and teachers agreed that the decision to assign blizzard bags was appropriate while students agree but to a lower degree. Given the results and comments we believe that the assignment method should remain as it is, not twice in a row and not more than twice a week.

Chart 20 - Appropriate Format

**Student**
Blizzard Bag Assignments were in a format that I could use.
Submissions: 102...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parent**
Blizzard Bag Assignments were in a format that my children could use.
Submissions: 85...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chart 20 shows general agreement between parents and students that blizzard bag assignments were in a format that students could use that, coupled with comments regarding internet accessibility in the towns, demonstrated the reason why the district had to provide assignments in hard copy as well as potentially making them available electronically. It’s interesting that parents wanted more information and that many thought this should be provided on the district’s website or through email correspondence with staff. In the meantime, teachers were closer to being in strong agreement that they provided blizzard bags in an appropriate format. This difference may be something to look at after another year of using blizzard bags.

The differences noted in Chart 20 were also found in Chart 21 where teachers had a higher agreement with the idea that broadband in the community would make blizzard bags easier to implement. This difference may be explained by the requirement to provide assignments in both hardcopy and electronic formats, essentially creating more work for teachers and significantly limiting the resources they could make available for assignments (many of the assignments had great electronic resources but this was limited by the lack of broadband throughout our communities). As we are essentially a one to one computer to student district, the lack of broadband would be the most limiting factor in moving over to all digital lessons in the middle and upper grade levels. This does not seem like it will be a problem that will be resolved in the near future.
Teachers

Blizzard Bags would be easier to create and implement if district towns had widespread broadband...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Improvement over time/Appropriateness for Students

Chart 22 shows that all respondents believed that the blizzard bag assignments became easier to implement and understand over time but that teachers were much more in sync in answering this question in the affirmative.

Chart 22 - Blizzard Bags became easier to implement/understand

**Student**

Over the course of the year, Blizzard Bags became easier to implement and understand....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parent**

Over the course of the year, Blizzard Bags became easier to implement and understand....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Teacher**

Over the course of the year, Blizzard Bags became easier to implement and understand....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The graphs in Chart 23 are all from teachers and relate to how appropriate blizzard bag assignments were for different types of students, i.e., advanced/honor, general education, lower functioning, and students on IEP’s or 504’s. The results showed a much more positive agreement with the advanced and general level students and a less positive outlook for lower performing students. This is an area for review in terms of potential improvement and for following up on some teacher comments related to how the classroom teacher and resource staff should collaborate more on developing assignments and providing more specific accommodations where they may be needed. Despite the differences, teachers still agree that the assignments were generally appropriate for all students.

Chart 23 - Assignment Appropriateness (all staff responses):

![Graphs showing responses for different types of students](image-url)
Section 3: Statistical Analysis

Overall comparison of results

Chart 24 - Comparison of data from each group for survey prompts

Chart 24 quickly summarizes all responses by group for many of the areas of study included in this survey. The length of the bars by color represents the degree of agreement by group for each item, the total length of the bar represents overall agreement with the item, thus the longest bars display the most agreement and the shortest bars display the least agreement with the item.

Chart 25 - Chart of standard deviations for respondent groups by survey prompts

Chart 25 simply shows the degree of agreement with each item but is not related to how much the respondents agreed with the item. For example, the item “Saved Money” has the most similar responses by respondents but is the second most “Strongly Disagreed” with item in the survey while the responses were much more varied for the item “Completed” although this item had the overall highest level of “strongly agreed”.
Chart 26 breaks down the overall student responses (58.8% of all students agreed that we should keep or expand blizzard bags) down by grade level. Thus high school students split evenly between eliminate the program and keep/expand the program, elementary students were 80% in favor of keeping or expanding the program, and middle school students had 28% in favor of eliminating the program but 30% in favor of keeping it at 5 days and an additional 30% in favor of expanding the program. These numbers hold up fairly well for elementary and high school parents but Chart 27 shows that middle school parents are overwhelmingly in favor of keeping or expanding blizzard bags compared to middle school students (88% of parents versus 60%). And when the responses of parents and students are compared with teachers by grade level (see Chart 28) we see an even larger difference between middle school teachers (the only teachers who chose either eliminate or reduce blizzard bags), middle school students, and middle school parents. Chart 28 also shows the significant difference between middle school and the other school level teachers given the responses that we received.

Chart 27 - Parent Support by Grade Level
Chart 28 - Teacher Support by Grade Level

Chart 29 shows the top ten survey items for both teachers and parents as well as being color coded to show where both groups had the same items in their top ten group (i.e., five days were sufficient to complete assignments and students/children completed their assignments). It’s interesting to note that the items that had strong support by both teachers and parents were some of the areas for which the district had the most concern in meeting the requirements for having these days count for attendance: work was related to the curriculum and what was happening in the classroom; that the assignment of blizzard bags were made appropriately, and that the majority of students were completing the assignments (which was also demonstrated in the ‘attendance/completion’ figures from the schools). This is also supported in Chart 31 where these items are also noted for showing a high degree of similar responses. In terms of our member towns, the fact that broadband access in the community would make these assignments more meaningful made the top ten for both groups demonstrates the ongoing need to expand broadband in this area.

Chart 29 - Top Ten areas parents and teachers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher (top 10 Avg. 3.3 / 4.0)</th>
<th>Parent (top 10 Avg. 3.0 / 4.0)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students were required to put in the same amount of effort in completing Blizzard Bag Assignments as they did in my other assignments</td>
<td>My children completed the majority of their Blizzard Bag Assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I could create Blizzard Bag Assignments that were related to the curriculum I use for my subject area</td>
<td>Blizzard Bag Assignments were in a format that my children could use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I support the idea that failure to complete a Blizzard Bag Assignment results in both no credit for the assignment as well as an absence from that class.</td>
<td>Five school days were sufficient for my children to complete the majority of their work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assignment of Blizzard Bag Days for school cancellations were made appropriately</td>
<td>The assignment of Blizzard Bag Days for school cancellations were made appropriately.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Blizzard Bag Assignments were appropriate for my general education students.

Blizzard Bag Assignments were completed by a majority of my students.

Five school days were sufficient for the majority of my students to complete their Blizzard Bag Assignments.

Over the course of the year, Blizzard Bags became easier to implement and understand.

Blizzard Bags would be easier to create and implement if district towns had widespread broadband available.

The assignments provided for Blizzard Bag Days were related to what my children were working on in the classroom.

The assignments provided for Blizzard Bag Days were stand alone assignments.

Blizzard Bags would be easier for my children to complete if district towns had widespread broadband available.

The assignments provided for Blizzard Bag Days were related to what we were currently working on in the classroom.

Chart 30 lists the bottom five areas for both teachers and parents and it’s interesting to note that the areas for which they agreed was the secondary reasons for using blizzard bags: saving money and shortening the school year. They also agreed that the loss of face time between students and teachers was a definite drawback. However, as noted elsewhere in this report, there seems to be an understanding that if this time is made up in late June that it is not as valuable as during the regular school year.

Chart 30 - Bottom five areas for parents and teachers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher (Bottom Five - Avg. 2.6 / 4)</th>
<th>Parent (Bottom Five - Avg. 2.3 / 4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags was appropriate to ensure a reasonable date for the end of the school year</td>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags was appropriate if they saved the district money.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags saved the district money</td>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags to save money and shorten the school year was worth the effort to prepare and implement Blizzard Bag Assignments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags to save money and shorten the school year was worth the effort to prepare and implement Blizzard Bag Assignments.</td>
<td>The amount of time and effort I as a parent expended in helping my children complete their Blizzard Bag Assignments was equal to that I expend for their regular assignments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assignments provided for Blizzard Bag Days were stand alone assignments</td>
<td>I found that Blizzard Bag assignments were available to my children in both digital and nondigital formats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags to save money and shorten the school year was worth the loss of actual face time in the classroom.</td>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags to save money and shorten the school year was worth the loss of actual face time in the classroom.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Chart 31 - Statements with the highest agreement between parents and teachers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blizzard Bag Assignments were completed by a majority of my students.</td>
<td>0.07071067812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assignments provided for Blizzard Bag Days were related to the</td>
<td>0.07071067812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>curriculum rather than to current class activities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags to save money and shorten the school year was</td>
<td>0.1414213562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>worth the loss of actual face time in the classroom.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five school days were sufficient for the majority of my students to</td>
<td>0.1414213562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>complete their Blizzard Bag Assignments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assignments provided for Blizzard Bag Days were related to what we</td>
<td>0.1414213562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>were currently working on in the classroom.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags was appropriate to ensure a reasonable date for</td>
<td>0.1414213562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the end of the school year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Chart 32 - Statements with the lowest agreement between parents and students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I found that Blizzard Bag assignments were available in both digital and</td>
<td>0.4949747468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nondigital formats</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I support the idea that failure to complete a Blizzard Bag Assignment</td>
<td>0.5656854249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>results in both no credit for the assignment as well as an absence from</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>that class</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blizzard Bag Assignments took an appropriate amount of time to complete</td>
<td>0.5656854249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for my children relative to work for a standard classroom assignment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Charts 31 and 32 show items with the least and most agreement between teachers and parents. In looking at these areas in more detail, one finds that teachers had a stronger belief that they provided assignments in multiple formats than did the parents as well as they believed that assignments took an appropriate amount of time compared to parents belief (you can also see this reflected in many comments by all respondent groups). In addition, teachers were strongly in favor
of missed blizzard bag assignments counting against both attendance and grades, but, although there is a difference, parents also were in favor of this, just not to the degree that teachers were (i.e., teachers were ‘strongly agree’ and parents were at the ‘agree’ level).

Section 4: Next Steps

The survey data was fairly extensive and generally supported the idea of continuing the blizzard bag program while pointing out some areas for review and improvement. Reviewing all of the data, including participant comments, provided the following:

- **How did Blizzard Bags impact the delivery of instruction?**
  - Overall the delivery of instruction appeared to be equal to that provided in the classroom in terms of work, degree of difficulty, and the number of students completing the work. However, many respondents agreed that this was not the same as having the face to face interaction with a teacher and that the district should review how to improve the delivery for lower performing students.

- **Were Blizzard Bags related to established curriculum?**
  - The different questions, and their responses related to this area supported the idea that the assignments were related to what the curriculum was for that class although assignments differed and may not have been directly related to what was happening that week in the classroom.

- **What types of assignments were provided for Blizzard Bags (stand alone, project based, themed)?**
  - There appeared to be range of blizzard bag assignments with some agreement that most were stand alone but there were still project or theme based assignments that covered more than one blizzard bag day.

- **Were assignments for Blizzard Bags related to current classroom activities?**
  - Respondents generally agreed that blizzard bag assignments were related to current class activities and this was one question where the three groups had close agreement.

- **Were Blizzard Bag assignments equivalent to classroom assignments?**
  - In terms of the amount of work, the difficulty, and the assessment of assignments, blizzard bag assignments seemed to be equivalent to classroom assignments but not necessarily the classroom experience. Comments were varied related to this with some believing they were not equivalent and others saying it was partially dependent on timing, i.e., assignments and class activities were different at the end of the year as opposed to during the year.

- **Were Blizzard Bag assignments made appropriately in terms of timing?**
  - This was a question that was answered in the affirmative and as indicated in the section 2, the answers support the continuance of the protocol of not assigning blizzard bags on consecutive days, not assigning more than two per week, and ensuring that students have five days to complete the assignments with additional time and flexibility being provided where needed.

- **How did groups feel about the savings in time and money?**
  - Generally speaking, the days saved at the end of the year had a better response than did saving money and certainly more than the loss of facetime. This may have had a different response if we had been able to share estimated savings prior to the survey.
Feelings about grading and attendance regarding Blizzard Bag Assignments.
  - As you review the data it becomes evident that the majority of respondents, but especially parents and teachers, believed that having blizzard bag assignments count for attendance and a grade incorporated into that particular class were supported.

Was the time allowed for completion adequate?
  - There was strong agreement that five school days (so at least seven days total) were appropriate for the majority of students.

Ideas for improvements from participants.
  - Teachers suggested improvements in working collaboratively to improve assignments and to ensure any modifications were in place. There were also comments about the need to ensure all teachers supported the idea and that consistency has to be ensured. Parents had many suggestions dealing with communications and directions and some support for more linked, long-term, theme based projects. The number one student suggestion was to make blizzard bags easier, shorter and more fun.

Impact of assignment format and broadband services.
  - Respondents generally thought that assignments were created in ways that all students would be able to complete but that having broadband access would provide for a more robust blizzard bag program.

Whether we should continue the program.
  - With an average return rate of over 91% and 75% of parents and teachers recommending that the program be continued, we believe that question is answered in the affirmative. Student responses were different with just under 60% of students supporting continuing the program.

Summary:

While there are still areas to be refined and improved (and this is an ongoing process as you can see in Addendum One) the first pilot year of the Blizzard Bag Program was successful as we review a range of data points: the completion of the assignments, the general buy in from students, parents and teachers, the agreement around being curriculum related and similar in effort, the overall savings, and the improvement over the course of the year. Couple this with the savings, the relatively early release, the number of weather cancellations the district experienced, and the understanding that ‘academic work’ suffers when extra ‘make up’ days are added in mid to late June, the leadership team is recommending that this program be continued for the 2017-2018 school year.

As the district moves forward with the idea of blizzard bags the survey’s indicated several areas for improvement. These include ensuring that assignments are consistent between teachers at each grade level, between grade levels, and within departments. This would include ensuring that accommodations be made where necessary for both the actual assignment and for time/assistance for some students upon their return to school. Additionally there appears to be a need for improving communications including more detailed directions for both parents and students, some sort of follow up with assignments to provide notification of grades and if it counted for attendance that day, and providing a more uniform means for teachers to be available during the blizzard bag days.
While we remain committed to providing flexibility to teachers in designing their blizzard bag assignments, and whether they relate to current class activities, or to a broader, long-term type of project, the data seems to suggest that staff should take more time to explain how the assignments fit into the overall curriculum and instructional planning for that course. Should the district’s towns ever get ubiquitous broadband, the solution to more face to face time, providing help in real time, and making more involved assignments may become easier and more similar to the idea of blended instruction.

We believe the data shows that for the majority of students, the timing of blizzard bags, the amount of time to complete the assignment, and the grading/attendance policies work very well. For specific students, we may wish to consider alternatives to ensure success. We also believe the district has been able to provide compensatory services to those students requiring a specific number of service hours by their 504 or IEP.

The other area that continues to need review is the equity between staff members in the same association that have different instructional responsibilities (i.e., a classroom teacher versus a guidance counselor) and for our paraprofessionals.

Addendum One: MS/HS Clarification Memo

MS & HS Faculty,

Given the unexpected timeline of implementation, there have been a number of questions raised by teachers, parents, and students regarding Blizzard Bag expectations. The Leadership Team is currently working on an FAQ document to be posted on the district website (the content of which is also addressed below), but below is some additional clarification/guidance for the MS & HS levels:

Access Expectations
- Our eventual goal is to make assignments and/or directions (these could be general in nature) available online (most likely on teacher websites), but please keep in mind that geographic location can affect access, so we need to accommodate.
- We should not expect students or parents to print-out any materials at home or on their own. Please provide access to printed copies of handouts if needed.
- Because notification of the next Blizzard Bag day may be last minute (either after you have met with some classes, or the morning of the cancellation):
  - Any printed copies should be given to students in advance if possible.
  - Please establish protocols for this with your classes. We should be able to make an announcement/all-call at any point to set things in motion.
- If possible, the expectation is that you check your email 2-3 times throughout the day to check for and address student or parent questions.

Work Expectations
- Though students may need assistance, time, or access here at school for some assignments, this should not replace a school day lesson (the focus in these cases should be Directed Study, after school, etc.).
There will be times when you are able to call an “audible”, and use a current planned lesson for a Blizzard Bag assignment.

- An example of this would be a long-term project where the number of classes dedicated to this will be decreased by one day.

- In most cases, substituting the posted HW assignment for a Blizzard Bag assignment is not acceptable (please see me with any questions regarding this).

- Though reading is certainly acceptable as part of a Blizzard Bag assignment, there needs to be a graded product associated (method and weighting is up to you).

- If a particular Blizzard Bag day’s assignment is part of a long term assignment (i.e. one that covers all five potential Blizzard Bag days) there needs to be a graded component of that particular day’s work (again, method and weighting is up to you).

**Due Dates, Grading, & Tracking**

- The School Committee approved proposal set the standard due date for Blizzard Bag assignments at 5 school days after the return to school, unless otherwise dictated by an IEP or 504. Possible exceptions may include:
  - An assignment that is part of an ongoing class assignment that is already scheduled to be completed at an earlier date (as long as the students are aware of this prior to the day being cancelled).
  - Cases in which weather, teacher absence, or student absence affects student access for some unforeseen reason. In these cases, due dates should be adjusted accordingly (please let me know if this occurs).

- Students who do not complete a Blizzard Bag assignment should be:
  - Given a zero for that assignment (please date the assignment for the date of the Blizzard Bag day; it may also help to make this part of the assignment description).
  - Marked absent for that day (see these directions for how to do this). Please submit this day’s attendance once the due date has been reached. If you change this for any reason at a later date you must notify the office so that we can correct the official attendance records.

**Other**

- If school is cancelled for multiple days in a row, only the first day will be a Blizzard Bag day—all others will need to be made up.

- Because of this, and the fact that we are only approved for 5 Blizzard Bag days you should still plan on the potential of school ending later than June 9th.

**Section Five: Comments**

Addendum Two: Blizzard Bag Comments - Students

How may we make Blizzard Bags more effective for those students who need additional time or resources to complete the work?

- don't do it
• Idk
• we don’t do them at all
• We should have one time/class period where in the 5 days to complete blizzard bags we get help from teacher that is needed and time to work on them.
• You could make it half credit if it is late between 1-3 days
• You should offer students help before the blizzard bag assignment so we can understand the work better.
• Give them more time or school supplies
• Don’t make blizzard bags digital. we may not be able to access computers or forms of internet to continue our work at home.
• give them extra help in the classroom #makesnowdaysgreatagain
• You could add additional time for students to talk to their teachers about questions they might have on tl didn’t like doing a project for the 5th day. It was kinda stupid. And for the project maybe give it more time. And not have it were if you didn’t turn it in you were absent. Because we are there. If you don’t turn in a regular assignment are you marked absent? No you're not. he blizzard bags
• allow/give them the ability to additional resources
• Make the blizzard bag about current topic an if you cannot extend days for the packets, shorten those packets to papers.
• send less work to have more time to complete lesson in one day to put more effort into the assignment
• Have a schedule outlining the assignment for each class in a public area.
• less work
• My children go to get extra help in reading and one got her regular class reading and her reading from her extra help that made her bag a lot fuller and took longer to complete. I don't think she should have to do her extra help plus her classroom reading take one assignment out.
• give them more time
• Maybe have a teacher hotline
• not to assign Blizzard bags at all to the students
• give a week until turn in
• Make the assignments shorter; they often were more work than would get done in in class
• DON'T HAVE THEM!
• Don't assign blizzard bags.
• You could make them better by having less work in a day for the students to complete.
• Give the students class time such as in PBL to complete the blizzard bad assignment.
• Make different assignments for people at a different learning level.
• Don't give use papers that we have no idea how to complete.
• Send home easier blizzard bags
• More time
• Don't give them Blizzard Bags.
• Make the blizzard bags not a packet. Please make them just a single piece of paper because thats all we do in class. We never do packets in class
• not assign projects
• use less assignments and more time
• To have less work and be more relevant.
• You should give us as long as we need to complete it because some assignments take longer than a week.
• i dont like them
• add time to the work
• Maybe the teachers could give us a week and a half
• Give them one more day to do the blizzard bag
• Have the blizzard bags be in the chapter or theme we are doing in class.
• Give them extra time and/or additional resources.
Have other resources other than just the blizzard bag. I really liked how we had a week to turn in the blizzard bag.

We could keep kids after school everyday for every subject.

by adding more time to do the blizzard bag

Give more time to do the work.

less time because then students would feel the need to complete them

shorten the work

We just straight up shouldn't have them it's ridiculous how much more work mrs. Omalley gave us co

Add in a little review lesson compared to a normal day.

I think if the people didn't finish the blizzard bags the would have to do it during work days before they start the homework.

Give them more time to work on it

Maybe have a special group sometime during or after for kids to talk to teachers if they need help, or to get any materials they need. In 7th grade we have a work day once a week. I noticed a lot of kids going to teachers during that time would bring any questions they had to the teachers.

Give a longer due date so we can get more time to get more help in class/pbl work day.

Provide us with a sheet that explains the lesson so that we know how to do the assignment.

Give us a sheet of the lesson so we know what to do.

During the lesson/class, ask them if they had trouble and see if they want to go to lunch.

The 5 days after the Snow Day gives them time to come to the teacher and ask them the questions that are needed. It's mostly from personal responsibility.

give them more time

Give the students class time to do it.

more fun activity or like a lab for science.

Science experiment outside, coloring assignments for social studies and ELA, and a much smaller amount of numbers for a math plotline.

More of color, pictures, or maybe more of project stuff.

We could be more creative by doing a small part of an upcoming project, if there is one.

Give a class after the snow day to get help.

I say we make the time amount like half of the school day

I think people should make the questions more likely to understand.

I honestly can't think of a way we could help that because if we take time off another class for the help block the work will pile up

WE CANTTTTTT.. DONT YOU UNDERSTANDDDDD. IT KEEPS PILING UPPPPPPP OMG!!!!!!

there's really nothing to solve unless they want to get help.

Have out of class time to work with teachers.

give people more time.

Have a lunch time for the kids who want help?

Extra credit

Make the assignments smaller or give us less.

i think we should only have one or 2 papers because their were to many and it stressfull

i think that they should give them a week because you don't get that long with a real assignment

You could have a few teachers help kids at lunch or after school, so that if they are confused, they could get help.

To offer time that the teachers can go over the blizzard bags and help the students understand.

Have voluntary help sessions during lunch.

Maybe give them 1 extra week to complete assignments, if the assignment was really that hard. But think about all the kids that just blow off the assignments and don't care about it.

make tapes or have a peeper.

add more directions

Give them more activities like word searches of a crafts project.

To have a time at the end of the day where we can use resources.

Give the additional time or resources, you're putting them through it anyways.
Maybe for the students who don't finish the blizzard bags in time they can have 2 Wednesday work
days to finish them then if they don't finish after the 2 wednesdays then it is late and they are graded
on how much they got done.

How may we make Blizzard Bag Assignments more creative and yet remain linked to the curriculum?

- Idk
- dont do it
- Make them more fun and not as long.
- more art
- They should all try to have something to do with the fact that were home. Like having to do with the
  actually snow or outdoors
- you could give it to us 4 days earlier so we can complete the blizzard bag and have fun on a snow
day
- Maybe do more things like crosswords or something instead of just a set of problems to solve
- Make them more fun not just pencil and paper, I usually dread doing them
- try adding more fun things to do, maybe something with art to enlighten the brain.
- by making them way shorter, it took me four hours for everything, everytime
  #makesnowdaysgreatagain
- Keep them in individual papers instead of one big project
- Give more time.
- Make sure it is appropriate to the topic at hand and review what is given to us beforehand
- It is already appropriately creative, yet still extensive.
- Give us actual papers.
- more related to classwork
- Creativity is not necessary.
- should be more creative and require us to build something
- Although some teachers set assignments that were appropriate, others assigned projects that took
  the majority of the day not allowing to complete other assignments. Possibly have assignments
  approved before they are given
- not to give the students any Blizzard Bags
- I HATED THEM!
- Stop using them
- More fun activties like coloring etc
- Don't make them full on projects and make it a paper that we have to complete.
- Allow the assignments to be different in format to the dreaded packet.
- Don't make them last 3 weeks and try to just get to the point and give us stuff we'd know.
- Coloring in stuff
- Not applicable
- You could give us coloring, or really fun projects.
- by makeing like coloring maps or some thing
- do hands on activities
- You shouldn't make the Blizzard Bags so many questions.
- i dont like them
- make them not look like we are in school and make it fun
- I don't really know.
- By making them more enjoyable
- Maybe sort of a one day project thing that is fun and takes up time.
- More visuals.
- Not have work like there is only one answer. students should be able to put some of their opinion into
  it.
- In math you can color a pictures with whatever you are learning. In s.s you can answer 2-4 questions
  science the same thing as math. ela do the same thing as s.s.
- by doing a coloring sheet about the assignments
• mini projects
• keep them related to the curriculum but make it less work.
• add more hands on materials
• We should make them fun for the students but to be honest we don't do half as much work when we add on the extra days. Blizzard bags are terrible.
• Do a tiny mini project that could be fun.
• I think they should make it more fun and have something to do with the snow so that it encourages people to go outside instead of being inside working on the blizzard bags and homework.
• Mini projects
• Maybe get the kids to do an activity that can only be done at home, such as a project or experiment.
• Making it a project with small assignments each blizzard bag day because I think its to much work to do 5 or 6 papers all day every day.
• To make a project a project with a separate job on each day.
• Like have something were you draw something about the lesson.
• Make them short and let the kids opinions into the assignments.
• Maybe making and arts and crafts activities fit into the curriculum. Or hands on activities that are available for kids to take home.
• TALK TO THE FREAKING TEACHERS!!!!
• Make the children have fun and not just write.
• more fun activity or like a lab for science.
• Science experiment outside, coloring assignments for social studies and ELA, and a much smaller amount of numbers for a math plotline.
• More of color, pictures, or maybe more of project stuff.
• We could be more creative by doing a small part of an upcoming project., if there is one.
• Make them short and sweet. Short assignments but make them powerful
• Add information. And maybe tell teachers to write a side comment.
• Provide students with a lesson plan.
• we can color.
• Have an assignment for ELA finish and read a script?
• Make a drawing of something but involve the subject then a little essay.
• I don't know
• they should make it more easy
• To do a project and not give out papers
• Maybe they can have like a little art project that could go along with some kind of reading or something.
• Give the blizzard bags a topic like sports or seasons.
• Have assignments that involve creative writing or in math, simple fun questions.
• Give something that is fun and related to what we are learning in classes.
• make a drawing with things or a diagrams.
• make them phisical
• Making a crafts project like the polyhedron.
• Have us work on the same project that we will work on each blizzard bag day.
• Stop the Blizzard Bags.
• Maybe we could do more hands on stuff that is still related to what we are learning in school. Or maybe we could do things that allow us to move around more you know get up and move.

How may we improve participation by students in completing Blizzard Bag Assignments for non-academic/elective courses?
• Idk
• dont do it
• Make them more interesting so kids will do it.
• make them more interesting
• Make the work a bit more enjoyable and less boring.
• I don't know
• No comment?
• Make them shorter #makesnowdaysgreatagain
• Make them more connected to what we are learning or doing in that class
• Give different options and not just one thing to do. Like different work papers.
• The amount of pressure added to the Blizzard Bag was unnecessary and caused anxiety and stress. Therefore it creates a negative appeal in students minds.
• Increase time given, allow an extra day for absent students, or shorten overall assignments.
• Make it fun or into a game with competition
• Make sure they are short assignments. Certain electives required an unreasonable amount of work.
• Make them shorter and funner
• Get rid of it
• Make the assignments something that is not too difficult to accomplish and make it worth a significant part of their grade.
• NO MORE BLIZZARD BAGS
• DON'T HAVE THEM!
• Get rid of em.
• Do something they are interested in
• Make a rule where if they don't complete the blizzard bad assignment that they won't be able to participate in or do something that they enjoy doing.
• Make it a do-it-yourself thing with little restrictions.
• Make them understandable
• Say you'll get a zero for that class
• Getting time in school to do so
• You can't
• Please don't make them really hard and at least have them involve what we are studying in class.
• by makeing them more fun
• Have the teachers come up with a few ideas and let the students pick what they want to do. People are more prone to do work if they picked it and like it.
• make the students ask questions and the teachers answer
• less amount of work.
• Make them more fun and not just questions
• I don't like them
• Get rid of them
• Maybe we could get rewards for finishing them.
• Make harsher punishments.
• Force them to do it such as call home or something.
• By not giving blizzard bags for specials or electives.
• Non academic courses should be fun, so if students are not enjoying the supposedly "fun" blizzard bags that's not an issue with the kids its an issue with the class.
• DO something fun that will make kids want to do the blizzard bag.
• by makeing it more fun
• Idk
• less time, and make them more interesting
• electives should not have blizzard bags
• No matter what you do not everyone is going to do the blizzard bags. I honestly think for people's grades sake that you stop doing the blizzard bags.
• Do work.
• I think you should be very calm and understanding since you did just roon the point of a snow day.
• I don't know
• Giving the kids something more interactive, such as real art, rather than about art. Or give us clay or whatever before hand so we can do it all at home.
• Make them fun. For example in art we could draw a picture of our favourite thing.
- Make the lessons fun by adding color or by thinking deeply of something.
- Make them fun so the kids have fun while doing it.
- Do something that the kids want to do, and see how the parents run by it.
- The parents need to stress the point to their kids. Making the elective course assignments more hands on that they can do inside. Kids need to be accountable for assignments.
- make it more fun
- Take a survey of what kids want to do.
- give more time and the parents need to make rules
- Maybe a little reward.
- Make it easier than the main subjects.
- I think the parents need to stress all the importance of the blizzard bag or making the assignment more fun and something hands on.
- hands on activities
- let kids do whatever they want.
- Not having students do such long writing assignments.
- not give them one.
- Make the activity fun and inside? Hold the kids accountable?
- Make it more fun.
- A prize
- if you make it fun maybe the kids will do it
- give them something fun to do
- You could improve the participation by maybe having a couple minutes at the end of each class period to work on them, and ask questions that they had about them.
- You could improve the participation by maybe having a couple minutes at the end of each class period to work on them, and ask questions that they had about them.
- We can by making them something fun that everyone can do, inside or out.
- Give easy and fun assignments like gym make a list of everything that we did all day.
- have a thing to do and make things inside.
- tell to do a specific thing
- Make them more amusing to make them like doing it.
- Get a certain amount of points each blizzard bag assignment, so we can buy a homework pass or candy, etc.
- i don't know
- Don't do them.
- I mean you can't because you can't make a student do anything.

**I believe the most important thing we can do to improve the Blizzard Bag Program is to:**
- Cancel it. All I got was busy work which is not equal to actual class time. As a public school, it is hard enough to compete with private school students for college and missed class time results in lower SAT scores, lower AP scores and loss of learning. If students lose another five days each year from kindergarten this ends up being 65 days lost total, not to mention all the time spent in class on other days explaining the blizzard bags and going over them.
- Idk
- stop doing them
- Have shorter blizzard bags and only have blizzard bags in core class not specials
- cancel it
- give it to us early
- Provide more information on the subject.
- not give so much at a time, it stresses us out. That many papers at one time makes it hard to keep track of everything causing other work to be lost. also don't give homework at the same time blizzard bags are given. Its just more work and more stress to deal with.
- take them away, stop offering them.
- Do the actual amount of work we would do in school instead of more
• Take it away.
• Create a more calming vibe for the Blizzard Bags, students got an immediate disappel to the work when you mention the failing marks and absent marks if you do not do the work. Create a more appealing arora.
• Discuss what we are practicing in the blizzard bag in the classroom
• give us back our days off for snow days we miss them
• Get rid of it.
• get rid of them.
• I didn't like having 2 bags in the same week. I have 2 children so that was 4 bags to complete, it's a lot for working parents. I think it should be limited to 1 bag per week and maybe go up to 6/7 bags in a year, if there is only be 1 per week.
• Not have a blizzard bag program.
• get rid of it or make or give us more time to complete the blizzard bag
• Not have them. It's busy work. I don't think we should be giving up valuable face time in classes so we can have a slightly longer summer break. Is eduction not important to anyone???
• a great way to improve the Blizzard Bag system is by not giving us any
• GET RID OF THEM.
• Dismantle it.
• Make the students do them.
• Allow students to work on them on homework time (on normal school days )
• Make them understandable
• Make them easier
• not assign projects for snow days
• Not make it count as a huge grade. So if you miss a question it is an 80 and it brings your whole grade down.
• do review assignments not something the students just learned
• make the work shorter and more relevant
• I as a parent had trouble reading some of the directions. But my child could not only read them but did them on his own, which showed me not only it was what they currently were working on but that he understood the material. He was basically teaching me, which made it fun for him and a different way to work on his school work. I enjoyed the opportunity to work on the assignments with him!
• Make them fun.
• i dont like it
• to not have the blizzard bags anymore they torture kids
• I think it is a good as it can be.
• Be more strict about it
• Have all of the students do it.
• Make them be less time consuming.
• Make it as least stressful as possible. Snowdays are about relaxing not stressing over school work.
• Only do 1-2 packets not all four classes.
• Add some creativity int to blizzard bags
• not do it
• make them more appealing to students
• shorten the amount of work in each clads and take away blizzard bags from electives
• We can make them fun for the students and make them challenges that are active and fun and team building things like make a snowman and take a picture of it and bring it to class.
• Is make them related to the current class lesson
• Make it more fun for us to do it.
• Not give us so much
• Make sure everything is easy to understand, and make it all linked to eachother. If someone is confused when they first look at the paper it could discourage them into completing it or finding help.
Give a longer due date time because some kids have things and places to be like sports.

Make them exciting and have the lessons make us do something active.

Have less work so we can go out and enjoy the day off of school.

Not make the assignments too big and difficult, and also to make sure everyone CAN do the assignments.

Make the assignments more fun for the kids and space out the Blizzard Bag Days.

eliminate it

getting rid of it.

to not do it at all

Give a little more time for the day the assignment was due.

Make it less hard.

Hold the kids accountable for the work and bring them in for lunch if they don't finish them.

give more time

maybe take away days

Giving us less work.

not give an absent if we don't do it.

i wish we got all the blizzard bags and pick which ones we want.

Not give too much work

make it more easy

not give us a week worth of letting us to just hand it in the next day because we do that already

I think that the most important thing that they can do is to make them a lot less stressful, but at the same time have them be a little bit challenging.

make sure the blizzard bags are from the subject we did in class.

Make the assignments a bit easier, or get a packet of blizzard bags and choose one per subject to do each snow day.

Give assignments that are related to the curriculum and not just something that we don't even remember.

make it fun and help them.

make it fun

Give us more blizzard bags that are fun activities

Keep it the way it is.

do nothing

End it before they get to into it.

make it optional for students to do granted most students would choose not to do them but still they wouldn't be pressured to do it.

Addendum Three - Parent Comments

How may we make Blizzard Bags more effective for those students who need additional time or resources to complete the work?

High School

Make sure the work assigned is geared to the child's specific needs. Allow teachers to on a case by case basis allow students who are having difficulty time or offer after school help if needed.

I don't see any reason why there wouldn't be sufficient time to get the Blizzard Bags completed, other than a child having been ill or something of the sort. In this case I would suggest a note from the parent stating as such and treating it as an excused absence as long as a note or a call was received the day of returning to school.
- Provide a new concept to read through then go over in class on the next available school day
- Don't use blizzard bags

**Early Elementary**

- I hear the older children mainly high school need more time so maybe giving them a full 7 days to complete rather than 5 would work better for them.
- Make them easier to understand, and not 6 hrs of work
- The first Blizzard Bag was very challenging and took my daughter 6.5 hours to complete - which is longer than a school day. Future ones did not take as long to complete. My daughter has ADHD and anxiety, so any homework is challenging for her. I do worry about future Blizzard Bags, especially as the assignments get more challenging in higher grades. It would be great if help was provided at the school, for children who are struggling to complete them. Or an accommodation for extra time and help for children on 504’s or IEP’s.
- For me I think with some assignments it would’ve been easier if us, the parents, had some more directions. Sometimes it’s difficult to help or teach when we have no idea on how to solve the problem ourself.
- Help when back at school with an aide in classroom after reg work done
- Eliminate them
- I did not choose to homeschool. Most families try to keep up a house, work full time (more) and have more than one child. Children are encouraged to have extra curricular activities. At the end of the day after dinner, cleaning up dinner, bath & drama When is there quality family time? Kids need 8 hours of sleep. Unfortunately there isn't time for parents to get their required sleep. If the parents are unable to find even more time the children are considered absent. I don't think that's fair.
- Less work
- My 1st grader had Raz Kids assignments for blizzard bags yet the chosen books were below her reading level so she didn’t have access to them.. there should be a separate assigned folder on raz kids for blizzard bag work with all necessary resources available without having to search everywhere.
- 5 school days provided plenty of time for the Blizzard Bags to be completed. No special accommodations should be made.
- a web link for extra help or contact with the teacher to answer any questions
- My children had no problem completing or understanding their blizzard bags. Both were able to handle the majority of their work with nothing more than guidance from me.
- I thought they were great. I hope the district I work in adopts them as well!
- Time in the classroom can NOT be replaced by a plastic sack of papers. When children are on a snow day parents may not be and it is unfair to ask the parent to fulfill the duties of a trained educator. Also children should be outside playing in the snow not working on busy work to save the district money.
- Many of my child's assignments required access to the internet, while we have that luxury in our home, many families do not have internet access. I believe all assignments should be on paper so that each child is able to complete every assignment.
- I have 3 children with IEPs and I love the blizzard bags, however it was extremely difficult with the amount of work they had to complete. I felt like they were doing much more work then they do on a daily basis. On a snow day they are already distracted so you have to take into consideration you are not going to get as much productivity. Plus I don’t have the same tools at my disposal to teach 3 special needs kids in the same manner. I teach them life skills

**Middle School**

- Send home more instruction for parents. Just sending home an assignment sheet does not help us help our children.
- Not have them
- Give them time at school to get help and or finish.
- Let families know this is an option for extensions, if needed. Checklists may also be helpful.
- Just give extra time, end of month deadline
• Maybe designating a time at school to assist the kids who have difficulty completing the bavs at home. Giving them a time to access online material clarify instructions or work in groups to complete assignments.

Third to Fifth Grade
• Better instructions and a more realistic time frame
• You’re the professionals you should know
• If a student needs more time give it to them.
• Do not include online assignments as not all hilltowns have internet.
• I know in my house we did our best. I would image the teacher might pull the kid during recess if needed
• I do not think you can make it more effective. You need actual class time, not glorified homework assignments
• If there is a blizzard bag day or days, have the teachers available after school, one day for an hour, within the time they are allowed to complete the assignment. This will allow the student to get extra help if needed.
• Offer help at school after the snow day for students that may need help or have questions.
• It was a creative idea and worked well. I am sure they will get even better next year. I bet other school districts will follow this model.
• There was sufficient time to complete assignments. Children requiring extra help should receive it when back in the classroom and have access to their already arranged resources case by case
• Online resources for parents to access would be helpful.
• A resource book or paper could be sent home with the bag. I appreciate that my children’s blizzard bags contained work that could be done with or without online resources. And I love the blizzard bag program! Love that the school year ends sooner so my kids have more time for 4-h and other extracurricular summer activities.
• I think including a standard instruction sheet with each bag would be helpful. A simple review of guidelines, why we are doing it, and who to contact with questions would have helped some.
• An overall explanation of the assignments is in need to complete we had many questions and needed clarification often. We also found it to be more stressful than regular homework as we had to complete it that day as their regular homework takes up too much time and we are not able to take the 5 days to complete.
• I think when the teachers create these assignments, they need to think of the students that have special needs who may not necessarily just sit down and complete an assignment.
• Give more time, students (especially in middle and high school) already have too much homework, the blizzard bags add to that stress.

How may we make Blizzard Bag Assignments more creative and yet remain linked to the curriculum?

High School:
• Our student enjoyed the one long term assignment that she received. It was related to the curriculum, but was most likely not a project that they would of had time for in class. It gave the students more of a chance to explore the topic and offer their opinions on it while creating a finished project instead of just completing a worksheet.
• For the high school students, I think they were just fine. As for elementary or middle school students, I cannot answer that, as I am not aware of what was included in those bags.
• It was mostly review of current work, according to the child.
• Relate it more

Kindergarten to Grade 2
• I would include their regular homework assignments
• I thought the assignments were extremely creative and linked to curriculum already! Every subject offered well thought out lessons related to the curriculum, classroom work and the season.
• Maybe if the assignment involved other people at home.
• Ask children at end of year ideas relating to a curriculum theme for educators to expand on, children can also be given option to add detailed pictures with written work
• Keep the school work at school.
• Kids need to be kids not working all day on homework, for high school kids it’s ok. Most parents i talked to thought it was too much work or just didn't like it. I would say stop it for k-8 and let the older kids do it.
• My 1st grader had a snow assignment on the first one and while she enjoyed it the snow did not last and if not done that day it couldn't have been done. We have 2 full time working parents and sometimes those assignments can be difficult
• Add a fun activity
• I felt that they were very appropriate, and both my 5th grader and my kindergartener was always engaged in the work.
• One of my children had blizzard bags that required much more work that took a long time to complete and was frustrating for them. My younger child had much less work to do and it was more related to winter activities and snow which made it more fun to complete together.I found them both creative and linked to curriculum.
• My kids enjoyed the assignments that included stories about snow storms, or involved making an art project of a snowman. You could include science projects that use everyday household products. Give the list out at the start of the year so everyone will be ready when the snow day comes. It can be easy things like making play dough or oobleck. Another option is no cooking recipes. Utilize what the students have at home and utilize the weather. Have them draw a picture of what the storm looks like outside a window.

Middle School
• Not have them
• Make assignments fun, easy and short.
• I found the assignments to be appropriate. However perhaps assigning one big project at the beginning of the school year that can incorporate all subjects grade appropriate. The students could work at their own pace throughout the Year as well as use school resources as needed. They would be assigned on the first day of school and due the last day of the year ( or close) this assignment would count for 5 school days

Third to Fifth Grade
• Do assignments that are not cookie cutter copies of same old stuff
• Not a thing
• Make it fun for the kids.
• The more the whole family could get involved the better results we had as we did it as a family for the most part, example the STEM portion was the best because we could all be included. It can be challenging to help my 4th grader without including my 3 year old. Even if my 3 year old didn't totally understand she was easy to handle with her thinking she was apart of the assignments. I guess we used it more as a “mail order” family activity, but it worked for the most part.
• Online assignments would seem to make more sense than the paper assignments. It seems like there is an awful lot of waste with the sending home of all the blizzard bags.
• As long as it's grade appropriate, I think anything fine.
• A sufficient job was done this year
• Blizzard bags should not be busy work! They should be a continuation of what is currently being taught in the classroom! It is confusing for students and parents when blizzard bag assignments are not related to what is currently being taught in the classroom.
• I thought the ones my kids got were pretty creative. With math it's always easy to incorporate everyday objects into the mix. There are lots of science experiments that can be done at home with just some instruction and everyday household ingredients. You could look to homeschool curriculum for some good ideas that don't require much in the way of resources.
I think with planning being done from the beginning of the year we will see more success in this area. Perhaps setting parent expectation about the goal for At-Home work would put some at ease. Explanation on how it was relating to class work would be helpful.

I feel an ongoing more collective assignment that students can work on at their own pace would be effective and possibly more exciting and individualized

I think that some assignments were more creative than others. It depended on the teacher. Maybe if they geared assignments towards different types of learning.

I recommend looking at Mr. Boylan's blizzard bags. They were fun and interesting.

I believe the most important thing we can do to improve the Blizzard Bag Program is to:

High School:

- Do away with them! Most parents needs to have their children in school longer. It is more important to make it easier for parents to have kids IN SCHOOL than to get out early for vacation
- I believe this program was a wonderful addition to the district. It has allowed students to opportunity to keep up with their lessons during the working school year, instead of having them stay in hot classrooms in June, when the teaching for the year is already done. I hope this program continues in the future.
- Express the importance of completion to the students and parents - either turn in the assignments or take an unexcused absence for the day or class that was not turned in. (Unless, of course the student is excused by a parent with a note)
- Give them work that they have actually worked on in class or gone over in class. Most of the assignments had NOTHING to do with what was being taught in class and parents had to spend most of the "snow day" helping because the material was NOT taught by teachers.
- Spanish class needs to provide less work. Child states it took far longer than a regular class to do the work.
- Stop using them
- Get rid of them.

Early Elementary

- Get everyone on board I feel like the high school kids aren't liking the work maybe even have an assembly and explain things to them in more detail I'm sure they are glad to be getting out a week earlier than surrounding towns even though they complained while doing the blizzard bags
- I think the work should be work that a student can do mainly on there own and should be work that they understand how to do on their own. I don't mind spending time with my son on his work but there were some blizzard bags where I had to spend way too much time helping and working on assignments with him. When I stay home from work on snow days with my son I am expected to get all the work I get done for my job on a normal day adding an hour or two to help with assignments is difficult to manage, also I am not a teacher I am not good at teaching and often find myself extremely frustrated helping him understand his assignments. I feel like getting frustrated is not healthy for our relationship.
- Let parents know that teachers are available on the snow day for questions and help. I had a problem with the first one and posted a question on the Gateway Parents Face Book page, hoping another parent could help me. I was surprised when my daughter's teacher responded through an e-mail to help me. It was great. I know not everyone has internet available to them, but it was helpful for me to know I could ask questions via e-mail.
  - Also important:
    - Having both digital and hard copy of the assignments available.
    - Having web-tutorial links available on school site for help with assignments (both to help students and their parents to understand assignments)
    - Having a help hot-line phone number available for families that may not have internet available for questions (maybe available a couple hours on the snow day and a couple days after school following the snow day).
    - Getting feedback from school after work turned in that it was received and child given credit for snow day.
• Have clear directions sent home for the parents so we know more about what's going on in the assignments.
• Give examples if it is an elective
• My answers are negative because I have nothing positive to say. However, I doubt my opinion matters.
• Use Blizzard Bags only if we have used up 5 regular snow days. No part of the assignment should require the children to have to go on-line.
• Have more parent communication. If not enough students participate it doesn't count, so what happens with the kids who did participate? Also communication should be sent to parents on the outcome of each bag. My 7th grader visits her mother in the summer out of town and our summer visits depend on the last day of school so knowing this date is vital to our family and having an email or something letting us know would be very helpful.
• Be sure to include all necessary papers/instructions pertaining to the lessons. Some assignments seemed to be missing relevant papers needed to complete them.
• Clarify things for patents. I am fortunate that both of my children were able to navigate through themselves, so it was not necessarily a challenge for me, but I know some parents struggled.
• Explain just a little bit what parts of the current units each lesson relates to (most of the time it's obvious but it may help other parents to understand the assignments are not merely "busy work").
• Give better, more thorough instructions.
• I don't believe the Blizzard Bag program is a good way to incorporate into how we educate our children. Between all the early release and half day classes the children have and now eliminating an additional 5 days the children are at school is an extreme disgrace to providing our children with an adequate education. I feel the education received this year was severely lacking compared to previous years and I would be very leary about keeping my children at Gateway if it doesn't improve drastically.
• As a parent I find it hard to help my child with questions about the assignments. It would be helpful if teachers sent home something explaining how to help with the assignments, especially with math, parents were not taught common core math.
• Shorten the assignments. That is really my only complaint. There were too many assignments and they were too long.

Middle School:
• If blizzard bags are used to shorten the time in June, more options are needed for all students especially 5th grade and older students for summer camps within the district, the elimination/loss of after school and summer camps options for this age group is difficult. When other area districts are getting out later, no camps are available for working families until around June 29 or July 1st. No 5th or 6th grader wants to go to wrap around.
• Not have them
• Not make work hard, shorten duration of assignment.
• At the Middle and High School level teachers should give students basic rubric guidelines for grading criteria with each assignment.
• More often than not, both of my kids came home with assignments in their Blizzard Bag and could not complete it because the lesson on their assignment was not reviewed in class.
• Cut back some on the amount of work. That was a lot of work!

Third to Fifth Grade:
• No implementation until the factored in snow days have been used. Nothing replaces the time spent in the classroom. As a parent, I am a teacher but it is not my occupation. I feel that the children lose by not having face time with the teachers and the children feel like they are taking on an additional burden due to something that cannot be controlled-the weather.
• Accurately duplicate the days work take weekly homework into account and allow alternate ideas as acceptable
• Get rid of it due to Gateways ongoing lack of communication not all family's understood the program. Lack of communication as to what snow days were blizzard bag days. Horrible program!
• Just stick to what kids are into make it fun but learning also.
• End the program
• Try our best, as parents, to help our kids complete the assignments before complaining about the assignments. Teaching our kids is not just on the teachers/school. It should start at home and with a cooperative attitude. Everyone needs to work together for what would be in the best interest of the community as a whole. It was truly disgusting to see some parents reaction on social media. Many of our small towns already have high taxes/and difficult budget, I am confident this helps the budget greatly.

• I think that blizzard bags are a great idea and should continue them!
• I do not like the blizzard bag program
• Have teachers be more available to help students with the work. IF they are getting the day to stay home, they should be able to give up an hour or two after school to make themselves available to assist students. Like an after school study hall.
• Good communications from the teachers to parents as to what is exspected.
• Keep it simple
• Use blizzard bags AFTER the 5 regular snow days have been used, not first! It should be a last resort, not the go to choice! And only one blizzard bag assignment should be outstanding at a time. In other words, only one bag assigned in a 5 school day period, no overlapping of bags.
• Keep implementing it, and the kinks will get worked out. Teachers will develop strategies with practice. I thought my kids had great blizzard bags, but I do wish there had been more work in them so it would have taken them longer to complete.
• Further explain to families the importance of staying on track academically for finals, class progression, and testing. A greater understanding of how that does NOT occur on June 20-25th would help some families.
• While I understand the function of the blizzard bags I would rather go back to the regular snow day practice. Sadly the excitement of sleeping in and getting outside has gone as well as being a parent who has to remove the snow my time is limited to assist with the work. I found my children hoping not to have any snow day as they have become less exciting and not as much fun.
• I don’t really agree with the program. Kids should be able to just have a snow day and enjoy it. I think it puts a lot on parents to ensure that the kids complete the assignments as well.
• Lessen the amount of work and add more time to the limit.

Addendum Four - Teachers' Comments

How may we make Blizzard Bags more effective for those students who need additional time or resources to complete the work?

Elementary:
• made accommodations for students who needed it
• If students are struggling with completing the assignments, then maybe they should have modified assignments so that way it is not taking too long for them to complete.
• These would need to be collaborated more with the specialist teachers that work with their students
• The week that the student has to complete them maybe the teacher can work with them after school one day to help them complete the blizzard bag.
• Provide students with time before/after school or at recess time for additional help.
• Allow students to complete the work at school with teacher assistance. Maybe the library can be opened up with supervision for those students.
• Students could complete work at school with assistance if needed (elementary level during recess, specials, or before or after school...)
• These would need to be collaborated more with the specialist teachers that work with their students

Middle School:
• Students who have a class every other day need to constant reminder (especially from parents) to complete assignments
I believe allowing the students five days to complete the assignment is adequate. Allowing IEP or 504 students their extra time accommodation (if applicable) should be allowed... there should be something in writing to protect these students from being "absent".

Allow teachers to set the required turn-in date, such as 5-10 day range.

The line of thinking that says a blizzard bag assignment to do at home is the same as the type of assignment in the classroom is ignorant and is not supported by best practices in educational research. Furthermore it is in conflict with the district's "whole child" philosophy. You need a teacher for quality instruction. We have all taken online courses or those done at home, the quality and the integrity of the work/learning is not there. You are in denial if you think it is the same.

Offer students more time if they need it.

Blizzard Bags are not effective for any student who regularly receives clarification/support with assignments in the classroom; if you could ensure that parents know how to assist with assignments or that there will be a responsible adult at home who understands the child's learning style and needs, then the child may have a chance.

High School:

It may be appropriate to change the penalty for students on IEPs - ex: they get an absence for attendance but it does not have a negative effect on their grades (i.e. no penalty for the missed assignment)

How may we make Blizzard Bag Assignments more creative and yet remain linked to the curriculum?

Elementary:
- connect it with learning is so critical
- Personally I would like to make mine more of an ongoing project rather than individual assignments.
- have an online component or STEM activity
- this is our job as teachers..
- I think we can continue to link them directly to the things we are doing in the classroom.
- Provide as many hands-on activities/games that are both engaging and skill based
- Project Based Assignments, Skilled based games that are engaging and fun but are still connected to the curriculum. Can still use an recording sheet to ensure the games is played.
- At the elementary level, they could be mostly project or theme based.
- have an online component or STEM activity

Middle School:
- I think teachers should have more time to work on making the assignments creative, and collaborate to create either long-term or cross-curricular assignments together.
- That would be up to each teacher and their preparation
- Teachers have this responsibility.
- I have no answer to that. Dump the idea, it is a terrible one.
- They don't need to be more creative. I like the PE one where students track their physical activity or nutritional intake.

High School:
- Student access to the internet would make a big difference in the amount of creativity that students could use to complete the assignments.

How may we improve participation by students in completing Blizzard Bag Assignments for non-academic/elective courses?

Elementary:
- our assignments for non-academic came back ~ the assignments were creative.
- Parent involvement
- The BB implementation was relatively abrupt this year, so I believe next year we will have a better turn-out.

Middle School:
- I think students that are going to do the work normally are going to be responsible about BBs. IF they normally are irresponsible, we can pull them through certain assignments in school, but when they are out, it's tough to recreate the structure of your class...
- No difference from academic courses.
- Short of sending the teacher to the students' homes I don't think you can.
- Competitions motivate my students sometimes (with a prize attached)
• Just as with homework, you can't make them do it.

**High School:**
• Send more information home to parents about the requirements

**I believe the most important thing we can do to improve the Blizzard Bag Program is to:**

**Elementary:**
• I think it is important to make the expectations for the Blizzards Bags consistent for all the students.
• Ensure that all staff participate in providing assignments or modifications.
• Allow students to have some face time during the week following the snow day for assistance with some assignments.
• Ensure that all staff is participating whether or not they agree with the blizzard bag program. Or assisting teachers to modifying assignments as needed.
• Continue to make it fun for the students with interesting topics/assignments.
• Plan ahead and coordinate with specialists teachers/reading teachers, so that no one is scrambling the day before a storm.
• Provide an informational meeting for parents at open house outlining the expectations.

**Middle School:**
• More time/guidance on creating assignments.
• Have parents contribute ideas.
• Get rid of it - bad idea. There is a flaw in the survey. Each rating question had the same descriptors except for the last one. It is not fairly stated, if there had been as strongly disagree option (as there should have been to make it fair) - I would have selected that one.
• Keep it going, the more we do it, the better we will get.
• Eliminate the program... or at least spread it out. I had far too many students who were completely stressed out trying to get the work done in the time allotted after we had those two Blizzard Bags so close together. I know it's not supposed to be "homework" but the reality is the kids are doing the work, at home, for the most part alone. When they are in school, they receive many accommodations including encouragement - these kids are still young and are need support and scaffolding to push thorough assigments in class.
**Section Six: Survey Forms**

**Addendum Five - Student Survey Form**

The use of "Blizzard Bags" was instituted this year with the understanding that we would review the process to determine the potential for future use and/or modifications of the program. We'll be using different surveys for staff, students, and parents with the intent to gather information related to our use of "Blizzard Bags" this year and how they may be improved in the future.

These surveys are anonymous but there is an option to leave your contact information should you want the district to be able to follow up with you for any clarification or additional questions. Survey data will only be shared in the aggregate.

The survey will close on May 15th.

**Rate the following statements regarding preparation of Blizzard Bag Assignments:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blizzard Bag Assignments took me an appropriate amount of time to complete relative to work for a standard classroom assignment.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blizzard Bag Assignments appeared to be related to the curriculum used in my classes.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blizzard Bag assignments were available to me in both digital and non-digital formats.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blizzard Bags would be easier for me to complete if district towns had widespread broadband available.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Rate the following statements related to the implementation of Blizzard Bags:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blizzard Bag Assignments were in a format that I could use.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five school days were sufficient for me to complete the majority of my work.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assignment of Blizzard Bag Days for school cancellations were made appropriately.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I support the idea that failure to complete a Blizzard Bag Assignment results in both no credit for the assignment as well as an absence from that class.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over the course of the year, Blizzard Bags became easier to implement and understand.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please rate each of the following statements regarding how the assignments provided for Blizzard Bag days fit with what was happening in your children's classroom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The assignments provided for Blizzard Bag Days were related to what we were working on in the classroom.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assignments provided for Blizzard Bag Days were related to the curriculum rather than to current class activities.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assignments provided for Blizzard Bag Days were stand alone assignments.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assignments provided for Blizzard Bag Days were part of an overall theme or project.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please rate the following statements regarding the overall use of Blizzard Bags.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The amount of time and effort I put into completing Blizzard Bag Assignments was equal to that required in the classroom.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The amount of time and effort my parent(s) expended in helping me complete my Blizzard Bag Assignments was equal to the work they expend for my regular assignments.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

https://www.formality.io/r/1USq4NyNx0L
5/22/2017
Blizzard Bag Spring 2017 Followup - Student Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I completed the majority of my Blizzard Bag Assignments.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The amount of work I did for Blizzard Bag Assignments was appropriate.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please choose the rating that you feel best fits your understanding/feelings regarding Blizzard Bags.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
<th>Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags was appropriate if they saved the district money.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags was appropriate to ensure a reasonable date for the end of the school year.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags to save money and shorten the school year was worth the effort to prepare and implement Blizzard Bag Assignments.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags to save money and shorten the school year was worth the loss of actual face time in the classroom.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following open ended questions are provided to 'pick your brain' regarding ideas on how we may improve different aspects of the Blizzard Bag program.

How may we make Blizzard Bags more effective for those students who need additional time or resources to complete the work?

How may we make Blizzard Bag Assignments more creative and yet remain linked to the curriculum?

How may we improve participation by students in completing Blizzard Bag Assignments for non-academic/elective courses?

I believe the most important thing we can do to improve the Blizzard Bag Program is to:

Select the statement that best embodies your sentiment about Blizzard Bag Days.*

Select an option

Please check the educational level you're currently in.*

Select an option

If you would be interested in providing clarification to your answers, please provide your email address.

Enter your email address.

https://www.formality.io/v/USq4NyNaXnL
Addendum Six - Parent Survey Form

5/22/2017

Blizzard Bag Spring 2017 Followup - Parent Survey

The use of "Blizzard Bags" was instituted this year with the understanding that we would review the process to determine the potential for future use and/or modifications of the program. We'll be using different surveys for staff, students, and parents with the intent to gather information related to our use of "Blizzard Bags" this year and how they may be improved in the future.

These surveys are anonymous but there is an option to leave your contact information should you want the district to be able to follow up with you for any clarification or additional questions. Survey data will only be shared in the aggregate.

The survey will close on May 1st.

Please check all grade levels that your children currently attend. *

☐ Kindergarten to Second Grade
☐ Third Grade to Fifth Grade
☐ Middle School
☐ High School

Rate the following statements regarding preparation of Blizzard Bag Assignments: *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blizzard Bag Assignments took an appropriate amount of time to complete for my children relative to work for a standard classroom assignment.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blizzard Bag Assignments appeared to be related to the curriculum used for my children’s classes.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>I found that Blizzard Bag assignments were available to my children in both digital and non-digital formats.</td>
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<td>Blizzard Bags would be easier for my children to complete if district towns had widespread broadband available.</td>
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Rate the following statements related to the implementation of Blizzard Bags: *

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<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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<td>Blizzard Bag Assignments were in a format that my children could use.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Over the course of the year, Blizzard Bags became easier to implement and understand.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please rate each of the following statements regarding how the assignments provided for Blizzard Bag Days fit with what was happening in your children’s classroom. *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
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Please rate the following statements regarding the overall use of Blizzard Bags. *

https://www.formaby.io/6Zl/wNkXAnz35Q6
5/22/2017                Blizzard Bag Spring 2017 Followup - Parent Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
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<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The amount of time and effort my children put into completing Blizzard Bag Assignments was equal to that required to actually be completed in the classroom.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The amount of time and effort I as a parent expended in helping my children complete their Blizzard Bag Assignments was equal to that I expend for their regular assignments.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My children completed the majority of their Blizzard Bag Assignments.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The amount of work my children did for Blizzard Bag Assignments was appropriate.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please choose the rating that you feel best fits your understanding/feelings regarding Blizzard Bags. *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
<th>Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags was appropriate if they saved the district money.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags was appropriate to ensure a reasonable date for the end of the school year.</td>
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<td>○</td>
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<tr>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags to save money and shorten the school year was worth the effort to prepare and implement Blizzard Bag Assignments.</td>
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<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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The following open ended questions are provided to ‘pick your brain’ regarding ideas on how we may improve different aspects of the Blizzard Bag program.

How may we make Blizzard Bags more effective for those students who need additional time or resources to complete the work?

How may we make Blizzard Bag Assignments more creative and yet remain linked to the curriculum?

How may we improve participation by students in completing Blizzard Bag Assignments for non-academic/elective courses?

I believe the most important thing we can do to improve the Blizzard Bag Program is to:

Select the statement that best embodies your sentiment about Blizzard Bag Days. *

Select an option

If you would be interested in providing clarification to your answers, please provide your email address.

Enter your email address.

https://www.formally.io/v/ZUwXAnz3506

2/3
Addendum Seven - Teacher Survey Form

Blizzard Bag Spring 2017 Followup - Teachers

The use of "Blizzard Bags" was instituted this year with the understanding that we would review the process to determine the potential for future use and/or modifications of the program. We'll be using different surveys for staff, students, and parents with the intent to gather information related to our use of "Blizzard Bags" this year and how they may be improved in the future.

These surveys are anonymous but there is an option to leave your contact information should you want the district to be able to follow up with you for any clarification or additional questions. Survey data will only be shared in the aggregate.

The survey will close on May 1st.

Rate the following statements regarding preparation of Blizzard Bag Assignments: *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blizzard Bag Assignments took an appropriate amount of time to create, implement, and assess relative to preparing for a standard classroom assignment.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I could create Blizzard Bag Assignments that were related to the curriculum I use for my subject area.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I found that creating Blizzard Bag assignments in both digital and non-digital formats was similar to preparing the same for my regular class assignments.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blizzard Bags would be easier to create and implement if district towns had widespread broadband available.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rate the following statements related to the implementation of Blizzard Bags: *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I provided Blizzard Bag Assignments in a format that my students could use.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five school days were sufficient for the majority of my students to complete their Blizzard Bag Assignments.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assignment of Blizzard Bag Days for school cancellations were made appropriately.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I support the idea that failure to complete a Blizzard Bag Assignment results in both no credit for the assignment as well as an absence from that class.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over the course of the year, Blizzard Bags became easier to implement and understand.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please rate each of the following statements regarding how the assignments provided for Blizzard Bag Days fit with what was happening in your classroom or your curriculum. *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The assignments provided for Blizzard Bag Days were related to what we were currently working on in the classroom.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assignments provided for Blizzard Bag Days were related to the curriculum rather than to current class activities.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assignments provided for Blizzard Bag Days were stand alone assignments.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assignments provided for Blizzard Bag Days were part of an overall theme or project.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assignments provided for Blizzard Bag Days was chosen to be something that I usually don't have time to cover in my class due to time or resource constraints.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please rate the following statements regarding the overall use of Blizzard Bags. *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

https://www.formality.io/v/3nDEhP8kofuy
5/22/2017  Blizzard Bag Spring 2017 Followup - Teachers

The amount of time and effort developing Blizzard Bag Assignments was equal to that required to actually teach the class.

The Blizzard Bag Assignments assessment and review with students was equal to that of a non-Blizzard Bag Assignment.

Blizzard Bag Assignments were completed by a majority of my students.

Students were required to put in the same amount of effort in completing Blizzard Bag Assignments as they did in my other assignments.

Please rate the following statements regarding the appropriateness of Blizzard Bag Assignments. *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blizzard Bag Assignments were appropriate for my advanced/honor students.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blizzard Bag Assignments were appropriate for my general education students.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blizzard Bag Assignments were appropriate for my lower functioning students.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blizzard Bag Assignments were appropriate for my students on IEP's.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please choose the rating that you feel best fits your understanding/feelings regarding Blizzard Bags. *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
<th>Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags saved the district money.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags was appropriate to ensure a reasonable date for the end of the school year.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags to save money and shorten the school year was worth the effort to prepare and implement Blizzard Bag Assignments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The use of Blizzard Bags to save money and shorten the school year was worth the loss of actual face time in the classroom.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The following open ended questions are provided to 'pick your brain' regarding ideas on how we may improve different aspects of the Blizzard Bag program.

How may we make Blizzard Bags more effective for those students who need additional time or resources to complete the work?

How may we make Blizzard Bag Assignments more creative and yet remain linked to the curriculum?

How may we improve participation by students in completing Blizzard Bag Assignments for non-academic/elective courses?

I believe the most important thing we can do to improve the Blizzard Bag Program is to:

Select the statement that best embodies your sentiment about Blizzard Bag Days. *

Select an option

Please choose the level in which you spend the majority of your time working. *

Select an option

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