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St. Francis School District becomes a National Weather Service StormReady Supporter

National Weather Service officials have recognized the St. Francis School District as a StormReady® Supporter. The StormReady Supporter program is part of the larger StormReady program, a grass roots program designed to help communities establish severe weather safety plans and actively promote weather awareness. StormReady communities have made a strong commitment to implement the infrastructure and systems needed to save lives and protect property when severe weather strikes.

Tim Halbach, Warning Coordination Meteorologist of the National Weather Service office in Milwaukee will present the St. Francis School District with a certificate during a school board meeting at Willow Glen Primary School (2600 E. Bolivar Ave, St. Francis) on Monday, December 5th at 6:30pm.

“The staff at the St. Francis School District is taking a proactive approach to ensure that staff and students at their schools are safe from severe weather. Southeast Wisconsin is a very active area for severe weather when school is in session and outdoor activities are taking place. Plans have been developed for when hazardous weather occurs across the St. Francis School District thanks to the work of Jonathan Mitchell (Business Manager) and Mark McGinnis (Consulting Meteorologist). The parents of students within the St. Francis School District should be very happy with the steps the district has taken to ensure the safety of the students there,” said Tim Halbach, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Milwaukee.

“As we proceed with our district goals in nurturing kinder and more compassionate school and continuous improvement, we’ve enlisted the help of meteorologists, including representatives from the National Weather Service, to revise the Weather Hazard Plans in the district. Those experts came on site to review our facilities and offer feedback on our updated plans as we continue to improve our processes for safe practices and procedures during inclement weather. We take every precaution to ensure the safety of our students as we take the trust of parents to keep all students safe very seriously. This work to become a StormReady School District, along with ongoing feedback help the district reach the highest levels of safety preparedness for our school community,” said Jonathan Mitchell, Business Manager of the St. Francis School District.

The nationwide community preparedness program is a grassroots approach to preparing for natural hazards. Today, more than 2,500 StormReady communities and over 700 StormReady Supporters throughout the nation help citizens become better prepared for severe weather.

To be recognized as StormReady Supporter, an organization must promote the principles and most guidelines of the StormReady program, which includes maintaining a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center; having more than one way to receive National Weather Service warnings and to alert the public; monitoring local weather and flood conditions; conducting community preparedness programs; and ensuring hazardous weather and flooding are addressed in formal emergency management plans, which include training [SKYWARN](#)® weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

The NWS’s Milwaukee Forecast Office, located in Dousman, Wi., is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for about 3 million people in 20 Wisconsin counties. Join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Working with partners, the [National Weather Service](#) is building a [Weather-Ready Nation](#) to support community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather.

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