



UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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January 2016

Dear Parents,

The Upper Merion Area School District will again be participating in PJM's Demand Response program. This means that on really hot days (usually 90+ degrees) and or during power emergencies on the regional electricity grid, UMASD may be required to shut off as much electricity as possible throughout its buildings. Many other school districts, hospitals and businesses participate in Demand Response as a way to help prevent blackouts and brownouts in the local community during periods where there is increased demand for electricity for air conditioning. The program runs from June 1 through September 30, but typically the events occur in July and August.

This summer, if there are Demand Response events, UMASD will typically get a 30 minute notification to shut down around 2:00pm to 3:00pm in the afternoon and remain shut down until approximately 7:00pm. During this time, air will continue to circulate throughout the buildings, though the air conditioning will be off for a few hours.

We wanted to share this information with you since your child is attending a summer program in one of the Upper Merion schools. While our programs will continue to run during this temporary energy shut down, on occasion if conditions are severe, Upper Merion Park and Recreation may need to partake in early dismissal for programs. We want to stress that the request from PECO and PJM is rare. Over the past three years, a request was made less than 5 times. However, as we all can attest, we've had some unusually hot days, and so, we wanted you to be aware of the energy conservation steps the school district may be taking.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Sudha Suryadevara

Sudha Suryadevara
Recreation Superintendent
Upper Merion Township