



St. James School

Excellent Minds. Exceptional Hearts.

12/13/2019

St. James Parents,

As many of you may be aware, the state of Pennsylvania has approved the use of Flexible Instruction Days (FID) to be used when school need to. Please review this general information for how FID are going to work this year.

NORTH HILLS REGIONAL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
St. James School

1. How will inclement weather ("snow") days work for 2019-20?

- The first day that is called off is designed as the traditional inclement weather school closures. To be specific, that means there will be no required school work for the first Snow day, and students and staff will make up the day by going to school on Feb. 17, 2020. Flexible Instructional Days (FIDs) will be used for the next 5 days called off due to inclement weather. Should additional days be needed, April 8th and June 5th through the 10th will be used accordingly. When a Flexible Instructional Day will be used, a Parent alert message will go to all phone numbers and email addresses currently listed in the student information system; the message will indicate that the current day will be a Flexible Instructional Day.

2. How will my child(ren) receive their assignments?

- **Students in grades K-3** will receive their assignments from their individual classroom teacher's web page. All assignments will be posted by 9:00 am that morning.
- **Students in grades 4-8** will receive their assignment from their Google Classroom pages. All assignments will be posted by 9:00 am that morning.

3. When will teachers be available for digital assistance?

- Teachers will be available during a normal school day. Your child's teacher(s) will be available for assistance, via email, from 9:15 AM-11:30 AM and 1-3 PM during the FID.

4. What if a faculty member is sick or unavailable, how will that be communicated?

- Faculty members may not be available for FID just as they may be absent on any other school day. If a teacher is unavailable during a FID, parents will be notified. The assignments will still be posted, but the faculty member will not be available to answer questions by email. Any questions students may have will be answered upon returning to school the next day.

5. What is expected of my child(ren)?

- All students are expected to complete the classwork and homework assigned within three days of the FID.
- If a child does not have Internet access or equipment to log on, the child will have additional school days to make up the assignment and turn it into his/her instructor for full credit. The teacher may provide students with an offline version of the learning activities and assignments prior to the FID. Or, the student can obtain the assignment in a hard copy version during the next regular school day. Either way, students will have three days to complete the required learning activities and assignments.

6. What happens if my child(ren) does not complete the FID assignments?

- The student will lose the point value or grade for the assignment. This loss of points could negatively impact a student's marking period grade. Each teacher weights learning activities and assignments differently. It would be in the best interest of the student to complete the assignments within the three-day window.
- In addition, a student will be marked absent for that day if the work is not completed.

7. What if there is only one computer in the house, but multiple children?

- Students may need to share resources in the home or other locations. Some students may want to work on offline options while others complete online assignments. All students have the ability to request an offline version of the learning activities and assignments on the first day after students return to school.

8. How does student attendance work?

- Student attendance will be determined by verification and completion of the lesson and or assignment during the assignment window.

9. What if my child is ill on FID and cannot complete work?

- Write an excuse for the absence as you would any other day they are ill and return it to school with the child. The student would be expected to make up the learning activities and assignments within three days of returning to school just as if it were any other absence from school.

10. What if my child(ren) is on a pre-arranged absence?

- The student would be expected to make up the learning activities and assignments within three days of returning to school just as if it were any other absence from school.

11. What's the benefit of a FID?

- It will not require additional make up days to be needed - or to extend the school year to make up for inclement weather cancellations. FIDs are deemed a school day and count toward the number of instructional days/hours required under Article 15 of the Public School Code and Chapter 11 of the state Board of Education regulations.

12. What if my child(ren) has a Growth Plan??

- The FID lesson will be designed for students utilizing their program modifications, specially designed instruction and supplementary aids and services identified in their academic growth plans. Upon return from a FID, teachers will meet with their students to review work submitted, checking for completion and understanding. If needed, students will have additional school days to complete assignments.