

November 12, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians of Holy Name of Jesus School:

The State of Pennsylvania is now allowing schools across the state to use five Flexible Instructional Days as part of the calendar. Flexible Instructional Days are to be used when, in ordinary circumstances, school could not be held – when school is closed for inclement weather, or in similar circumstances.

All the schools in the Diocese of Harrisburg are implementing this approach this year. Therefore, Holy Name of Jesus School will have five Flexible Instructional Days in the calendar.

When school is cancelled, you will be informed that we are using a Flexible Instructional Day. A flexible instructional day is considered a full instructional school day. It will count for a full school day and these school days will NOT need to be added to the calendar in order to make up for a missed school day.

Why are we implementing Flexible Instructional Days?

We are doing so because we believe that continuity of instruction is important. In adding make up days to other points in our calendar, we are sometimes making up a day but losing momentum in learning. Flexible Instructional Days allow us to continue to learn and provide a chance to do so in ways that are creative and engaging.

How will a Flexible Instructional Day work?

Once we have established a flexible instructional day, students will work on the lessons that the teachers have provided. Some teachers will be sending home a packet of work with instructions the day before a predicted storm. Other teachers will be posting the assignments on the Parent Portal. Students will be required to complete work for each of the classes they have that particular day according to the schedule. Spanish, Art, Music, Computer, Physical Education, and Library will only have an assignment if this class is part of your child's schedule that day. Every teacher will be posting instructions and expectations of their assignments on the Parent Portal. Throughout the Flexible Instructional Day teachers will be available from 9:00am to 3:00pm via email to answer any questions the student would have regarding their assignment. Students are expected to complete the given assignments and turn them in as requested the first day back to school.

If the weather necessitates an additional Flexible Instructional Day before our return to school, the teacher will be posting additional work for the second Flexible Instructional Day.

How will my child find his assignment?

Log on to your child's Plus Portals account www.plusportals.com/hnjs

The class page will contain the assignments for the day.

The teacher will post the assignments by 9:00am.

How will we know that this is working well?

The completion of work will equate to attendance at school for that day. The State of Pennsylvania requires that we take attendance that day. In order for Holy Name of Jesus School to count these Flexible Instructional Days as a school calendar day, students MUST complete their work as required.

How will you know that it is a Flexible Instructional Day?

When you receive a phone call, text, and email from me the evening before or the morning of a school cancellation, I will be including in my message that it is a Flexible Instructional Day.

Remember we are only permitted five Flexible Instructional Days. All other days will be make-up days.

Thank you for your understanding, support, and cooperation! We are excited for this new undertaking and are grateful for your trust and assistance in this new endeavor.

Please contact me at sisterrita@holynameofjesus.com or 717-657-1704 if you have any questions.

Blessings,

Sister Rita Smith, SSJ
Principal