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Explanation of Virtual/Flexible Instruction Day

1 message

Marybeth Okula <principal@stjaneschool.com>

Tue, Feb 9, 2021 at 2:05 PM

Reply-To: principal@stjaneschool.com

To: principal@stjaneschool.com

February 9, 2021**Dear Parents,**

Last year the Pennsylvania Department of Education allowed us to create flexible instructional days to help alleviate the number of snow days that we have to take due to the unpredictable winters we have experienced over the last couple of years. This was a pre-pandemic plan that would allow us to NOT have to make up snow days beyond the 4 snow days we already built into our yearly calendar. Of course, last year brought a full shut down of school which was beyond anything we could have imagined.

This year, while we were following the Diocesan approved Flexible Instruction Day Plan, we are finding that we are again exhausting our snow days.

Here's some background information: Many of our public school districts are in hybrid mode, and we are finding they will not transport our students on inclement weather days. They have the ability to go virtual very easily. So we are stuck in a very awkward situation. We have many school districts sending their students to our schools. It is quite a challenge.

Our next snow day will be a combination of virtual in the morning and flexible independent work in the afternoon (for some grades). This will give our teachers an opportunity to teach new materials and allow your children to interact with their classmates and teachers. Please let your child's teacher (be sure to copy me and Mr. Dicker on your request) know if you would require a chromebook if another snow day is predicted. (Look at the forecasts for Thursday and Friday, and next week. We will send home chromebooks with the students that need them starting tomorrow. Chromebooks should ONLY be used for school learning activities. If you borrow a chromebook, we ask that they are charged and returned to school the next day.) If your child has a special class scheduled on the day that we are virtual/flexible, they will zoom in with that teacher. Specials classes would be about 20 minutes long on virtual/flex days. A virtual schedule would look something like this:

8:00 - 11:00 a.m.* Zoom virtually with the teacher. Depending on your child's grade, there would be more or less time on zoom. Teachers will provide a virtual schedule to their class tomorrow.

11:00 - 12:00 p.m. Lunch

12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Independent Work/Classwork/Homework

***7th and 8th grade have a full day virtual schedule with lunch, independent time and office hours built in.**

We are really trying to find a balance in this school for everyone. Unfortunately, we cannot predict weather with the accuracy that we think we can.

From the Pennsylvania Department of Education Plan: For each Flexible Instructional Day, students must receive instruction in each of these content areas:

- **High School: English, Foreign Language or alternative six major subject, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Theology**
- **Elementary (K-8): Reading, Language Arts (English/Spelling), Mathematics and Religion.**

Grades 5-8 must also include Social Studies and Science.

- **Assignments should be 20-30 minutes per subject**
- **Students must submit work no later than 48 hours beyond Flexible Instruction Day to potentially receive full credit for any assignments.**
- **Students who do not complete and submit work within the required time frame will not receive credit for the assignments and will be marked absent.**

We need to continue to remain flexible and supportive of the hard work and dedication of our entire school community including you, our parents.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Okula, Principal

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