



November 2019

Dear St. Catherine Laboure Parents:

Thanks be to God that the State of Pennsylvania is now allowing schools across the state to use 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.

I am pleased to announce that our school, and all schools in the Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg, are implementing this approach this school year.

**Here is some information on how this will work.**

When school is called off, you will be informed that we are using a Flexible Instructional Day. A flexible instructional day is a full instructional school day. It will count for a full school day *(pending the attendance count which will be determined based on the assignments turned in)* and school days will NOT need to be added to the calendar in order to make up for a missed school day.

**FAQs**

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 and that can involve parents more fully in the learning process as well.

How will this work?

Once we have established a flexible instructional day, students will work on the lessons that the teachers have provided them. The lesson may be provided differently by teacher and grade level (i.e. pre-distributed packets/instructions, email assignments, etc.) Teachers will check emails periodically throughout the day between the hours of 9am and 3pm during a flexible instructional day.

Students will be asked to complete given assignments and turn them in, as requested. Please know that there will, of course, be an element of instruction in our Catholic faith included in each FID.

What kind of work will students need to do?

We hope parents will be able to engage in this work with children. As the primary educators of your children, this is an opportunity for you to be more intimately involved in the learning process of our school. Our teachers will focus on work that is engaging and worthwhile, and we will NOT give additional or surprise assessments as part of this process.

How will we know that this is working well?

Teachers will know that this process is effective if the vast majority of our students are completing their assignments and completing them with accuracy. The completion of work will equate to attendance at school for that day. The state gives us great flexibility, but they do insist that we have a measurement for our attendance for each day, including Flexible Instructional Days, and we will abide closely to that expectation. If the vast majority of our students do not complete their work as required, we will NOT be able to count this day as a school calendar day.

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 matter, as in all things.

Blessings and best wishes to you and your family. We will be in touch with more information on Flexible Instructional Days.

Jodi Reagan

Principal