



Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School

Holy Family Campus
555 S. 25th Street
Harrisburg, PA 17104
Phone: 717- 232-2551
Fax: 717-232-9661
www.hbgcathelem.org

Cathedral Campus
Church & Liberty Streets
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Phone: 717-234-3797
Fax: 717-213-2000

Expanding Minds, Growing Hearts



November 2019

Dear 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 Harrisburg Catholic, 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 if 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 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 teachers will have enough notice, when one of these days are to be used, that they will be able to provide a work packet to be completed at home. Teachers will be available by email from 9 to 3 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 of 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 at their level. 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. We will be able to verify attendance through the percentage of students who completed the required assignments.

What if a student does not complete the work?

Should the required assignments not be completed, all missing work will be recorded as a missing assignment and the individual teacher policy for completing missing work will apply.

What if my child is sick on a flexible instructional day?

If your student is sick on one of our flexible instructional days, please call into a school office and leave a voice mail or send an email to either school office secretary. By doing this, your child will be recorded as an excused absence for the day. All individual teacher policies will apply in regard to making up work due to sickness.

If days begin occurring before Friday, February 14:

- Then Harrisburg Catholic will make up one day on Friday, February 14.
- If Harrisburg Catholic has a reason to make up a second day before the above day, we will make it up on Friday, June 5.
- If Harrisburg Catholic has a reason to make up days # 3 through #7 before or after the above day we will be using flexible instructional days.
- If Harrisburg Catholic has a reason to make up day #8 before or after the above day we will make it up on Thursday, April 9.

If days begin occurring after Friday, February 14:

- Then Harrisburg Catholic will make up one day on Friday, June 5.
- If Harrisburg Catholic has a reason to make up days #2 through #6 after the above day we will be using flexible instructional days.
- If Harrisburg Catholic has a reason to make up day #7 after the above day we will make it up on Thursday, April 9

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.

Many blessings and best wishes to you and your family.

Mr. David Rushinski
Principal
Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School