



Flexible Instruction Days Information Sheet

What is a Flexible Instruction Day (FID)?

A FID is used in place of a school day that has been cancelled due to inclement weather or other emergency situations. On a Flexible Instruction Day (FID), students will complete learning activities and assignments provided by their teachers at home on the day that otherwise would have been cancelled. Students will receive learning activities and assignments for each subject that would have originally taken place during a regular school day. FID(s) will not be made up like a traditional cancellation day.

The PA Department of Education (PDE) has approved Divine Mercy Academy to use up to five (5) Flexible Instruction Days per year.

How will parents and students find the FID learning activities and assignments?

All classroom teachers in grades K-8 have given the students a folder with the lessons and assignments. These folders are to remain in the students' backpacks at all times.

Why are we providing students with paper copies?

Not all students have technology accessible at home. Moreover, in the event of a power outage, the students have the work already at home to complete.

How did Divine Mercy Academy explore and prepare for the use of Flexible Instruction Days?

In July 2019, The PA Department of Education (PDE) provided schools with an opportunity to use Flexible Instruction Days when schools are cancelled due to inclement weather or other emergency situations. Teachers were informed at a faculty meeting of the possibility of Flexible Instruction Days and have been carefully preparing the lessons and activities that have been added to the folders. Additionally, the use of FID(s) has been discussed and approved by Diocesan officials.

How will inclement weather ("snow") days work for 2020?

For up to five (5) of the school closures due to inclement weather or emergency situations, Divine Mercy Academy will call for a Flexible Instruction Day (FID). Should additional days be needed, (in excess of five), those would become traditional make-up days. Again, FID(s) will not be made up like a traditional cancellation day.

What is expected of students?

Parents/Guardians are expected to either respond to the teacher's *REMIND app* message that their child is in attendance and will complete the work for that day or send an email message to the teacher that their child is in attendance and will complete the work for that day. Students

are expected to complete the work in their FID(s) folder for that day. The students must submit their assignments two (2) days after returning to school.

What is expected of teachers?

The teachers have thoughtfully prepared lessons for each class, which is contained in each child's FID(s) Folder. When a Flexible Instruction Day is called teachers are to be available from 8:20 – 10:20 am through email or the REMIND app to answer any and all questions students or parents may have. After assignments are completed, teachers are to grade the assignments and place a grade in Option C.

Teachers may also answer questions before a FID(s) is announced.

What happens if a student 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. It would be in the best interest of the student to complete assignments within the two-day window. In addition, a student will be marked absent for that day if the work is not completed.

What if a student is on a pre-arranged absence?

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

What's the benefit of a FID?

It will not require make-up days to be needed – or to extend the school year to make up for inclement weather cancellations. FID(s) 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, and because Divine Mercy Academy receives funding from the state of Pennsylvania the same rules apply.

What if I have a student with a growth plan?

Upon return from a FID(s), teachers of students with growth plans 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.

Can my child opt out of the FID(s) day?

Yes. Your child will be marked absent for the FID(s); like any absence, work must be completed in a timely fashion to receive credit (5 days after an absence).