

A Guide to Flexible Learning for Parents, Guardians & Students

Why are we implementing Flexible Learning?

The state requires that students are in school for 165 days and for the following number of minutes each year:

- 935 hours of instruction for a student in grades 1-6
- 1,020 hours of instruction for a student in grades 7-12, not including summer school



Our school district has 170 days for students in grades K-11. Grades 1-6 are well above the hour minimum and are not a concern. Grades 7 and 8 could have up to three canceled days due to weather before falling below the minimum. However, with one canceled school day due to weather, the high school falls below the hours' requirement.

While some districts around us implement digital learning due to a weather-related cancellation, we chose a proactive approach that allows for better planning and communication. In order to create a buffer to allow for weather-related cancellations, we are adding up to 3 flexible learning days.

We recognize that Flexible Learning Days cannot replace the face-to-face time students have with their teachers. But Flexible Learning days can also negate the need for makeup school days during breaks or in June, helping families more effectively plan summer activities.

What is a Flexible Learning Day?

- A Flexible Learning Day is a day planned in advance for students to participate in learning activities in lieu of a school day. Flexible learning occurs on days that teachers are at school but not students.
- These are pre-planned days that are not related to weather cancellations.
- The 3 Flexible Learning Days for 2019-2020 are as follows:
 - Friday, October 4
 - Tuesday, November 5
 - Friday, May 1

How do Flexible Learning Days Work?

- Teachers will post assignments in advance of the Flexible Learning Day, no later than two days before the scheduled day.
- Assignments will be due within 3 school days after the Flexible Learning Day.
- There will be no more than 15-20 minutes worth of work assigned per class.



What about students needing accommodations?

Students with IEPs and/or EL Students will be provided assignments that have been modified as necessary, similar to what happens on a regular school day.

Do I need to have Internet at home?

No. If the assignment required is digital, students without access to the internet at home will have the opportunity to download work in advance so that it does not impact their ability to participate.

How does the rotation of Day A/Day B apply to Flexible Learning?

We are intentionally choosing the rotation for flexible learning days. October 4 will be a Day A. November 5 will be a Day B. May 1 will be a Day A. The rotation for regular school days remains as shown in the table below.

October 4	November 5	May 1
Day A	Day B	Day A

How will attendance be taken?

- Students will be marked present by their teacher on the flexible learning day.
- Students will receive the assignment 2 days before the flexible learning day and have the 3 school days following the flexible learning day to submit their assignment. (A total of 5 days)
- Teachers have 3 days to review student submissions.
- Students that do not submit their assignments by the due date will be marked absent for each class that an assignment is not submitted.
- Students can submit assignments following the due date according to each teacher's late work practice, but their attendance will not be changed.

Assignment Given (No later than)	Flexible Learning Day	Assignment Due
October 2, 2019	October 4, 2019 (Day A)	October 9, 2019
October 31, 2019	November 5, 2019 (Day B)	November 8, 2019
April 29, 2020	May 1, 2020 (Day A)	May 6, 2020

What if my child is ill?

Because students have five days (2 before and 3 after) to complete the flexible learning assignment, we do not anticipate the need to call in a student sick. Exceptions to this may be for a student that has a long illness/hospitalization, etc.

Thank you for your support and patience as we navigate this first year together. We will be seeking out feedback on what works and does not work along the way so that we continually improve.