



November 4, 2019

Dear North Catholic Family,

It's hard to believe that the school year is already a quarter of the way over! I'm sure you've noticed the shift in weather from what was a moderate summer into some delightfully brisk fall days. I've heard many people say that Pittsburgh is one of the only places you can experience all four seasons in a week, or even a day! Given the unpredictable nature of the weather in Pittsburgh, I felt it was important to communicate with you regarding the progress of North Catholic High School implementing Flexible Instruction Days in place of snow days.

Many school districts have been utilizing this program in an effort to maintain a consistent school schedule and not extend instruction well into the month of June. In fact, a few of our teachers were part of a very early pilot program in our diocese in 2009 where these days proved to be invaluable for the school community. With the introduction of Schoology, we are more prepared than ever to offer the ability for Snowbound and Homebound Instruction on days where it is necessary.

In the event of inclement weather, we will make the determination that the school building will be closed as per the norm, but the alert on the local news will state: North Catholic High School: Building Closed. An email will be sent to all students alerting them that they need to log in to Schoology by 9 AM and complete the initial attendance assessment located on their first period class page. Failure to complete this assessment will mark them absent for the day. If for some reason a student must be absent, please use the Formstack you typically use on a regular school day. Every teacher will have a posted assignment/activity that will be accompanied by instructions. Students are obliged to complete the assignment or activity for the teacher as per their instructions. Some teachers may collect the assignments via Schoology during the day, others may choose to collect it when students return to school. Once the student has completed their assignments, they may continue to enjoy their day away from school.

As with most new endeavors, I'm sure this will take some adjustment. I am certain the students will be happy that their school year has a definitive end date, and that regardless of how severe a winter we may have, they can get the most of their summer break. I appreciate the passion you have for your students' education and for choosing North Catholic High School.

Fortes in Fide,

Michael R. Palcsey

Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs