

To: St. Brigid School Community

From: Bill Burke, Principal

November 17, 2022

Snow Days

The winter and spring months of the year bring school closings and make-up days that over the years have proven to be disruptive to the school calendar and instructional programs for students. Unforeseen make-up days impact school-sponsored and personal activities, including planned vacations, faculty professional development programs, and other St. Brigid events.

To eliminate the need to extend the school year into the summer St. Brigid School uses a process that allows learning to take place at home on school days canceled due to weather. This does not include delayed openings. There may be instances when “Snow School” will be a traditional snow day. This information will be communicated to you via FastDirect.

The process is intended to provide meaningful learning experiences for St. Brigid students. Parents and students are encouraged to integrate the following strategies into their snow day academic time:

- Establish a quiet learning space and remove distractions to learning.
- Create a routine for doing schoolwork. Start early in the day.
- Review the assignments (paper copy or online) that need to be completed. Ideally, parents should review the assigned work with their child and check their child’s completed work. Students should set goals for completing their work.
- Use online tools to communicate with the teacher during the day. Teachers will designate “office hours” when they will be available to communicate with students/parents

Since the number of school closures due to weather related issues is impossible to predict, I reserve the right to change course and make up snow days in June if any unforeseen complications arise from this effort to provide a solid end date to the academic year.

Please read on to learn more specifics about the process of snow day assignments.

Sincerely,

Bill Burke

Principal

General Procedures for Snow Days

- All parents and staff members will receive a message via Fast Direct when school is going to be closed due to weather related issues between the hours of 5:00 AM and 5:30 AM. All school closings will also appear on local television stations.
- Delayed starts will begin at 9 AM or 10 AM depending on weather conditions. There will be no before care on a delayed start day and students must arrive no earlier than 30 minutes before the start of school. This means the earliest drop off time on a delayed start is either 8:30 or 9:30
- Snow day assignments may be accessed using a method of notification defined by the classroom teacher. The methods may include: Assignment folders sent home prior to a school cancellation; a group email message; a Google Classroom posting; or on the teacher Bulletin Board found on Fast Direct.
- Students are only expected to complete assignments for the classes they would have been scheduled to attend on the day that is canceled. (For example: On Monday, middle school (MS) Social Studies does not meet; therefore, students would not have work to complete for MS Social Studies on a Monday snow day.)
- Assignments are due as specified by the student's teacher(s). Usually on the next day that school is in session. All completed work will be graded by the teacher(s)
- If power and connectivity permit, St. Brigid teachers will be available to students via email for questions from 9:00AM - 1:00 pm. Please note that an immediate response to an email may not be possible.
- If a home is without power, students must communicate with their teachers once the power is restored or on the next school day. Assigned work will be due on the next day that school is in session or at a reasonable time, as determined by the teacher.
- If consecutive snow days occur, teachers will communicate assignments for each additional snow day by 10:00 am via email, Google Classroom, or another method of communication.
- Check below for additional procedures specific to your child's grade level.

PreK - Grade 5 Snow Day Procedures

The purpose of Snow Day assignments is to keep moving forward with curriculum objectives by grade when face-to-face instruction is not possible due to school closings. PreK-grade 5 students will be investing on average about **60-90 minutes (at least 30 minutes being devoted to reading) on snow days.**

- Each grade level will have assignments provided using one of the following methods: in advance of a cancellation (Snow Day Packet), posting on Google Classroom, posting on individual teacher's Fast Direct Bulletin Board; or communicated via diocesan or cathedme.org email. Teachers will communicate their method of assigning snow day assignments to the families of their students.
- Assignments or activities are due (usually) on the day students return to school.
- All students are expected to complete assignments independently, putting forth their personal best effort.
- Students will not be Zooming on snow days.
- Additional assignments that are posted for multiple consecutive Snow Days will be designed to sustain learning experiences that align with the curriculum.

Middle School Snow Day Procedures

Snow Day assignments give students the opportunity to engage in relevant work when school is closed due to inclement weather. Accordingly, Middle School teachers will provide assignments in advance, post lessons on their Fast Direct Bulletin Board, communicate assignments via diocesan or cathedme.org email, or through Google Classroom to promote student progress towards current curriculum goals. Assignments are designed to take approximately **90-120 minutes (in total) to complete.**

- Completed assignments for each class are to be submitted by the next scheduled session of that class.
- Students are encouraged to communicate with teachers via email by 1 PM if there are questions.
- All students are expected to complete assignments independently, putting forth their personal best effort.
- Students will not be Zooming on snow days.
- Additional assignments that are posted for consecutive snow days will be designed to sustain learning experiences that align with the curriculum.