

NEW BRIGHTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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December 21, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

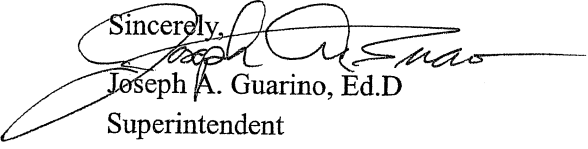
I am pleased to announce that the New Brighton Area School District has been approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to utilize Flexible Instruction Days. The definition of Flexible Instruction is simply school work that is prepared by your child's classroom teacher(s) to be utilized during a school cancellation day. Flexible Instructional Days (FID) would be utilized during days when school is cancelled due to power outage, inclement/frigid weather, etc. This would enable our district to keep the school calendar intact and not use a snow make-up day as our students have the ability to work from home on assigned lessons. FID lessons are lessons that support the learning in each subject area. If weather, or other conditions exist that require the district to cancel school, a decision will be made to utilize a FID or continue to follow the school calendar utilizing the identified snow make-up days.

If school must be cancelled, a decision will be made by approximately 6:00 AM. On these days, a mass phone communication message will go out to all families. The message will indicate that this will be either a Flexible Instructional Day (FID) or the day will be a cancellation and made-up during one of the district calendar assigned make-up days. Additionally, this information will be advertised on the District's website and other social media pages. It is important to note that, currently, local television stations that advertise school delays/closings may not offer a message that indicates if the District will be using a Flexible Instructional Day for a closure. Therefore, please listen to the phone message and view the District website and other social media pages.

On FID days students are to complete assigned lessons. They may log into Schoology, access the page for each of their classroom teachers, and follow the FID lessons. Some grade levels or teachers may elect to send home FID packets, if this is done please keep this in a place at home that you will be able to find them when a FID day is called. If a teacher is using Schoology and there is a concern with access at home, please contact the teacher and request a paper packet; all FID digital lessons can be made available via paper packet upon request. Teachers will be available online during the instructional day to provide assistance, work with students as needed, or provide instructional help. Students who do not complete the FID assignments will be reported as an excused or unexcused absence.

As this is a new program, your feedback to this program will be encouraged. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Guarino, Ed.D

Superintendent

See Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on back

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What happens on a FID day?

Students are given work via Schoology or paper packets (if requested). This work is in line with the goals of their course/grade and aligned to what is covered in that grade. Students can work on their assignments using their district issued device (iPad or Chromebook). The assignments are turned in electronically no later than the day we return to school. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances.

2. How will I know it is a FID day?

The School Messenger phone blast will identify the day as a “cancellation” or a “FID.” If it is identified as a FID, your child should log into his/her Schoology account to complete their assignments or you should retrieve the paper packet that was sent home and complete the appropriate lesson.

3. Do we have to make up a FID day like we make up snow days?

No, we were approved by the PA Department of Education to have FID days. If we complete a FID day, we do not have to make it up.

4. What is the purpose of a FID day?

All too often we lose days due to snow or other reasons and have to make up these days. With our transition to 1:1 technology, students and teachers have the ability to remain connected, continue in their learning, and utilize some of that “stuck inside” time on those bad weather days to keep learning and not have to make up the day when the weather is nice outside. There is absolutely no reason that a child can’t enjoy a snow day and go outside and play. Work can be completed at your own pace on a FID day so you can play outside in the snow all day and complete work later or work early and then play later. We fully support that kids should be kids and enjoy the day and FIDs are just an added benefit to allow us to continue learning on those days and maintain our school calendar.

5. Where will my child’s work be?

Work will be posted to Schoology or paper packets (if requested) can be sent home. If you cannot access Schoology, please call your child’s building office and arrangements will be made for paper packets to be available for you to pick-up.

6. What if my child cannot participate?

You should contact your child’s teacher(s) and/or the building office to explain the situation. We will work with you on an alternative solution and/or provide extended time as necessary.

7. What if my child does not turn in his/her work?

If your child does not turn in his/her work on the day we return to school, they will be marked absent for the FID day.

8. What if my child is sick?

If your child is sick and you cannot complete the FID lessons for that day, you should call your child’s building office and report him/her as being sick. He/she will be marked as absent for that day and the teacher will work with your child on what needs to be completed once he/she is better, just as would occur if your child was absent on a normal school day.