



South Park School District
Central Administration Offices
2005 Eagle Ridge Drive
South Park, PA 15129
412-655-3111 • Fax: 412-655-2952
www.sparksd.org

South Park School District

December 20, 2019

South Park Families:

As we get ready to turn the calendar to 2020, I wanted to take a moment to briefly introduce you to a new option the South Park School District soon will have when classes must be canceled due to extreme cold or certain other circumstances. Much more information about this new option will be shared with you in a few weeks. However, I felt it would be helpful to inform you of this new alternative prior to the winter break.

In July 2019, Governor Tom Wolf signed a bill which gives Pennsylvania school districts greater flexibility in providing quality instruction while also meeting the time and day requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Flexible instruction allows students to complete classwork at home should a situation occur which would prevent normal operations in one school or throughout the district. These situations include a disease epidemic, a hazardous weather condition, a law enforcement emergency, the inoperability of school buses or other equipment necessary to the public school entity's operation, damage to a school building or a temporary circumstance rendering any portion of a school building unfit or unsafe for use. Flexible instructional programs may be online, offline or a combination of the two.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education recently approved the South Park School District's application to participate in Pennsylvania's new flexible instructional program. The South Park School District's flexible instructional program will be a combination of online and offline assignments depending on a student's grade level. The South Park School District plans to implement flexible instructional days (FIDs) during extreme cold weather or other situations in which one or more school buildings must be closed due to an unplanned circumstance. The district will determine whether a flexible instruction day will be called on a case-by-case basis. These types of closures will not automatically be flexible instructional days. ***The South Park School District will not use its flexible instructional program on days when school is closed due to hazardous driving conditions.*** The South Park School District can begin to use flexible instructional days in mid- to late-January and may use no more than five (5) flexible instructional days per school year.



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Since most of our students utilize district-issued Chromebooks, much of the flexible instructional day assignments throughout the district will be delivered digitally through Google Classroom. Our younger students will receive their flexible instructional day assignments as packets which will be sent home before a flexible instructional day is ever called. On flexible instructional days, teachers will be available to answer questions by phone or email.

The district's flexible instructional program will be finalized over the coming weeks. In early 2020, we will provide a complete overview of the district's program, including in-depth details about how and when students in each grade will receive their assignments for a flexible instructional day, the timeline for submitting completed flexible instructional day work that ensures students who may not have home internet access are able to complete the assignments, and the date when flexible instructional days may begin to be used. Once again, flexible instructional days will not be used on days when school is closed due to hazardous driving conditions.

We hope you and your family have an enjoyable and safe winter break, and we wish you the best in the new year.

Sincerely,

Wayne P. Gdovic
Superintendent of Schools