

## Important Parent Updates: December 21st & 22nd; Flex Fridays Extended; COVID Protocols; GET CONNECTED

Dear Parents:

**December 21st & 22nd:** This is a reminder that there will be no in-person instruction on these two days. Students will learn remotely. It is important that students are in attendance remotely and complete all assigned work. More information will be provided by directors and / or teachers. Please reach out to your child's teacher or advisor if you have any questions.

**Flex Fridays Extended:** After prayerful and thoughtful consideration, the leadership team has determined to extend Flex Fridays through the end of the school year. This decision converts 16 Fridays to Flex Fridays between January and May of 2022.

While there are lots of reasons for this decision, the main ones are as follows:

The circumstances that led to Flex Fridays, ie, COVID-19, continue to be a significant problem in our school and community as evidenced by an increasing number of cases statewide. COVID has created two very specific operational challenges:

Higher than usual student absences, requiring teachers to provide support for students who are sick, quarantined at home or catching up on work from an extended absence.

Higher than usual teacher and staff absences, requiring teachers and administrators to take on extra tasks for their absent colleagues.

Flex Fridays have provided teachers and staff with the opportunity to:

Enable all students to continue learning via remote instruction.

Provide interventions and materials for students who are falling behind as a result of absences.

Prepare materials and lessons for in-person and remote students for the following week.

Receive professional development

Additionally, Flex Fridays decrease the likelihood of the spread of the virus within the school community and assist in supporting the mental and emotional health of students and staff.

**COVID Protocols:** As COVID cases have continued to climb over the past several months, we have seen an increase in infections and quarantines amongst students and staff. With the appearance of the Omicron variant, we are likely to see this trend continue. Parents can help our efforts to keep students and staff safe by taking the following actions:

Get vaccinated. Children 5 and older are now eligible. Vaccinated children are safer and are able to stay in school if they have a close contact with the virus. If you have not done so already, please consider getting your child vaccinated.

Talk to your child about the importance of masking and social distancing.

Send your child to school with a mask.

Diligently report health symptoms and keep your child at home if he / she is sick.

Together, we can keep all students and staff safe and beat COVID. Thank you for your help.

**GET CONNECTED:** To receive important updates from the school **TEXT "Y" to 67587**. To get connected to other parents, learn about community events, home ownership and financial

literacy trainings and other important news, join our Facebook parent group at [www.facebook.com/groups/stmarcusschoolparents](http://www.facebook.com/groups/stmarcusschoolparents)

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's principal if you have any questions on any of the above information.

Thank you and God Bless,

Henry Tyson  
North Campus Middle School Director & Superintendent  
St. Marcus Lutheran School  
2215 N. Palmer Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(C) (414) 303-2133  
[henry.tyson@stmarcus.org](mailto:henry.tyson@stmarcus.org)