



January 2024

Dear School Faculty and Administration,

Warmest Christian greetings from the Assemblies of God churches in Pennsylvania and Delaware! It is my hope that you would consider the absence of _____ on Friday, January ____, 2024 as an excused absence for religious observation. We do realize that each student is responsible for any assignments that they miss. This student will be attending one of our annual Winter Retreats, which are a long-standing tradition for Assemblies of God churches and students in Pennsylvania and Delaware.

The Assemblies of God is a fellowship of Pentecostal churches. We are the seventh largest Protestant denomination in the United States, and the fourth largest Protestant body in the world. Integral to the practice of our faith is gathering together for worship (Hebrews 10:25, John 4:23, 1 Corinthians 12:13), hearing and reflecting together on the scriptures found in the Bible (Acts 2:42, 1 Timothy 4:13, 2 Timothy 3:16), and experiencing the interactive nature of the Holy Spirit through these cooperative disciplines (1 Corinthians 12-14, Acts 2, Acts 10:44-46).

To accomplish these disciplines of our faith and in accordance with the Biblical precedent (Mark 6:31, Acts 1:14), it is our tradition to meet together in a retreat format annually each January. For many students, this retreat is a marker in their faith journey. It is a significant moment in their spiritual development and is considered vital for Pentecostal spiritual formation. This year's Winter Retreats will take place January 12-14, 19-21, and 26-28, 2024 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. This student will be attending one of these retreat weekends. Thank you for considering this religious observance in granting an excused absence.

Thank you, sincerely, for your service to the local community through education. Please do not hesitate to contact me (717) 795-5921 if there are any questions or concerns that I can help you with.

Sincerely,

Rev. Joseph Cali.
Youth Director
PennDel Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God