

Calendar FAQ

Who led the calendar development committee? Susan Kern, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, coordinated the calendar development and creation process in order to assure the calendar was developed to meet the required student instructional time and provide professional development for our district staff.

Who participated in the collaboration? The calendar was developed through a collaborative effort with input and review from multiple stakeholders including: elementary, middle, and high school teaching staff, clerical support staff, administration, paraprofessionals, MACS system representation, Chippewa Yellow Bus Company, and district directors.

I see that teaching staff have one day planned for professional development in August before the start of the school year. Why? In order to balance the semester required instructional minutes as well as meet the certified staff contractual requirements, that day was placed in August. This will provide time for the district staff to engage in required training and allow for professional development aligned to our strategic plan to prepare for the new school year.

I see that August 30th is blank. Why? To assure that the calendar accounts for the required amount of instructional minutes and to assure that contractual obligations are being met, the committee agreed that it was better to have the Friday off before Labor Day to allow for families and our staff to have a long weekend prior to the return of students after Labor Day than it was to end the school year a day earlier.

Do all students attend school on September 3rd? No. September 3rd is reserved for the elementary open houses, the middle and high school orientations for 6th grade (WEB) and 9th grade (LINK), respectively.

So all students attend school on September 4th? September 4th will be the first day of school for all students in 4K and grades 1-12. Kindergarten students will attend either September 4th or September 5th depending on their scheduled day which is communicated by their building principal. All Kindergarten students will attend on Friday September 6th.

What is the difference between an in-service day, professional development day, and work day? In-service days are utilized to come together as a whole district to reunite and adequately prepare for the school year ahead. District level and building level meetings are conducted during this time to minimize disruption to instructional and planning time during the school year.

Professional development days are planned by the District based on the professional development needs of our staff aligned to our district and building level strategic plans (scorecards).

Work days have been strategically placed in the calendar to provide dedicated time for staff to engage in job specific work such as; preparations for the start of the school year, grading, reporting, collaboration, unit/lesson planning, etc. Building administrators may also schedule staff meetings on these days as well.

I see that there are 6 full professional development days built into the calendar throughout the year. Why 6? Having a guaranteed and viable Pre-K to 12 curriculum in all content areas is a priority of our District, therefore, these days are necessary to engage in that work. The full days of professional development is a high priority for both staff and administration. Based on feedback, all day PD days are preferred over half days by both staff and parents.

Why is the October PD day so close to the November work day? State conferences for our music, PE, and art areas typically fall on the last Friday of October. Because substitute teachers are so challenging to secure, placing a PD day here minimizes that demand. Additionally, the work day is placed to best accommodate the wrap up of first term classes at the high school and the preparation of a new term beginning.

I see that there are 5 work days scheduled for staff throughout the year. Why? Teachers will be provided 5 work days. To account for the increase in work days, the number of professional development days was decreased. This adjustment was made based on feedback collected from staff during rounding and the calendar development process. With the changes in building schedules, the additional work days will allow for teachers to adequately prepare for each new term throughout the year and a day to wrap up before summer break.

Why do students have the full week off at Thanksgiving? It is important for us to maximize our student contact days for instructional purposes. In past years when school was conducted during that week, student attendance was not as favorable as we would like it to be. This is an ideal time for staff to engage in professional development and collaboration opportunities around their professional goals and student learner outcome goals.

Are there snow days built into this calendar? Yes. Additional student contact minutes have been built into the calendar in case time is needed to cover time off for inclement weather.

Why is Spring Break the week of March 10 - March 14? Spring Break was placed during this week to bring balance and flow to the third term of instruction, to minimize disruption to the state testing schedule, and to minimize the costs associated with bussing conflicts with MACS. Having Spring Break this week also is strategic in having equidistant time from Winter Break to Spring Break and from Spring Break to the end of the school year.

Why is graduation on Friday, May 23rd? The state requires a fixed number of instructional minutes for each level. In order to meet the state required minutes, this was the earliest that our seniors could graduate and meet the required minutes. Feedback from parents and school officials indicated that a Friday evening graduation is more favorable than a Sunday or weekday graduation. Having graduation on Friday evening works in favor of **all** seniors having the opportunity to participate in the graduation ceremony without conflict.