

Calendar FAQ

Who led the calendar development committee? Kathleen Coppenbarger, Director of Teaching & Learning, 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, and district directors.

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 unite in our mission, vision, and goals. 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 a staff meeting on these days as well.

Why does the calendar for staff have days listed with “Work/In-Service/PD TBD”? We recognize the importance of the full days dedicated to instructional planning and professional development (PD) for both staff and administration. This is why the calendar currently lists these days as "Work/In-Service/PD TBD." The 'TBD' designation allows us to make the best use of this time. This spring, we will review several key areas—including our progress toward strategic plan goals, student performance and needs, and staff learning and collaboration needs. After this comprehensive review, we will establish specific designations and detailed agendas for each of the listed days.

Does school start on August 31st? No. August 31st is reserved for the elementary staff to engage in preparations with a work day. The middle and high schools will conduct their student orientations for 6th grade (WEB) and 9th grade (LINK), respectively on this day.

Do all students attend school on September 1st? No. September 3rd will be the first day of school for all students in and grades 1-12. Kindergarten students will attend either September 1st or September 2nd depending on their scheduled day which is communicated by their

building principal. All students will attend on Thursday, September 3rd. 4K students will start after Labor Day on Tuesday, September 8th.

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 emergencies or inclement weather. The district will continue to utilize virtual learning or asynchronous learning as well to provide continuity of focus on learning. We have designated June 1, 2, and 3 as possible make up days if circumstances require us to have in person make-up days.

Why is Spring Break the week of March 22 - March 26? 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 as well as the start and end of HS athletic 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 28th? Our High School graduation has always been on the Friday before Memorial Day. Memorial Day weekend does not conflict with State athletic events. 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.

I see that staff have a work day on June 1st. Why? In order to ensure that instructional quarters are balanced, to meet contract requirements, and provide the structure for teachers to complete necessary end of year tasks that cannot be completed when students are present.

Why are HS Parent Teacher Conference Dates listed but Elementary and Middle School Conference Dates are not listed? The High School Parent Teacher Conference dates are listed because they have been finalized. Elementary (Elem.) and Middle School (MS) Parent Teacher Conference dates have not yet been set. Once these dates are confirmed, they will be immediately added to the published calendar