



# CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 51

*Encourage Excellence Every Day with Compassion, Commitment, and Community*

## **Press Release**

Contact: Dale Heidbreder  
Phone: 309-444-3943  
Email: [dheidbreder@central51.net](mailto:dheidbreder@central51.net)

## **For Immediate Release**

May 28, 2021

### **Early Release Coming to Central 51 for the 2021-2022 School Year**

**WASHINGTON, Ill.** - The Central School District 51 Board of Education and the Washington 51 Education Association/IEA/NEA have agreed to a 3-year contract agreement. The WEA ratified the contract on Thursday, May 27, 2021 and the Central 51 Board of Education approved the contract at a Special Board meeting on Friday, May 28, 2021.

The approved contract provides educators with an early release schedule on Wednesdays. Students will be released one hour early each Wednesday in order to provide teachers with professional development activities related to student curriculum alignment, data analysis and achievement. All professional development will be provided by or approved by the District.

Central 51 Superintendent, Dale Heidbreder, stated, "Many districts throughout the State and region utilize an early release schedule to provide time for teachers to collaborate, receive quality professional development and analyze data with their teams all to improve instruction," He continued, "I appreciate that the Central 51 Board of Education and our staff continue to have a growth mindset."

Trent Halpin, Central 51 Curriculum Director, noted, "The early release schedule will provide staff with consistent and frequent sessions to implement a continuous process improvement model which includes: Plan, Do, Check, and Act. Monitoring student academic achievement will occur across teams and grade levels."

Central 51 will be updating their school calendar to show the early release of one (1) hour on Wednesdays:

- On Wednesdays, students will be released at Central Intermediate School at around 1:45p.m.
- On Wednesdays, students will be released at Central Primary School at around 2:15 p.m.
- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday will be on the full day schedule for each building.
- Most previously planned School Improvement half-days will be removed and students will attend for the full day. \*\*The first day of school, September 24, 2021 (WCHS Homecoming) and the last day of school will remain ½ day student attendance days.
- More information will be provided over the summer from CPS and CIS.

Christina Dunnan, WEA President, explained, "It is essential for teachers to be given time to collaborate with each other. As our district has grown, the need for collaboration across grade level areas, subjects and across the district has become more and more prevalent. We are thrilled to be provided this time within the school

day to work together on items that will ultimately lead to improved instruction and increased academic achievement for our students.”

Central 51 Board of Education President, Amy Johnson added, “A common theme that kept resurfacing from the teaching staff during the most recent strategic plan update was the need for additional professional development. We feel the early release option is a win-win because it will embed professional development into the school day, and this will allow the teaching staff to further meet the individual needs of their students.”

If parents have any questions, they should contact their child’s principal.