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"Home of the Hornets"



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Dear Parents/Guardians:

One of the current trends gaining momentum in schools is the use of a 4-day school week. Locally, we are seeing many area schools already using this model or they are currently researching it. The Fair Play R-II School District would like your input as we explore this possibility for our school district.

There are many things to consider during this process and a few of the main topics will include: student achievement (not simply standardized tests but other relevant factors as well), student attendance, staff retention, staff recruitment, and more. We're not looking at this issue as a cost savings effort for the district, but it could have a slight impact on school budgets. Our focus will be on students and if a 4-day school week will allow them to have the best experience possible.

Surveys will be emailed out to each household with students currently enrolled in grades PK-11. A similar survey will also be given to students as well as certified and non-certified staff. The surveys will simply allow the school to look at the survey results to help guide this important decision.

As with any new proposal, people may have thoughts, concerns, or ideas they would like to share. If you have any questions at any time, please do not hesitate to call or come by the school. I will be more than happy to answer any questions that anyone may have. Feel free to contact me at 417-654-2231 or email me at dgeurin@fairplay.k12.mo.us to share your thoughts.

Sincerely,

David Geurin
Superintendent, Fair Play R-II School District

4-Day School Week Information Sheet

Currently there are 140 school districts in the state of Missouri on a 4-day school week (27% of all school districts in the state).

What is the 4-day school week calendar?

Option which replaces the traditional five-day school calendar by slightly increasing the minutes in each day to accumulate the (DESE) requirement of 1044 hours in a school year.

Why would the Fair Play R-II School District consider a 4-day school week calendar?

- Retain and hire quality teachers.
- Enhance the quality of instruction & student engagement.
- A four-day week provides flexibility in the event of weather-related school cancellation; make-up days could be made up earlier in the year when learning is most effective and before mandated state testing.
- Secondary students would be able to work, job shadow, or take college visits on Mondays.
- Student and staff appointments could be scheduled on Mondays.
- Some special events or activities could be scheduled on Mondays to avoid interrupting the regular school day.

What would be some concerns of a 4-day school week?

- One of the biggest concerns is typically child care on Mondays. However, many districts who have gone to the 4-day week report that families are not seeing it as a negative.
- Fewer overall school days would require teachers to cover more content each day.
- The longer school day could be seen as a negative.

What are additional possible benefits other than hiring and retaining quality staff?

- Anticipated increase in student attendance rate. This schedule gives families more flexibility in scheduling trips out of town and appointments for students.
- 4-day schools have indicated that students seem to prefer the 4-day week as it allows more time for working at their jobs.

What would a 4-day week look like?

- Monday is typically the day schools are not in session, as those are the days for most holidays.
- At least one Monday per month would be for professional development (staff only). It is possible that there could be some student academic intervention on Mondays.
- Parent/Teacher conferences would likely be on a Monday.
- Students attending Dallas County Career Center would still attend classes on Mondays.
- Athletic events would still occur on Mondays. Practice times would be at the discretion of the coach and what they feel is best for their teams.

What would a 4-day calendar and school times look like?

- Schools that currently use a 4-day calendar typically attend about 150 days. We currently attend 163 days.
- Approximate time of school each day would be 8:00 a.m.-3:45 p.m.
- We would no longer have Late Start on Mondays.

How will the district make this decision and what is the timeline?

- The district will attempt to gather a consensus and make a recommendation by December in order to plan and adopt next year's school calendar in a timely manner.