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***“Be A District Respected By Others As A Model of Excellence in Student Achievement”***

**ST. CROIX CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

March 4, 2019

Dear SCC Parent/Guardian:

I wanted to bring to your attention a calendar change for next school year. In January, the Board approved the 2019-20 School Calendar, which is attached to this email for your review.  There are many similarities to the calendars of the past two years with one major exception. I wanted to draw your attention to the end of August.

August 29th and 30th are technically Summer School days as defined by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, but SCC is treating them like the first days of school.  Current State Statute 118.045 does not allow schools to start their calendar year until September 1st. However, there is no limit on summer school days. Many area schools have tried this approach to get a jump-start on the school year, and the positives outweigh the negatives.

There are many advantages to starting a few days early in August.

* Many families have completed their summer vacations and/or are well into fall athletic seasons in grades 7-12.
* August 29th and 30th can be used to address housekeeping items, class/course expectations, relationship-building activities, etc. so that students and staff can dive into rigorous learning activities on September 3rd.

Mandatory attendance does not apply to August 29th and 30th although attendance is highly encouraged.  There will be no graded learning assignments on those days, but there will be meaningful learning activities throughout the District.  There will be many positives associated with attendance and no negative impact from an absence.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or your child’s principal.  We realize this is “new and different” and want to communicate openly on this proposed change.

Sincerely,


Tim Widiker

Superintendent