



WEST CENTRAL BLUE DEVILS
West Central Community Schools
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Dear West Central Families,

The West Central School District continues to work in partnership with our local, state, and federal health agencies as well as our board and school committees to receive and share daily updates, guidance and mandates surrounding COVID-19. We will continue to work with Public Health Officials at the town, county, and state level as we make decisions that impact all of us.

One change approved at the board meeting on Monday, Oct. 19th, is that the district will be moving to **2:10 early dismissals on every Wednesday starting Nov. 4th until the end of the calendar year**. The previously scheduled two hour early outs on November 19th and 25th will remain the same.

Parents can arrive at the U to pick-up their students between 2:00pm and 2:20pm.

This decision was not made lightly, but in the best interest for both student and teacher instructional quality. Our District Leadership Team (DLT) has been working with all staff members on the development of a schedule that allows teachers to collaborate onsite with each other and adheres to the requirements for collaboration by the state. While we recognize that this could create some initial disruption to the typical school schedule, it must also be recognized that this is not a typical year. As teams within the school district and as members of a dynamic community, we want to provide our teachers with timely collaboration and review of the extended academic and procedural duties we confront on a daily basis. *For more detailed information regarding this decision, please view the backside of this letter.*

At the end of the calendar year, we will review the need to continue with this change in the school schedule with the West Central school board.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we navigate this ever-changing school year.

Respectfully yours,

The West Central District Leadership Team

The purpose of this schedule change is to provide protected time to allow for Professional Learning Communities (PLC) implementation, completion of career development plans required by the state, and common collaboration time for teachers that is needed to enhance online/in-person student achievement and student/staff wellbeing.

Staff will utilize the early-out time for:

- Alignment of our new math curriculum - identifying and addressing gaps in content knowledge between the old and new curriculum across the grade levels
- Curriculum alignment at the high school level to align traditional year curriculum maps with our new online learning system (Apex)
- All teachers to utilize Instructional Coaching services
- New teachers to access mentor teachers
- Professional Learning Communities (recommended by CASEL - *Collaborative for Academic, Social, Emotional Learning*, local AEA - *Area Education Agency*, and Department of Education)
- DLT (District Leadership Team) and PBIS (Positive Behavior Instructional Support) team collaboration with AEA representatives
- Additional practice, support, and professional growth to utilize technology tools, including ones acquired after the school year started, to enhance online learning for our online learners, quarantined learners, and in-person learners preparing for the event of online learning.

Our goal is to keep our doors open as long as possible while prioritizing the physical/mental health and safety of our students and staff. Thank you for working with us through this evolving year that impacts all facets of life in our entire community. We will continue to provide you with regular updates.