3/19/2021

Dear Strasburg Families,

On Thursday, March 18, 2021, The Strasburg C-3 School Board approved a 4-day school week calendar, effective for the 2021-22 school year. Students will be off on Mondays and attend class Tuesdays through Fridays. This move means that the school day will be 40 minutes longer. Doors will open at 7:50 am with classes starting at 8:20 am. The day will end at 3:55 pm. Due to holidays, there are four Mondays that school will be in session: 9/13/2021, 11/22/2021, 4/11/2022, and 5/23/2022. Mondays in the spring and AMI days will be used for snow make up days as needed.

In February 2021, the Board of Education asked for patrons to address the board with any concerns. Those concerns along with the survey results were considered when making the final decision. The following survey results included responses from parents, staff, and community members: 62.3% in favor, 21.3% maybe, and 16.4% against.

The professional development days indicated on the calendar will be used by staff for training in implementing the following initiatives:

- Moving from a Target Title School to a School-Wide Title School. By making this move the district is able to use Federal Title money to provide resources and instruction to all students in the district. This will allow the district to improve reading and math instruction and scores in grades K-8.

- Teacher training for the I-ready benchmark software.
  - Benchmark Assessments are given periodically (e.g., at the end of every quarter or as frequently as once per month) throughout a school year to establish baseline achievement data and measure progress toward a standard or set of academic standards and goals. Typically these assessments are formal, and may be computer-scored and administered. They provide teachers with information about which content standards have been mastered and which require additional instruction, identifying students’ strengths and needs. Well-articulated benchmark assessments can also be used to measure student progress over time. Assessment data can be a powerful tool in the hands of an educator—if it is used properly and understood thoroughly.

- Implement a MTSS (multi-tiered system of support) for all students. MTSS provides structure during the day, outside of core content instruction, to help students that are below grade level in reading and math content. The 40 additional minutes will allow us to implement title reading and title math in the daily schedule. We are currently in the process of hiring a reading specialist to run our title reading program.
• The most important component of MTSS is implementing a guaranteed and viable curriculum in all academic areas. On March 8, 2021, staff started this process and will continue working on this initiative through the 2024-2025 school year.

• We will also begin working on our 5th Day RTI (tutoring) Academy that is slated to begin in the 2022-2023 school year. The RTI Academy will be by invite only (based on multiple sets of data) and will take place on two Mondays a month. This program will be designed to help our students that are falling behind in math and reading by providing them with small group instructional time. This program is currently a work in progress.

Sincerely,

Chryстал Mayfield
Superintendent
Strasburg C-3 School District