

Balanced Calendar Journey

TOPPENISH SCHOOL DISTRICT





2020-2021 (COVID Pandemic)

- 4-day Work Week
- Interventions (summer school replacement) on Fridays (AM only)
- Waiver from OSPI (167 school days)
- Resolution from School Board



2021-2022

2022-2023

- 4.5-Work Day
- Intersession- Friday afternoon (supported \$)
- We extended the school calendar by adding weeks off throughout the year
- School Board wanted kids in school 5-days a week



2023-2024

2024-2025

- 5 Day Work Week
- We extended the school calendar by adding weeks off throughout the year
- Created some 3 and 4 day weekends
- Strategically placed teacher optional time



Successful Implementation...

- Became experts in balanced calendar- Explain the Why!
- Conversations with TEA & PSE
- TEA, PSE, and Admin were the greatest advocates
- Our community follows the guidance of TEA, PSE, and our Administrators



Areas of Greatness from Staff

- “I appreciate that I have an entire week to decompress, recover, and recharge. It is helping me with teacher burnout.”
- “It is nice to look forward to frequent breaks, it helps lessen the burnout factor.”
- “As a parent, the balanced calendar increases time to spend with family. I am able to schedule medical/dental/eye appointments on Friday afternoons.”
- “Although the October break was great, it would have been nice to have it a week later, my family hunts.” :)
- “As a new teacher, I opted to not teach during Wildcat Academy. This has given me time to lesson plan on Friday afternoons instead of on the weekends.”

STUDENTS:

- Appreciated the immediate intervention versus feeling punished by attending summer school.



Learned Lessons Along the Way...

- Meals should be available for students during all breaks- create the system
- IEP Minutes
- Make sure the administration can visit with teachers and families about the why! -Balanced calendar knowledge
- Review contract language for bus drivers, mid day routes for PK
- Schedule building maintenance and cleaning throughout the year
- If you are changing hours to contract- do this before the start of the year, think about optional days, sick days, etc.
- Created a lot of backend work in HR, Payroll, AESOP



Question and Answer - Contacts

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