



Hastings-on-Hudson Public Schools

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February 1, 2023

Dear Hastings Families and Staff:

We are pleased to distribute the [***Proposed 2023-24 School Calendar***](#) one month ahead of schedule. The Board of Education will review the proposed calendar over two meetings: February 7 will be the initial review; February 28 will be the final review and vote. Please understand that the proposed calendar will not be final until formally adopted by the BOE on February 28.

Guiding Considerations in Developing the School Calendar

The Calendar Committee worked efficiently to develop the proposed calendar, drawing together requirements from the NYSED and Southern Westchester BOCES and guidance from other school districts in the region. Members of the Committee include Lou Adipietro, Maureen Caraballo, Amy Cazes, Melissa DeLaBarrera, Nancy Gagliardi, Jennifer Spirelli and Melissa Szymanski. We consulted with leaders of our four employee bargaining units at key points.

In developing the proposed calendar, the following factors were considered, some of which are requirements. They are listed here in approximate chronological order.

- Front loaded Superintendent Conference Days with three at the start of the school year for teachers (August 29-31, 2023).
- A four day Labor Day Weekend (September 1-4, 2023).
- First day of school for students Tuesday, September 5, 2023.
- Rosh Hashanah observances are over the weekend in 2023, providing two additional days to use for vacations.
- Vacation modifications for one year only (may not be possible in 2024-25):
 - November 22, 2023 Schools Closed – Day before Thanksgiving
 - January 2, 2024 Schools Closed – Day after New Year's Day
- Spring Recess dates as required aligned with SW BOCES (March 25-29, 2024).
- Two vacation days for Passover (April 22-23, 2024).
- A four day Memorial Day Weekend (May 24-27, 2024).
- HHS Graduation will be Thursday, June 20, 2024.
- Last School Day is Wednesday, June 26, 2024 as required by the NYS Regents.
- Inclement Weather Days are accounted for by building six days into the calendar. The draft calendar notes the plan if we require more than six inclement weather days, or use fewer than the allotted six days.
- NYSED requires 180 school days, which includes four Superintendent Conference Days. The proposed calendar provides 182 student days and 186 teacher days.

The Calendar Committee discussed how to recognize additional religious

observances, which are under consideration for inclusion in other school calendars across the region, specifically Eid al-Fitr (April 10, 2024) and Eid al-Adha (June 17, 2024). (Diwali and Lunar New Year also may be considered for school vacation days by other school districts in future years—in 2023-24, they are observed on Sunday, November 12, 2023 and Saturday, February, 10, 2024.) The Calendar Committee suggests formalizing a non-vacation approach to recognizing additional religious observances by establishing them as non-homework and non-testing days. Our primary concern is that new vacation days added for religious observances may need to be removed in future school years to meet NYSED's requirements for minimum number of school days and instructional hours.

Next Steps

We look forward to discussing the [***Proposed 2023-24 School Calendar***](#) at the February 7, 2023 BOE Meeting. The Calendar Committee would meet subsequently to make any necessary changes ahead of the BOE's final review and vote on February 28, 2023.

Be well.

Bill

William S. McKersie, Ph.D.
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