

2020-21, 2021-22 Calendar Modification Recommendations

The Calendar Committee had a WebEx meeting on Tuesday, March 31 at 5:00pm. We had a great turnout; only two people from the Committee that designed the current calendars were unable to attend.

Concerns

Three primary concerns about the calendars for school years 2020-21 and 2021-22 were discussed in the meeting:

1. Winter Break starts on 12/24/2020 (12/23/2021) and the second semester for WRMS, WRHS, and SCHS starts 3 days prior
2. Three teacher work days are scheduled after the end of the school year
3. The school start date

Two Recommendations

1. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board of Trustees make the following changes to the 2020-21 and 2021-22 calendars:
 - Start Winter Break after the semester ends on Fri, Dec 18, 2020 (Fri, Dec 17, 2021)
 - Teachers return to school on Mon, Jan 4, 2021 (Mon, Jan 3, 2022)
 - Change Mon-Tue, Jan 4-5, 2021 (Mon-Tue, Jan 3-4, 2022) to Teacher Work Days
 - Students return to school on Wed, Jan 6, 2021 (Wed, Jan 5, 2022) and second semester starts
 - Reschedule (if possible, or cancel if not) the professional development on January 7-8, 2021 with Dr. Luis Cruz
 - Move Teacher Collaboration Day from Wed, May 26, 2021 (Wed, May 25, 2022) to Fri, Apr 16, 2021 (Fri, Apr 15, 2022)
 - Final day for teachers becomes Tue, May 25, 2021 (Tue, May 24, 2021)

2020-21 total student days – 171, total staff days – 184

2021-22 total student days – 170, total staff days – 183

Calendars reflecting these recommendations are attached below.

2. The Committee voted 10-2 to recommend that the board convene a new Calendar Committee this fall to look more closely at the 2021-22 calendar, with clear priorities from the board to guide their decisions.

The 2 nay votes thought the board should not reconsider the calendar in 2021-22, but rather convene a committee to address the 2022-23 school year and beyond. Waiting a year would give the board a chance to determine whether having an early start was beneficial to students. (For example: Did the extra weeks of instruction help ISAT and AP scores? Does it help teachers to finish earlier in May because younger students may be less engaged after ISATS?)

Original Board Direction – Calendar Guiding Principles

1. Maximize student learning by providing significant stretches of uninterrupted weeks for teaching and learning.
2. Maximize student attendance to support student learning.
3. Propose a calendar that provides support for the board’s priority of closing the achievement gap.
4. Propose a calendar that supports student participation in a wide range of school-related activities including competitions, extracurricular programs, dual credit opportunities, etc.
5. Ensure the calendar meets with Idaho Statutes, including 33-1009 and 33-512.
6. Recognition of the importance of professional development for staff.

Requirements

- No more than 185 teacher work days
- 5 paid holidays (Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Memorial Day)
- Minimum 170 days per year grades 9-12 (try to stay a bit above that in case of snow days, etc.)

Reasons for fixing the winter break

- Concerns that attendance would be low Dec 21-23 and that the remaining students would have difficulty concentrating
- Concerns about teachers at WRHS having to grade and submit finals and prepare for starting the second semester, all over the weekend before Christmas
- Wanting to provide students with clear time off between semesters
- Teacher work days in January can be used to grade/submit finals

Reasons for moving the Staff Collaboration Day to April

- Three days are more than teachers need at the end of the year
- The days were put there to minimize the number of short weeks in the year (per the board's guidelines), but there are so few short weeks now that having one mid-semester day with no students would be really helpful

Reasons for not making major changes

- The Calendar Committee spent a year and a half working on designing the current three-year calendar, and while there may be some minor items to clean up, they believe there has been no change to the principles behind their decision to finish the first semester before Winter Break.
- Changing the start date would shift everything on the calendar, undoing all of the other thoughtful decisions the Committee put into the calendar during their year and a half of work.
- Given how many things have already been scheduled for next year, the number of dates and events that would be impacted by this change, and the disruption caused by the global coronavirus pandemic, re-evaluating the entire calendar right now doesn't make sense.

Reasons for starting the school year in mid-August

SEMESTERS VS TRIMESTERS

- Schools on a semester system usually start in mid-August and end before Winter Break. There is not enough time to fit a whole semester in before Winter Break if the start date is any later.
- Schools on trimesters often start in September because they only have one trimester before Winter Break and two after (we used to be on a trimester system).

MENTAL HEALTH

- High school students are experiencing record high stress levels, resulting in mental health issues. Finishing finals before Winter Break gives students a much-needed, real break from school, without the pressure of returning to finals.
- For high school students already overwhelmed by school, returning in January from a long break to finals in current classes AND a new semester schedule, classes, and teachers shortly thereafter is particularly hard.

ENGAGING WITH THE WORLD

- The board specifically directed the Committee to propose a calendar that supports student participation in a wide range of school-related activities including competitions, extracurricular programs, Dual Credit opportunities, etc.
- While primary school calendars can generally be flexible and fit local needs without adversely affecting students, the opportunities that secondary schools offer their students are inextricably linked with institutions outside of our school district, whose calendars we don't control. This includes Dual Credit opportunities at U of I, CWI, CSI, and sports, debate, and various engagements with the other school districts in our division. All of these schools start early and finish the first semester before Winter Break.
- Separate calendars for primary and secondary are problematic: some parents have kids in both, it divides the district, and it costs a lot more to run.
- As a result, the secondary calendar drives the district calendar.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- About 25-30% of 10th and 11th graders and about 55% of 12 graders take at least one Dual Credit or AP class in the fall, and all sophomores and seniors at Carey take a Dual Credit class
- Starting early maximizes teaching time for AP tests which are held in early May
- Dual Credit classes at U of I, CWI, and CSI all finish the first semester before Winter Break, as well as the other districts that participate in their Dual Credit program
- Taking Dual Credit and/or AP courses is a factor considered by university admission departments
- Doing well in Dual Credit and AP classes can help reduce the cost of college and build higher ed competency
- IRI, ISAT, PSAT, and SAT tests are all at fixed times - an early start to the school year helps with student preparation and performance

PREFERRED BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND STAFF

- A survey of students was conducted at WRHS and SCHS in January 2020 after finishing the semester prior to Winter Break. There was overwhelming student support for finishing the semester early. Of 542 responses, 56% found very helpful, 26% found it somewhat helpful. Only 4% found it "not helpful."
- In a paper survey done at the high school, teachers strongly supported finishing the semester before Winter Break.
- Students have increased trouble staying focused by the end of May, especially when students in other districts are already getting out of school.

FALL SPORTS PROGRAMS START EARLY

- Sports schedules are tied to the school districts in our division, which all start early. Almost 30% of WRHS students participate in fall sports: soccer (78), football (60), cheerleading (20), swim team (25), cross country (25), mountain biking (30) and volleyball (34) out of 945 total. Carey is impacted as well.

Reasons for starting the school year later

LOST ACADEMIC TIME IN MAY

- AP tests are the first two weeks of May. When WRHS finals begin the following week, all of the WRHS students who take AP classes will miss at least a 1/2 day for each AP exam that they are taking. This means they miss a lot of review time the week before finals.
- No longer have time to work with juniors on their college essays before summer break

LOWER HISPANIC ATTENDANCE IN DECEMBER

- Might have better Hispanic attendance if return Jan 11 instead – need statistics on this
- More and more Hispanic students are leaving for the month of December. Having final exams in January is better for some of them because it gives them time to make up work before the next semester starts. It is hard for students to think about making up an exam while starting a new semester.

DECEMBER IS BUSY

- Sports tournaments and winter performances during finals can be overwhelming

FAMILIES

- Reduces opportunities for teens to make money for college during the busy summer tourist season
- Some parents and staff prefer to vacation and recreate in August
- The businesses that hire teens and teachers over the summer lose daytime weekday workers when everyone goes back to school in August

BCSD CALENDAR 2020-2021

AUGUST 2020							August	February	FEBRUARY 2021							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10-14 Teachers return/work/prep/professional development/in-service - No Students 17 First day of school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Presidents' Day - No School 18-19 Carey Elementary Conferences - No Elementary Students 19 Carey end of 2nd Trimester - Teacher Work Day - No Secondary Students 	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1				1	2	3	4	5	6	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8				7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9	10	11	12	13	14	15				14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16	17	18	19	20	21	22				21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29				28						
30	31															
SEPTEMBER 2020							September	March	MARCH 2021							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Labor Day - No School 18 Student Data Day - No students 23 Carey Grades 7-12 Student-led Conferences 6:00-8:00 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Quarter ends 11 Parent Teacher Conferences WRMS, WRHS, Elementary - No Elementary Students 12 Parent Teacher Conferences - WRMS, WRHS, Elementary - No Students 22-26 Spring Break - No School 	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3	4	5	6	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12				7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19				14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26				21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30							28	29	30	31			
OCTOBER 2020							October	April	APRIL 2021							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 Quarter ends 22 Parent Teacher Conferences WRMS, WRHS, Elementary - No Elementary Students 23 Parent Teacher Conferences WRMS, WRHS, Elementary - No Students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 Carey Grades 7-12 Student-led Conferences 6:00-8:00pm 16 Staff Collaboration Day - No Students 	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
				1	2	3							1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10				4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17				11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24				18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	
NOVEMBER 2020							November	May	MAY 2021							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5-6 Carey Elementary Conferences - No Elementary Students 6 Carey end of 1st Trimester - Teacher work day - No Secondary Students 23-27 Thanksgiving vacation - No School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 Carey High School Graduation 21 Last Day of School and SCHS/WRHS Graduation 24 Student Data Review Day - No Students 25 Staff Collaboration/Work Day - No Students 	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7										1
8	9	10	11	12	13	14				2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	16	17	18	19	20	21				9	10	11	12	13	14	15
22	23	24	25	26	27	28				16	17	18	19	20	21	22
29	30									23	24	25	26	27	28	29
										30	31					
DECEMBER 2020							December	June	JUNE 2021							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 End of 1st Semester 21 Winter Break Begins - No School 		S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12				6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19				13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26				20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31						27	28	29	30			
JANUARY 2021							January	July	JULY 2021							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4-5 Teacher Work Days - No Students 6 School resumes, first day of 2nd semester 13 Carey grades 7-12 Student-led Conferences 6:00-8:00pm 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School 		S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
					1	2							1	2	3	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9				4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	11	12	13	14	15	16				11	12	13	14	15	16	17
17	18	19	20	21	22	23				18	19	20	21	22	23	24
24	25	26	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
31																

Vacation/Holiday - No school	Student Data Review/Staff Collaboration/Teacher Workday - No Students	First/Last Day of School	Carey Elementary Conferences/Grades 7-12 Student-led Conferences	Trimester/Semester/Quarter end - all schools on semesters except Carey, which is on trimesters	ALT/BES/HEM/HES/WRMS/WRHS/ SCHS - Parent Teacher Conferences	Graduation
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2020-21 Calendar

Days	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Staff Days	16	21	22	16	14	19	19	18	22	17	0	184
Student Days	11	20	21 (20E)	16 (15C)	14	17	19 (18C)	17 (16E)	21	15 (10C)	0	171 (169E) (165C)
1st semester: 89 staff days/82 student days 2nd semester: 95 staff days/89 student days												

BCSD CALENDAR 2021-2022

AUGUST 2021							August	February	FEBRUARY 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9-13 Teachers return/work/prep/professional development/in-service - No Students ● 16 First day of school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 14 Presidents' Day - No School ● 17-18 Carey Elementary Conferences - No Elementary Students ● 18 Carey end of 2nd Trimester - Teacher Work Day - No Secondary Students 	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8	9	10	11	12	13	14			13	14	15	16	17	18	19
15	16	17	18	19	20	21			20	21	22	23	24	25	26
22	23	24	25	26	27	28			27	28					
29	30	31													
SEPTEMBER 2021							September	March	MARCH 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6 Labor Day - No School ● 17 Student Data Day - No students ● 22 Carey Grades 7-12 Student-led Conferences 6:00-8:00 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4 Quarter ends ● 10 Parent Teacher Conferences WRMS, WRHS, Elementary - No Elementary Students ● 11 Parent Teacher Conferences - WRMS, WRHS, Elementary - No Students ● 21-25 Spring Break - No School 	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4			6	7	8	9	10	11	12
5	6	7	8	9	10	11			13	14	15	16	17	18	19
12	13	14	15	16	17	18			20	21	22	23	24	25	26
19	20	21	22	23	24	25			27	28	29	30	31		
26	27	28	29	30											
OCTOBER 2021							October	April	APRIL 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 16 Quarter ends ● 22 Parent Teacher Conferences WRMS, WRHS, Elementary - No Elementary Students ● 23 Parent Teacher Conferences WRMS, WRHS, Elementary - No Students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 13 Carey Grades 7-12 Student-led Conferences 6:00-8:00pm ● 15 Staff Collaboration Day - No Students 	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3								1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10			3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16	17			10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23	24			17	18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
NOVEMBER 2021							November	May	MAY 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4-5 Carey Elementary Conferences - No Elementary Students ● 5 Carey end of 1st Trimester - Teacher work day - No Secondary Students ● 22-26 Thanksgiving vacation - No School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 13 Carey High School Graduation ● 20 Last Day of School and SCHS/WRHS Graduation ● 23 Student Data Review Day - No Students ● 24 Staff Collaboration/Work Day - No Students 	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13			8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20			15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27			22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30							29	30	31				
DECEMBER 2021							December	June	JUNE 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 17 End of 1st Semester ● 20 Winter Break Begins - No School 		S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11			5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18			12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25			19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31				26	27	28	29	30		
JANUARY 2022							January	July	JULY 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3-4 Teacher Work Days - No Students ● 5 School resumes, first day of 2nd semester ● 12 Carey grades 7-12 Student-led Conferences 6:00-8:00pm ● 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School 		S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1								1	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	8			3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15			10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22			17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
30	31						31								

Vacation/Holiday - No school	Student Data Review/Staff Collaboration/Teacher Workday - No Students	First/Last Day of School	Carey Elementary Conferences/Grades 7-12 Student-led Conferences	Trimester/Semester/Quarter end - all schools on semesters except Carey, which is on trimesters	ALT/BES/HEM/HES/WRMS/WRHS/ SCHS - Parent Teacher Conferences	Graduation
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2021-22 Calendar

Days	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Staff Days	16	21	22	16	13	20	19	18	21	17	0	183
Student Days	11	20	21 (20E)	16 (15C)	13	18	19 (18C)	17 (16E)	20	15 (10C)	0	170 (168E) (163C)
1st semester: 88 staff days/81 student days 2nd semester: 95 staff days/89 student days												