

HCA Calendar notes: 2016-17

The HCA calendar has one significant change from this year: we are canceling our 'late start' Wednesdays and instituting a half-day early release Wednesday instead. The major reason for this change is a clearly identified need, supported by best practice, for more shared faculty planning time, and consistent, meaningful Professional Development. We believe that at this time in our development, this approach to PD will greatly improve our project based curriculum and directly result in improved student learning outcomes.

Details/ implications:

We will not be scheduling any full PD days next year, bringing our teaching days up from 175 to 180 next year. The net loss of student seat time over the course of the year is just about 36 hours. Given that our school days are longer than most schools already, we believe this is more than made up over the course of the year.

We have made plans to address parent concerns about the impact of this schedule. We are finalizing agreements with a number of community partners to offer programming for interested students on Wednesday afternoons. These will likely include semester long workshops with the Brunswick Theater Project, the Brunswick YMCA, Foreign Language Workshops, an Art Van program, and potentially a Martial Arts Workshop. We are eager for the opportunity to develop these opportunities for students to meet standards with new community partners. There will likely be small fees for student participation, but we are working to budget financial support for students who qualify. Details about transportation are still in the works.