



WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Longfellow Administration Center

415 Seymour Street • P.O. Box 359 • Wausau, Wisconsin 54402-0359 • 715-261-0500 • www.wausauschools.org
Dr. Keith W. Hiltz, Superintendent of Schools

Good afternoon, Wausau School District Community:

As you get ready to begin spring break, we have some important updates for you as it relates to the 2023-2024 school year calendar.

First, we have received official approval from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to begin classes before September 1. That means classes will begin on August 29. Starting earlier will allow construction crews some extra time in the Summer of 2024 to work on some of the biggest referendum projects happening within the Wausau School District, while at the same time limiting interruptions to student learning.

In addition to receiving that confirmation, we do need to adjust the end of Semester 1; moving it back 1 full week to January 12, 2024. We've attached an updated calendar to this email.

As a reminder from the communication we sent out in January, here's a look at some of the other changes you'll notice with this calendar:

We can get back to implementing traditional snow days! We've heard from you that you'd really like to have at least some traditional snow days again – and we wholeheartedly agree with you! That's not to say virtual learning days are going away altogether, but we may not need to implement them every time there's an inclement weather day.

We are adding in something called Independent Learning Days. There are 3 days in the calendar (September 29, December 8, and March 8) that are designated as Independent Learning Days. These days your students will not be in our buildings, but rather they will be learning from home. Students will access their assignments for the day in their learning management system – but will not be required to join Google Meets like they previously have done on virtual learning days. While your students are learning from home, our staff will be engaging in professional development; opportunities for them to learn and collaborate with their colleagues. More professional development is something staff have been asking for, for some time, so we're excited to be able to give them these opportunities. In addition, more professional development has a positive impact on staff and student learning.

We realize some of these challenges may put you and your family in a bind especially with child care. Please know we are looking at some options to help you. Please watch for more information about that. We are also working on scheduling graduation dates – so be sure to watch for those as well.

Thank you and we hope you have a wonderful spring break!

Wausau School District Administration

It is the mission of the Wausau School District to advance student learning, achievement, and success.
