

## 2023-24 Calendar Options FAQs From Chimacum District

### What is the most effective way for schools to maintain student success over the summer?

According to the association for Supervision and Curriculum Development;

- **Go to a balanced calendar**
- Mandate summer school for lower achievers
- Assign students/parents summer work (packets, projects)
- Encourage enrichment activities (camp, hobbies)

The Chimacum School District is exploring how to allocate our 180 instructional days in 2023-24. This work is funded by Washington's Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). In November, the school calendar working group presented ideas to the staff and shared a survey. Based on the results, the working group has created these FAQs.

### What is a balanced calendar?

- The following video explains the balanced calendar concept:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ahhj3wxxkdM>
- Chimacum Student Video-  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-PHwbc\\_ATA\\_F7kmt2aLePb11Jkrj0rjF/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-PHwbc_ATA_F7kmt2aLePb11Jkrj0rjF/view?usp=share_link)

### Why are we considering this change?

- Continuous care, food, and socialization: About half of our students are experiencing poverty and, over the summer, maybe miss school-provided meals and connect with other students.
- Reducing learning loss: Teachers typically have to re-teach at the beginning of the year. Shortening the summer can reduce learning recovery needs.
- Reducing Burnout: longer and/or more frequent breaks during the year will help staff and students return with more energy.
- Options for Intervention: Instead of waiting until summer, breaks during the year can be used to prevent course failure and provide other interventions.

### How short could the summer be?

- Summer break in the past has been about 11 weeks. In balanced calendars, summers tend to be between 6-9 weeks.

### What is an intersession and when might it happen?

- Intersessions are programs that provide intervention and enrichment opportunities ranging from one to five days.
- Intersessions would not occur during Thanksgiving break or Winter break.

- We will work with staff and families to design intersession. We will learn with our first intersessions the success and for changes in future years.
- All students interested in intersession are welcome to attend. Students needing intervention will be strongly encouraged to attend.

#### **How will intersession be staffed and funded?**

- Participation in intersession would be voluntary. Like our current summer programs, intersessions may include community partners to provide staffing for enrichment.
- Intersessions may be funded by reallocating money.

#### **How would a shorter summer impact maintenance and facilities?**

- Restorative cleaning and detail work would be distributed more evenly throughout the year during longer breaks.
- A shorter summer would mean less time to perform larger-scale contracted projects that require the facilities to be unoccupied and exterior work/projects during times of fair weather. Currently, Chimacum does not have any such capital projects planned. If a project is planned for future years, the maintenance director would coordinate with the calendar team.

#### **How will this impact athletics?**

- High school athletes are already accustomed to practicing over breaks. Transportation over breaks could become an issue. If so, vans and charter buses could be used.
- Starting school earlier will help middle school teams complete the number of practices required to engage in competition (in the past, we've had to forfeit).
- Junior High athletics might be impacted by the Thanksgiving week break and the Presidents' week break as those fall right in the middle of boys' basketball season and coed wrestling season, respectively. In the past, middle school seasons have only had a max of 2 days off school during their particular sport.

#### **How will this impact Advanced Placement (AP) courses?**

- The College Board determines the schedule for AP Exams. AP exams are administered over the first two weeks in May. The number of school days from the start of the school year and the administration of the exams represents the amount of time available for student learning and exam preparation.

#### **How might changing the calendar impact attendance?**

- Student attendance is historically lower than the annual average during Thanksgiving and President's Day. Transitioning these days to vacation may improve attendance.

#### **How will the final decision be made?**

- Build Options: The working group will use feedback from staff, students, and the community to draft five calendar options. Labor (Union) Partners Executive Boards will work with the district to finalize a staff survey.
- Staff Vote: The student, staff, and community survey results will be shared with staff for their consideration. The current plan is for staff to use rank-choice voting. The results of the staff will be shared.
- Recommendation: All of the Labor (Union) Partners Executive Boards will consult with the Superintendent to make a final recommendation to the school board.
- Final Decision: The school board will approve a 2023-24 calendar in their April meeting.

