

## Parent / Community Questions and Response Summary

1. Which day would the kids not have school?  
A: Fridays
2. Will the school year start earlier or end later?  
A: Under the proposed calendar, and if the 4-day school week (4DSW) is adopted, we would start August 14th and dismiss May 22nd. The 23-24 and the proposed 24-25 4DSW have 39 weeks.
3. Can daycares accommodate the increased need for daycare on the days there is no school?  
A: After conversations with local daycares, they reported they have the capacity for students already enrolled there. The question becomes, can they accommodate extra students? Only a few households reported the need for paid childcare, but we recognize this will be an issue for some families. We are willing to work with families and the community to help alleviate childcare shortfalls.
4. What would the “Cougar Fridays” look like for students who do not need the intervention time?  
A: We want to offer clubs and activities for students not needing intervention support. Our goal is to provide meaningful activities for kids of all ages as an option on Cougar Fridays.
5. At-risk students: How do they get a meal and how do they get to school?  
A: Students will be bussed to school on Cougar Fridays. The kitchen will be open on Cougar Fridays and any Burke student who needs a meal (breakfast and lunch) on that day will get one.
6. Would sports practices and events be held on Fridays?  
A: Yes, we will still hold and participate in extracurricular activities on those days. Middle school sports practices will not be held on Fridays.
7. What is the purpose of a 4DSW and how is it supposed to benefit children?  
A: We feel there are many benefits families and students will enjoy. By reorganizing our schedule and providing core instruction to all students Monday through Thursday, we have gained Friday as a day to offer extra support and engaging activities to kids. We believe moving to a 4DSW will increase student/teacher attendance, increase teacher preparedness, support intervention students, and be a way to support all students with clubs and bonus activities.

8. Concern for unstructured time while parents work.  
A: We are going to offer activities for students of all ages on our Cougar Fridays. If kids want to be in school on those days, we will work to provide meaningful activities for them.
9. Length of the school days?  
A: Our proposed school day starts at 8:00 am and ends at 3:45 pm.
10. Concern for parents who lack flexibility in work schedules to get kids to town for small group activities or sports practices.  
A: Students will be bussed to school on Cougar Fridays if transportation is an issue.
11. Does the 4DSW help prepare kids for the real world?  
A: Absolutely yes! Thousands of kids have graduated from schools employing the 4DSW. These students go to college or enter the workforce as prepared as their peers.
12. Concern for additional homework or self-paced online learning outside of the classroom.  
A: With increased instructional time and added access to a teacher on Fridays, we anticipate students will have less homework. No additional online work or out-of-class work will be required of students.
13. What will be the expectations for sports practices if the 4DSW is adopted?  
A: Sports practices will conclude by 6:00 pm, earlier on Wednesdays (church night).
14. Will teachers be required to be in their rooms on the 5th day or Cougar Fridays?  
A: Yes, teachers will be available to students and families from 8:00 - 12:00 on those days. Teachers will be working with kids or attending professional development activities.
15. How will you get kids to show up on Fridays?  
A: We live in an outstanding community with excellent parent support. If families are contacted about their students needing intervention, we believe they will help get their students here. Running buses and providing meals will also be an incentive. Participation in intervention time will also be tied to academic eligibility for our students in extracurricular activities.
16. Will teachers be willing to make changes to their teaching structure/style for longer days?  
A: Absolutely! Teachers are the experts in their classrooms and will work to make the school days meaningful and challenging for all students. If the 4DSW is adopted, the weeks will be much more consistent. In the proposed 4-day calendar, all but 2 weeks are 4-day weeks. Under the current 5-day calendar, 15 weeks have less than 5 days.