



Framingham Public Schools

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MEMORANDUM

Date: January 24, 2020
To: Framingham School Committee
From: Dr. Robert Tremblay, Superintendent
Re: Framingham Public Schools 2020-2021 School Calendar: Changes Summary and FAQ

Framingham Public Schools 2020-2021 School Calendar: Changes Summary and FAQ

There were hours of conversation and planning that went into this first draft that considered contractual obligations, instructional time, school day requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, and many other factors.

Format Changes

Reduced Color Coding: We realized that although the 2019-2020 calendar was visually appealing with increased color coding, it was not ideal for black and white printing which is prevalent across schools. We moved away from a variety of colors and incorporated symbols that can be seen digitally or printed. We kept the green color for early release days and yellow for half days.

Holiday Designation: We are not designating holidays within the monthly calendars or their association to school closings, however all of the religious and cultural holidays that were previously listed remain on the calendar for reference. These only include holidays that fall within the academic year.

Monthly Calendars and Descriptions: Rather than have a large section containing a text list of dates and descriptions, we placed the operational date and description under each monthly calendar. The calendar contains visual representation for no school days, early releases, half-days, school vacations, no homework nights, first days and last days. The descriptions within the months only reflect the operational messages.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Our teachers work with families to accommodate their varying work schedules by providing conference time on scheduled afternoons and at other times, during school hours, that are pre-arranged and mutually-convenient for both the teacher(s) and parent(s). Student progress monitoring and two-way parent/school engagement are critical to a child's success in school.

School Start: Before or After Labor Day

While the district does have flexibility with the start date of school (e.g., before or after Labor Day), the school year must include 180 days for students and must end before June 30th every year (the last day of the fiscal year in public education). The practice of starting school before Labor Day has become more common in Massachusetts communities given that inclement weather days often push the school year out into late June which is further complicated by the heat which is most impactful to students and staff in schools without air conditioning.

No School Days / Election Days - Professional Development

Teachers and Administrators need opportunities to grow and learn. Professional Development organized by the District or the Framingham Teachers Association (FTA) are wonderful opportunities for our staff to connect, grow, and expand their capabilities to be the best they can be for our students. In the past, these days have aligned with school vacations and this works for some, but not for everyone.

Election Days in Framingham pose a separate set of challenges to some of our school communities. Traffic in and around the schools, foot traffic from the general voting public, and in some cases children having to eat lunch in their classrooms pose risks and complications to running a school. In an effort to reduce the intersection of the general voting public with our students, we made an intentional decision to shift the professional development days to those days designated for voting. In the 2020-2021 school year, there are 2 election days (September 1, 2020 and November 3, 2020) that align with our allotted Professional Development time. The third PD Day takes place on Friday, March 12, 2021 and it does not align with an election day or a school vacation.

February & April School Vacation Weeks

These “traditional” and long-standing vacation weeks align with surrounding school districts and most efforts made to change this practice in Massachusetts have resulted in a return to the traditional practice. Community feedback, however, suggests that further exploration for reducing these week-long breaks in exchange for the longer winter break may be appropriate. We will look at this with great interest and, should a change in this long-standing model be proposed for a future school calendar, it would be the result of collaboration with the Framingham Teachers Association and with several years notice provided to the community.

Early Release Day Selection

Based on a survey conducted in conjunction with the Framingham Teachers Association several years ago, respondents indicated that their preference for professional development/early release time would be on Thursdays. This has become a standing practice that most families are used to which aligns well with the time of year where conferences and continued professional development are necessary.

Family, Friend, and Neighbor Days (No Homework Days)

One of the four standards represented in the District's Strategic Plan includes Family and Community

Engagement. The goals associated with this standard are driving Framingham Public Schools to foster community, family, and business partnerships that further support and engage our relationships and encourage collaboration.

Similar to the current school year (2019-2020), we have identified (4) dates for the coming school year (2020-2021) to be held for family and community engagement. These days are called Family, Friends, and Neighbor Days. They previously took place on the fifth Thursday of the month when there are five weeks (in an effort not to conflict with other schedules built around 1st/3rd or 2nd/4th week-type of meetings/events). The calendar does not align that way for next year, but we kept those dates in the same timeframe. This is still a new concept for Framingham and one that takes time to implement.

Framingham Public Schools - Seal Logo & Branding

Framingham launched a new City Seal during the State of the City Address on January 16, 2020. This Seal cannot be edited to represent the School Department, however, there is an initiative in progress to create a logo for Framingham Public Schools. The Office of Equity, Diversity, and Community Development is working with the Human Resources Department and the Media and Communications Office, a graphic designer, and a visual artist to come up with concepts that reflect input from across the District. Once this logo has been created and approved, it will be utilized on all official District documents, including the calendar.

Any additional questions that have not been addressed here? Please feel free to contact the Office of the Superintendent directly, via email, telephone, or through any of the variety of social media platforms where the Superintendent communicates directly with the broad community of educational stakeholders - especially students and their families.

2020 - 2021 Framingham Public Schools District Calendar

AUGUST 2020

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 ●	25 ●	26 ★	27 ★▲	28	29

Aug. 24: PD Day for Teachers and Staff (4 Days)
 Aug. 25: Convocation & Teacher Work Day AND Grade 9 Orientation
 Aug. 26: First Day of School: Grades 1-12
 Aug. 27: First Day of Kindergarten and BLOCKS / No HW

SEPTEMBER 2020

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 X	2	3	4	5
6	7 X	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 X	29	30			

Sept. 1 - No School: P, E, M, H (PD) (19 Days)

OCTOBER 2020

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 X	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 ▲	30	31

Oct. 15 - Early Release: E (PC)
 Oct. 22 - Early Release: E (PC), M (PD)
 Oct. 29 - Early Release: E (PC), M (PD) / No HW (21 Days)

NOVEMBER 2020

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3 X	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 X	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 X	26 X	27 X	28
29	30					

Nov. 3 - No School: P, E, M, H (PD)
 Nov. 5 - Early Release: E (PC)
 Nov. 25 - Half-Day: E, M, H / No School: P
 Nov. 26-27 - No School: Thanksgiving Recess (17 Days)

DECEMBER 2020

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 X	25 X	26
27	28 X	29 X	30 X	31 X		

Dec. 3 - Early Release: E, M, H (PD)
 Dec. 24-Dec 31 - No School: Winter Recess (17 Days)

JANUARY 2021

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1 X	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 X	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28 ▲	29	30

Jan. 28: No HW (19 Days)

FEBRUARY 2021

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 X	16 X	17 X	18 X	19 X	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Feb. 15-19 - No School: February Recess (15 Days)

MARCH 2021

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 X	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Mar. 11 - Early Release: E, M (PD)
 Mar. 12 - No School: P, E, M, H (FTA PD Day) (22 Days)

APRIL 2021

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2 X	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 X	20 X	21 X	22 X	23 X	24
25	26	27	28	29 ▲	30	

Apr. 19-23 - No School: Spring Recess
 Apr. 29 - Early Release: E (PC), M (PD) / No HW (16 Days)

MAY 2021

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 X	25	26	27	28	29

May 6 - Early Release: E (PC)
 May 13 - Early Release: E (PC)
 May 20 - Early Release: E, M (PD)
 May 27 - Early Release: E (PC) (20 Days)

JUNE 2021

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 →	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 →	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Jun. 1 - No Kindergarten (Incoming K Orientation)
 Jun. 6 - FHS Graduation (Estimated)
 Jun. 14 - 180th Day (No Snow Days)
 Jun. 21 - 185th Day (Includes 5 Snow Days) (10-15 Days)
 (If the District exceeds the first 5 snow days, school will be held on June 15 - 21 as needed.)

Other Major Religious & Cultural Holidays

Sept. 7: Labor Day	Jan. 18: MLK Jr. Day
Sept. 18-20: Rosh Hashanah	Feb. 12: Lunar New Year
Sept. 27-28: Yom Kippur	Feb. 15: Presidents' Day
Oct. 12: Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples' Day	Mar. 27-Apr. 3: Passover
Nov. 11: Veterans' Day	Apr. 2: Good Friday
Nov. 14: Diwali begins	Apr. 4: Easter
Nov. 26: Thanksgiving	Apr. 12: Ramadan begins
Dec. 10-18: Hanukkah	Apr. 19: Patriots' Day
Dec. 25: Christmas	Apr. 22: Earth Day
Jan. 1: New Year's Day	May 2: Orthodox Easter
Jan. 6: Three Kings Day	May 9: Mother's Day
	May 12-13: Eid al-Fitr
	May 31: Memorial Day
	June 20: Father's Day

Extenuating circumstances and/or inclement weather may necessitate changes to the calendar during the year.

Legend

PD: Professional Development
 PC: Parent Conferences
 P: BLOCKS Preschool
 E: Elementary Schools

M: Middle Schools
 H: High School
 X: No School
 ★: First Day

Early Release
 Half-Day
 Last Day
 No Homework (HW)

PROPOSED DRAFT

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