

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 27, 2023
TO: Members of the Framingham School Committee
FROM: Dr. Robert A. Tremblay, Superintendent of Schools
RE: FPS 2023-2024 School Calendar Draft - First Reading

I am pleased to submit the DRAFT 2023-2024 School Calendar for your review. We are using a format that is slightly modified from the current school year which I will explain in more detail during the calendar presentation on February 1, 2023. I also want to underscore that this new model reflects feedback from months of school residencies and conversations with staff across the district.

The calendar development considers many factors, including contractual obligations, student learning time requirements, school day requirements, caregiver/staff conferences, student screening needs, and professional development needs, among other logistics and is reviewed annually and collaboratively with FPS District Offices and leadership from the Framingham Teachers Association, Framingham Administration Association, and Massachusetts Laborers' District Council on behalf of Local No. 1156, Laborers' International Union of North America, AFL-CIO.

Important Notes

1. PreK & Kindergarten Professional Development (PD) Day
 - a. This is a new addition to the calendar. On September 5, 2023, Preschool and Kindergarten teachers will receive specific professional development that is geared toward the practices and strategies that support our youngest learners. This time will also allow for collaborative planning across schools to strengthen our Tier I practices for all students.

2. Kindergarten Screening
 - a. This is a new addition to the calendar. In previous years, Kindergarten

Screening was completed over the course of the fall using retired educators and student screenings often extended well into the late fall/early winter and often did not allow the district to meet expected Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) deadlines. This proposed calendar is directly responsive to Kindergarten staff feedback, will ensure compliance with DESE screening deadline expectations, and will afford classroom educators the opportunity to assess their own students and establish positive relationships prior to the first day of school for students.

- b. This calendar adjustment will now align the first day of school for Kindergarten students with BLOCKS students, an early step toward PreK/Kindergarten alignment as the district moves forward with this pairing as part of its strategic programming and physical plant capital planning.
 - c. This is a change from previous practice. As stated above, BLOCKS and Kindergarten students will begin together on September 6, 2023 and students in Grades 1-12 will begin on August 30, 2023.
3. Professional Development (PD)- Late Start Days
- a. Educators continue to support a diverse student population. Late start dates will allow for targeted professional development which includes, but is not limited to, topics like Social Emotional Learning, strategies to support Multilingual Learners, and Equity, Diversity and Community Engagement. These late starts will be a new addition to the professional development model we have in Framingham and will allow all professional development attendees to have the same start/end time, regardless of their regular school hours. The District is utilizing these days in addition to whole day professional development days so that the focus can be on the individual schools' specific needs.
4. Staff Appreciation Day, November 22, 2023
- a. While the FPS calendar has not, in recent years, afforded staff the day prior to the Thanksgiving holiday as a no-school day, the effort this year is to provide an additional day off for staff in an expression of appreciation and as an effort to boost morale across the district. This does not change the 180-school day requirement or other negotiated terms of any collective bargaining agreements, but it is an area of mutual

agreement by district and union leadership across all bargaining units since this effort would be extraordinarily well-received by FPS staff and likely families in our community.

5. Delayed Starts at Framingham High School (FHS): MCAS/ACCESS Testing

- a. Framingham High School (FHS) is requesting a delayed start eight times during the second semester of the 2023–2024 school year to accommodate both MCAS/ACCESS testing. Because FHS is testing between 650 to 750 students at a time on these required assessments, it requires a significant amount of staff support to accommodate the needs of students. All staff members will be asked to assist in proctoring full classrooms or small group testing classrooms. It also allows FHS to ensure ideal test environments for all of our learners which we hope will also lead to improved results on standardized test performance. On these days breakfast will be served for students who are taking the assigned assessments and lunch will be served for all students.

6. Early Release Collaboration Days at Framingham High School (FHS)

- a. Framingham High School (FHS) will maintain the use of Early Release Collaboration Days as in previous years. This year based on feedback received, these dates will be memorialized in the school calendar for clarity and transparency. The purpose of these days are to engage in department based time where curriculum work can move forward. On these days, students will be dismissed at 1:00pm and lunch will be served.

7. Modification to 'Other Religious and Cultural' Holidays

- a. In previous versions of the calendar, the top left corner was dedicated to listing various religious or cultural holidays observed or acknowledged in our community. Instead of listing those dates in the new version of the calendar, we will link to a supplemental calendar outlining religious, cultural, or days of appreciation that are typically observed.
- b. We believe this supplemental calendar effort will simplify the view of the primary calendar, which has become increasingly crowded and overwhelming with information in an effort to be more inclusive of our community in recent years, so that staff and families can easily identify when school is or is not in session.

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)
- Kindergarten Screening
- Report Cards (TBD)
- Collaboration Days (TBD)
- ⊗ Late Start Day

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2023

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

Aug. 28 - No School: First Day for Staff & Grade 9 Orientation
 Aug. 29 - No School: PD (E, M, H)
 Aug. 30 - First Day (Grades 1-12), Kindergarten Screening
 Aug. 31 - Kindergarten Screening
 Sept. 1 - Kindergarten Screening
 Sept. 4 - No School
 Sept. 6 - First Day (BLOCKS & Kindergarten)
 Sept. 25 - No School (21 Days)

OCTOBER 2023

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

Oct. 2 - No School: P, E, M, H (PD)
 Oct. 5 - Early Release: E (PC) / No HW
 Oct. 9 - No School
 Oct. 12 - Early Release: E (PC), M (PD)
 Oct. 19 - Early Release: E (PC); M, H (PD)
 Oct. 26 - Early Release: E (PC) (20 Days)

NOVEMBER 2023

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

Nov. 2 - Late Start: P, E, M, H (PD)
 Nov. 10 - No School
 Nov. 22 - 24 - No School (18 Days)

DECEMBER 2023

| 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 | 31 | X 25 | X 26 | X 27 | X 28 | X 29 |

Dec. 7 - Early Release: E, M, H (PD) / No HW
 Dec. 14 - Late Start: P, E, M, H (PD)
 Dec. 25 - 29 - No School (16 Days)

JANUARY 2024

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

Jan. 1 - No School
 Jan. 11 - Late Start: P, E, M, H (PD)
 Jan. 15 - No School (21 Days)

FEBRUARY 2024

| 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 | X 19 | X 20 | X 21 | X 22 | X 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | ⊗ 29 | | |

Feb. 19-23 - No School
 Feb. 29 - Late Start: P, E, M, H (PD) (16 Days)

MARCH 2024

| 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 | 31 | 25 | 26 | 27 | ▲ 28 | X 29 |

Mar. 11 - Early Release: E, M (PD)
 Mar. 28 - Early Release: E (PC); M, H (PD) / No HW
 Mar. 29 - No School (20 Days)

APRIL 2024

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

Apr. 4 - Early Release: E (PC); M, H (PD)
 Apr. 11 - No School: E, M, H (PD)
 Apr. 15-19 - No School
 Apr. 25 - Early Release: E (PC) (16 Days)

MAY 2024

| 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 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | X 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

May 2 - No School: E, M, H (PD - FTA Day)
 May 9 - Early Release: E, M (PD) / No HW
 May 16 - Early Release: E (PC)
 May 27 - No School (21 Days)

JUNE 2024

| 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 | X 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 30 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

Jun. 3 - No Kindergarten (Incoming K Orientation)
 Jun. 6 - FHS Graduation (estimated)
 Jun. 17 - 180th Day (No Snow Days)*
 Jun. 19 - No School
 Jun. 25 - 185th Day (Includes 5 Snow Days) (11 - 16 Days)

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Final report cards for elementary students will be handed out on the last day of school. For middle and high school students, the final report cards will be mailed home.

*Each snow day incurred adds a day at the end of the year. School will be held on the 17th - 25th of June if needed.

MCAS dates will be communicated to families in January 2024 by each specific school.



2023 - 2024 Report Card Dates

| Elementary (K - 5) | | Middle (6 - 8) | | High School (9 - 12) | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------|--------|--------|
| Semester 1 | Semester 2 | Trimester 1 | Trimester 2 | Term 1 | Term 2 | Term 3 |
| TBD | Last Day of School | TBD | TBD | TBD | TBD | TBD |

Collaboration dates at the high school are to be determined.

2023 - 2024 School Hours

| School | Breakfast | Full Day | Early Release <small>(Lunch is served at the Elementary Schools. Lunch is not served at the Middle or High Schools.)</small> | Half Days <small>(Last Day of School; Lunch is not served at any of our schools.)</small> | Late Start Days |
|---|-----------------|------------------|---|--|------------------|
| Framingham High School | 7:00am - 7:20am | 7:20am - 1:55pm | 7:20am - 10:45am | 7:20am - 10:49am | 9:20am - 1:55pm |
| FHS - Thayer Campus | Not Applicable | 8:30am - 2:15pm | 8:30am - 10:50am | 8:30am - 10:50am | 10:30am - 2:15pm |
| Cameron Middle School | 7:50am - 8:10am | 8:10am - 2:25pm | 8:10am - 11:40am | 8:10am - 11:40am | 10:10am - 2:25pm |
| Fuller Middle School | 7:50am - 8:10am | 8:10am - 2:25pm | 8:10am - 11:40am | 8:10am - 11:40am | 10:10am - 2:25pm |
| Walsh Middle School | 7:50am - 8:10am | 8:10am - 2:25pm | 8:10am - 11:40am | 8:10am - 11:40am | 10:10am - 2:25pm |
| Barbieri Elementary School | 8:50am - 9:05am | 9:05am - 3:20pm | 9:05am - 12:55pm | 9:05am - 12:20pm | 11:05am - 3:20pm |
| Brophy Elementary School | 8:50am - 9:05am | 9:05am - 3:20pm | 9:05am - 12:55pm | 9:05am - 12:20pm | 11:05am - 3:20pm |
| Dunning Elementary School | 9:00am - 9:15am | 9:15am - 3:30pm | 9:15am - 1:05pm | 9:15am - 12:30pm | 11:15am - 3:30pm |
| Harmony Grove Elementary School | 8:50am - 9:05am | 9:05am - 3:20pm | 9:05am - 12:55pm | 9:05am - 12:20pm | 11:05am - 3:20pm |
| Hemenway Elementary School | 9:00am - 9:15am | 9:15am - 3:30pm | 9:15am - 1:05pm | 9:15am - 12:30pm | 11:15am - 3:30pm |
| King Elementary School | 8:50am - 9:05am | 9:05am - 3:20pm | 9:05am - 12:55pm | 9:05am - 12:20pm | 11:05am - 3:20pm |
| McCarthy Elementary School | 8:00am - 8:15am | 8:15am - 2:30pm | 8:15am - 12:05pm | 8:15am - 11:30am | 10:15am - 2:30pm |
| Potter Road Elementary School | 8:50am - 9:05am | 9:05am - 3:20pm | 9:05am - 12:55pm | 9:05am - 12:20pm | 11:05am - 3:20pm |
| Stapleton Elementary School | 8:50am - 9:05am | 9:05am - 3:20pm | 9:05am - 12:55pm | 9:05am - 12:20pm | 11:05am - 3:20pm |
| BLOCKS (FHS) | Not Applicable | 9:15am - 3:15pm | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | 11:15am - 3:15pm |
| BLOCKS (Juniper Hill) | Not Applicable | 8:15am - 2:15pm | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | 10:15am - 2:15pm |
| BLOCKS (Juniper Hill: Half Day, AM Session) | Not Applicable | 8:15am - 10:55am | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | No AM Session |
| BLOCKS (Juniper Hill: Half Day, PM Session) | Not Applicable | 11:35am - 2:15pm | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Not Applicable |