

Bertha-Hewitt 4 Day School Week Frequently Asked Questions

Will the 4-day week be consistently Monday-Thursday or Tuesday-Friday or what would the day off be or look like?

- Most schools that operate in a 4-day week model have Mondays off because there are more holidays on Mondays than Fridays, so it works better to have Mondays scheduled off. We will survey our families to see which works better for them – having Monday or Fridays off.

Are any articles available to show how this benefits a child?

- There are several articles “out there”, Our admin team have read probably 15 -20 journals and education based articles, listened to several speakers summary of my research:
- Data is very inconsistent on both test scores and other assessments (i.e. in one math was lower after 3 years, in another math substantially gained.... In one 5th grade reading scores decreased the first year, but then when they went to 6th grade they were back to where they needed to be etc) Most are saying that because of the inconsistencies these changes were likely not related to the change in day. We have reached out to numerous schools who currently operate in a 4-day week; none of them stated test scores we negatively affected by the schedule change.
- Teacher and student morale are consistently higher in all research.
- Young student stamina for the added minutes (for us it is basically 30 min per day), there was no data showing this was a problem
- Parents who have been in a school system of this type say, “they would not go back to a 5 day week”, they were able to deal with any issues (daycare etc) and now are able to have more time with family.

Would this be for the entire school or just affect the high school schedule?

- If we move to a 4-day school week model – it would be for our entire campus, Pre-K – 12th grade. The only change that we may see programming wise is that we may only be able to offer 1 day a week for three-year-olds.

How would this affect sports and sporting events?

- Nothing would change regarding sports. The expectation for our coaches is that practice would be 10-15 minutes shorter, so our student-athletes are out of the building by 5:45 each day.

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My biggest worry for my family is when my kids are in sports and can't drive. We have no way to get them there. I hate feeling like a burden to other families or coaches.

- Our coaches need to promote this with families and students. We really think this is a good thing; it is a way for students to interact and get to know each other if they ride together. Other schools we chatted with said this was not an issue for families – people take turns and make it work.

How would parent-teacher conferences work for the high school? Would it be Monday day or evening? How would that affect/impact our hours?

- Parent Teacher Conferences would occur on Mondays from 12:00 – 8:00 giving parents similar options that we have now.

Will there be daycare of options for kids on the off days?

- This is still a work on progress, but we believe we will have something for our K-6th students on the off days (without transportation). We are awaiting information for the Dept of Education to see if we can do extended day programing (Targeted Services – which we would get extra funding for to help pay paras to make up for less workdays for them) or we would offer daycare at a cost to families.

If the School Board approves this – is the application guaranteed to be accepted by MDE

- No, our application isn't guaranteed to be approved by MDE; however, we are already working on the application with the help of other schools so we are confident that our application will meet the requirements set forth by MDE.