

After missing 12 instructional days in January and February – a record for FWCS – we have decided to extend the school day by one hour from March 3-April 11, 2014 the exception of Friday, March 28, 2014

## **The Basics**

### **Q: What are the new hours for school?**

A: The schedule from March 3-April 11, with the exception of Friday, March 28, will be as follows:

- Elementary schools will dismiss at 4:30 p.m. (Normal dismissal 3:30 p.m.)
  - Bunche kindergarten will dismiss at 3:20 p.m. (Normal dismissal 2:20 p.m.) Bunche P3/P4 will continue to dismiss at normal time (10:45 a.m.).
  - Towles Intermediate School will dismiss at 3:35 p.m. (Normal dismissal 2:35 p.m.)
  - Title I pre-K will run on normal time in the morning (8:55-11:40 a.m.); afternoon will run from 12:40-4:30 p.m.
  - Whitney Young pre-K will run on normal time in the morning (8:55-11:25 a.m.); afternoon will run from 12:45-4:30 p.m.
- Middle schools will dismiss at 3:25 p.m. (Normal dismissal 2:25 p.m.)
  - Memorial Park will dismiss at 3:40 p.m. (Normal dismissal 2:40 p.m.)
- High schools will dismiss at 3:35 p.m. (Normal dismissal 2:35 p.m.)
  - Ward Education Center will dismiss at 4:05 p.m. (Normal dismissal 3:05 p.m.)
  - Anthis Career Center morning programs will run on normal time (7:45-10:45 a.m.); afternoon programs will begin at 12:50 p.m. and end at 4 p.m. for FWCS students. Non-FWCS students will be dismissed at the normal 3 p.m. dismissal time.

### **Q: Why is March 28 not an extended day?**

A: That is the last day before spring break, and we know many people have already made plans based on a regular dismissal time.

### **Q: Speaking of spring break, why not use spring break as make-up days? What about Good Friday or Memorial Day? What about going on Saturdays?**

A: We decided against using spring break because many family and staff members already have plans for that week. We would anticipate a high number of student and staff absences if we held school during spring break. For the same reasons, we decided not to use Saturdays, Good Friday or Memorial Day as make-up days.

### **Q: Do we have to make up every missed day?**

A: State law (IC 20-30-2) requires that public schools provide instruction to students 180 days a year. This year, the state provided waivers for two weather cancellations. That leaves 10 days that we must make up. You can read more about the history of the state's 180 requirement here: <http://www.doe.in.gov/accreditation/instructional-time-requirements>.

### **Q: How many days will we earn by extending the school day?**

A: Extending the school day by one hour from March 3-April 11 allows us to make up four days.

### **Q: When will the other days be made up? When is the last day of school for students?**

A: One day was made up on Jan. 31. We will use our two make-up days in May – May 9 and 23. The remainder will be made up in June with the last day for students scheduled for Friday, June 6, barring any additional closures.

## Extended Day FAQ (Continued)

### Page 2

#### **Q: You just said “barring any additional closures.” What if we do have more closures?**

A: We’re really hoping that doesn’t happen, but, we know we’re not out of the winter woods, yet. If we have to close schools again, we will again review our calendar and make up the time by adding on days and/or adding more extended days to the calendar.

#### **Q: I heard something about an e-learning option. Could FWCS have done that instead?**

A: E-learning is not an option for FWCS because we do not provide one-to-one computers for our students. Because we are a district with 71% of students qualifying for free/reduced-price meals, we know that many students don’t have computers or online access in their homes to make this option feasible.

#### **Q: How will schools use the extra hour each day?**

A: Elementary schools will use the extra hour to focus on math and English/language arts instruction, as well as other areas where they need to catch up because of the lost instructional time. Middle schools will add about 12 minutes to each period of the day. High schools will add 10 minutes to each period throughout the day.

#### **Middle School Schedule**

	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	
<b>Period</b>	<b>Start Time</b>	<b>End Time</b>
1A	7:30 a.m.	8:59 a.m.
2A	9:03 a.m.	10:28 a.m.
3LU	10:32 a.m.	11:02 a.m.
4B	11:06 a.m.	12:37 p.m.
5B	12:41 p.m.	2:09 p.m.
6RA	2:13 p.m.	3:25 p.m.

	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	
<b>Period</b>	<b>Start Time</b>	<b>End Time</b>
1	7:30 a.m.	8:41 a.m.
2	8:45 a.m.	9:56 a.m.
3	10 a.m.	11:09 a.m.
4	11:13 a.m.	11:43 a.m.
5	11:47 a.m.	12:56 p.m.
6	1 p.m.	2:09 p.m.
7	2:13 p.m.	3:25 p.m.

	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	
<b>Period</b>	<b>Start Time</b>	<b>End Time</b>
1	7:30 a.m.	8:41 a.m.
2	8:45 a.m.	9:56 a.m.
3	9:58 a.m.	11:07 a.m.
4	11:11 a.m.	12:20 a.m.
5	12:24 p.m.	12:54 p.m.
6	12:58 p.m.	2:09 p.m.
7	2:13 p.m.	3:25 p.m.

#### **High School Schedule**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Start Time</b>	<b>End Time</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	7:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	8:35 a.m.	9:35 a.m.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:40 a.m.	10:40 a.m.
4 <sup>th</sup> (Lunch)	(A) 10:45 a.m. (B) 11:15 a.m. (C) 11:50 a.m.	11:15 a.m. 11:45 a.m. 12:20 a.m.
5 <sup>th</sup>	12:25 p.m.	1:25 p.m.
6 <sup>th</sup>	1:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
7 <sup>th</sup>	2:35 p.m.	3:35 p.m.

## **Extended Day FAQ (Continued)**

### **Page 3**

#### **Q: When do the third and fourth quarters end now?**

A: The third quarter ends March 28, and the fourth quarter ends June 6, barring any additional cancellations.

### **Meals**

#### **Q: How will the extended schedule effect lunch times?**

A: Elementary school lunches will be provided at the regular time. Middle and high school lunches will be moved back to align with the modified schedules.

#### **Q: What if my child is really hungry in the afternoon and needs a snack?**

A: The majority of our elementary schools currently offer the Federal Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program or another snack program. For those that do not have these programs, students will be able to bring a nutritious, non-messy snack.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

#### **Q: Will extra-curricular activities still take place?**

A: Elementary after-school activities will be canceled during the five weeks of extended days. Middle and high school extra-curricular activities will continue to take place after school. Middle school, however, will only offer activities, including practices, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Practice times and meeting times will be adjusted, as necessary. Coaches and advisers will notify students and parents of changes.

#### **Q: Will activity buses still run?**

A: Yes. In most cases, buses will run one hour later than normal. Some schools, however, may choose to combine runs and only run buses at one time instead of twice in the evening. Please check with your school on the exact time buses will run.

#### **Q: Will Study Connection still be offered?**

A: No, Study Connection will not be offered from March 3-April 11.

### **Other Topics**

#### **Q: What will happen to the YMCA after-school care program?**

A: The program will continue to run from the end of the school day to 6 p.m.

#### **Q: My child has an IEP. How will the extended day affect him/her?**

A: IEPs will still be followed. Special Education will work with families as needed

#### **Q: How late will school/district offices be open?**

A: School office hours will remain open an additional 30 minutes. Middle and high school offices will be open until 4:30 p.m., and elementary offices will be open until 5 p.m. The FWCS switchboard will also remain open until 5 p.m.

## Extended Day FAQ (Continued)

### Page 4

#### Employees

**Q: Will staff members work longer days?**

A: Some, such as teachers, will work a longer day (see schedule below), but this is in exchange for four fewer days at the end of the school year. Some staff members will not see a change in the number of hours worked, although the time they work may be adjusted to meet the new schedule.

The schedule for teachers from March 3-April 11, with the exception of Friday, March 28, will be as follows:

- Elementary teacher day ends at 4:45 p.m.
- Middle school teacher day ends at 4:20 p.m.
  - Memorial Park teacher day ends at 4:15 p.m.
- High school teacher day ends at 4:20 p.m.

**Q: Will substitute teachers receive the same pay for a longer day?**

A: The daily rate for substitute teachers will be increased to \$107 for the extended days. The daily rate will remain \$95 on March 28.