Balanced Calendar Journey for Equity

October 12, 2022

Who We Are

Brenda Mallonee, Cats High School Principal Sandie Birley, Special Services Director

2020-2021 (COVID Pandemic)

- 4-day Work Week
- Summer School on Fridays (AM only)
- Waiver from OSPI (167 school days)
- Resolution from School Board

Successful Implementation...

- Ad Team became experts in balanced calendar-Explain the Why!
- Conversations with TEA & PSE
- TEA, PSE, and Admin were the greatest advocates
- Our community follows the guidance of TEA, PSE, and our Administrators

2021-2022 2022-2023

- 4.5-Work Day
- Summer School Friday afternoon
- We extended the school calendar by adding weeks off throughout the year
- School Board wanted kids in school 5-days a week

Staff Survey & Results

- 137 staff members took the survey
- 96% of staff want to keep balanced calendar

Areas of Greatness from Staff

- "I appreciate that I have an entire week to decompress, recover, and recharge. It is helping me with teacher burnout."
- "It is nice to look forward to frequent breaks, it helps lessen the burnout factor."
- "As a parent, the balanced calendar increases time to spend with family. I am able to schedule medical/dental/eye appointments on Friday afternoons."
- "Although the October break was great, it would have been nice to have it a
 week later, my family hunts.":)
- "As a new teacher, I opted to not teach during Wildcat Academy. This has given me time to lesson plan on Friday afternoons instead of on the weekends."

Student Survey Results

- 108 students surveyed
 - Attend Summer School 2020-21
 - Attend Wildcat Academy
- Garfield- 100%
- Kirkwood- 55%
- Lincoln- 100%
- Valley View- 78%
- TMS- 83%
- THS-80%
- 83% Students support Wildcat Academy

Student Feedback

- "When I was invited to Summer school it felt like it was because I wasn't smart and I don't like to feel that way."
- "I like getting help each week and not waiting for Summer school to catch up."

Student Feedback

- "The smaller the breaks, the more my brain can remember."
- "I like that everyone is invited to Wildcat Academy. If you don't need help, you can learn something new."

Student Feedback

 "I would like a blended model- If you need help, the school should ask you to attend Summer school, or Wildcat Academy. Learning should be open to anyone who wants help. The smart get smarter... We should trust the science behind smaller breaks, if the studies say it is better for kids, we should be using research to guide our calendar, not opinions." -Danny (THS)

Learned Lessons Along the Way...

- Meals should be available for students during all breakscreate the system
- Make sure the administration can visit with teachers about the why! -Balanced calendar knowledge
- Get TEA & PSE buy in
- If you are changing hours to contract- do this before the start of the year, think about optional days, sick days, etc.

Learned Lessons Along the Way...

 Open up Summer school and Wildcat Academy to all students- how you advertise can negatively affect students self-worth

Wildcat Academy at CATS High School

Fridays 11:45-2:45

Student Opportunities

Washington State History Credit

Fine Arts Credit

Red Comet

Woodwork- Create Benches for CATS

30% of our students attend

Compared to 2021/22 school year- call parents/mandatory

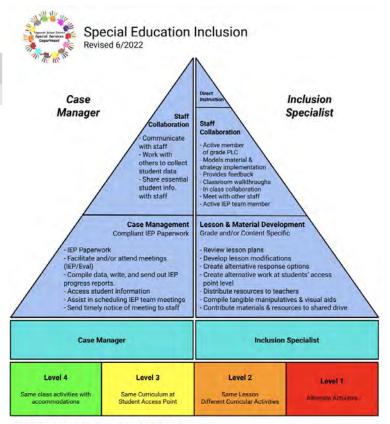
Elementary Wildcat Academy

12:00-3:00

(Rotation A) 12:00-1:00 Intervention in math or reading

(Rotation B) 1:00-2:00 Gardening, cooking, gaming, singing, Native American Club, TSI, book club, groups, counseling, sports (all activities are focused on reading, writing, language, and math)

(Rotation C) 2:00-3:00 Same as above



Our Mission: Inclusive education for all.

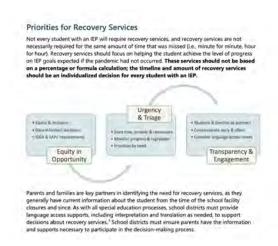
Our Vision: Collaborating to maximize student growth and equity through differentiated education.

We do what's best for kids!

Special Education Services

- Non traditional modality to SDI implementation
- Embedded structure and support for all staff
- Data showed that with the modified calendar, the rates of regression were less than the previous years shown in a decreased number of students having ESY on their IEPs.

Special education recovery services vs equitable additional learning opportunity



Special education recovery service vs. regular participation in WAC regular programing.

- Based on individual disability and IEP team on regression effects compared to the general education population during covid.
- ESY separate from WAC/Recovery services
- WAC with accommodations/modifications and supports.
- Intentionality about supports and services not happening during the week long breaks.

	Recovery Services 20-21	Wildcat Academy 21-22	Wildcat Academy 22-23
Preschool	2	7	NA
Elementary	10	70	65
TMS	5	25	22
THS	5	13	10



Contact Information

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