

# LUCKIAMUTE VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS



Dear LVCS Parents,

With this year quickly coming to an end, we wanted to touch bases and update our families on the progress we are making in coming to a decision about a four-day school week next year. We have heard some concerns as to the implementation of this calendar and in the reasoning behind the change, so our goal is to address these questions and update you on where we are at with the process.

The four-day model is currently being used in surrounding districts such as Perrydale, Amity, and Falls City. We expanded on this model by adding about 45 minutes to the school day. The reason behind this is because many of our families have expressed a desire to have more sciences, art, performance arts and music at the school in addition to the daily P.E. that we offer here at LVCS. Without compromising our language, reading, and math programs, we find the extracurricular and science pieces extremely valuable! With a longer school day, we are bringing in science lessons and labs, art instruction and projects, and drama/music into the school day each week. This will increase and expand each child's education in a fun, hands-on, and creative way!

With these changes, recesses and break times will NOT be taken away, but rather added more throughout the day. As a school, we want to maintain a high level of academic standards, but we recognize the value in fresh air, free time, and physical activity. Especially with the younger students, this time is necessary to offer brain breaks and movement. Research has shown that breaks within instructional periods help increase retention, performance and focus. Additionally, with a longer weekend, it gives the kids the rest and time away to decompress and come back ready to learn on Monday mornings.

This model has NOT BEEN FINALIZED. There is a lot of confusion about that. We have started working with YMCA as a proactive measure for if we go into a four-day school week model or even if we maintain the traditional five-day model. Again, parents have expressed a desire for after school programs and with our location and abilities, the YMCA provides a wonderful mix of programs available to our students. Right now, we are working with the Dallas School District in fine-tuning and finalizing the calendar, but it has not been completed or approved yet. Once a decision is made and finalized, our families will be informed right away.

We apologize to families who feel that input was not or is not invited. Two separate surveys were sent out to gather information and insight, letters have been sent home as well as posts made on our Facebook page about the change we are looking at making to the calendar. We did receive some feedback via email and through our surveys and want to thank the parents who contributed to our decision-making process. As we continue to analyze what is best for our students and school, we will continue to update parents on where we are at in the finalization process.

If you have any questions, please call or stop by our office and we are happy to discuss information further or address any additional questions. Thank you for the support and contributions you as a community make to our students and school—we continue to strive for improvement while maintaining high standards and creating a safe, fun, and challenging learning environment for every individual.

Sincerely,

Steve Diehl and Jenneca Crocker  
Director and Assistant Director  
Luckiamute Valley Charter Schools