



Friday late starts give teachers a chance at real learning

This school year brings exciting change and opportunity for improvements in student learning.

On 30 Fridays throughout this year, teachers and school staff will come together to better plan and prepare lessons and materials, as well as improve instruction and curriculum.

Students will come to school 90 minutes late on these Fridays.

Renton's teachers will begin working together as never before in exciting new ways: integrating curriculum, making school more meaningful and relevant for kids; talking with each other about individual student progress; and, looking at student work together as a way to analyze and improve teacher practices. Teacher collaboration is a huge component of professional learning community research that



SUPERINTENDENT
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includes ongoing, on-site, on-task dialogue as one of the surest ways to improve student achievement.

Research shows that students and school systems benefit from extensive, meaningful teacher collaboration. When teachers work together, academic study melds into classroom practices; smarter, more relevant connections are

made between subjects; and, greater connections are made between school and the world of work become clearer.

These substantial collegial relationships among teachers produce significant benefits for students, for the teachers, and for the school. We'll keep parents, the School Board and the community updated on the meaningful training taking place on these Friday late start collaboration days and the resulting improvements in student achievement.

Continuing to keep schools safe: Weapons prohibited on school property

Under state law RCW 9.41.280, it is a gross misdemeanor for any person to carry or possess a dangerous weapon or firearm on public school premises. Firearms/weapons are not allowed in school; at school-sponsored activities; on school grounds or facilities; or on school-provided transportation. If a student brings a firearm/weapon to school, it will result in an immediate expulsion for no less than one calendar year, and notification of law enforcement.

Students who violate the statute are, following regular due process, to be expelled from the district in which they committed the violation and are considered expelled from all public schools in the state.

Renton School District policy also prohibits laser pens and objects that look like weapons, such as toy guns and toy knives. A student who brings such an object to school, on a school bus, or to a school activity can expect serious consequences, up to and including expulsion. In addition, state law criminalizes the discharge of a laser at a bus driver.

Students or staff who are aware of weapons on campus and do not report the information to school authorities are subject to discipline.

The confidential Renton School District weapons hotline number is (425)204-2468.

New vaccine needed for students entering school

The Washington State Department of Health has announced that a new vaccine is available that can protect adolescents against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap). The Tdap vaccine is recommended for all children aged 11 years and older. This vaccine should

replace one tetanus-diphtheria (Td) booster.

Starting July 1, 2007, children attending sixth grade will be required to show proof of Tdap vaccination if it has been five years since receiving a tetanus-containing vaccine (DTaP, DT, or Td).

Law requires giving student info to military recruiters

Parents can opt out with letter to school

Federal Law 107-110, Section 9528 of the ESEA, "No Child Left Behind Act," requires school districts to release student names, addresses and

telephone numbers to military recruiters upon their request.

Additionally, the law allows opportunities to opt out of having this information released.

Families can request that personal information not be released to military

recruiters and others by sending a letter to your child's school, clearly indicating your child's full name and address, asking that directory information not be released to military recruiters.



Renton School District 2007-2008 Calendar

August				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

September				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

October				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

November				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

December				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

January				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

February				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

March				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

April				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

May				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

June				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

July				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

September 4	First Day of School
October 11	No School — Teacher Training Day
October 12	No School — State Teacher Training
November 9	No School — Teacher Training Day
November 12	No School — Veterans Day
November 22-23	No School — Thanksgiving Break
December 20-Jan. 1	No School — Winter Break
January 21	No School — MLK Jr. Day
January 28	No School — Teacher Training Day
February 18-22	Presidents Day/Mid-Winter Break
April 7-11	Spring Break
May 23	Snow Make Up Day (if needed)
May 26	No School — Memorial Day
June 20	Last day is a half-day for all students

Washington Assessment of Student Learning Testing (WASL)
April 14-25

GRADING PERIODS/REPORT CARDS ISSUED

<i>Elementary</i>	
End of 1st Trimester	November 8, 2007
End of 2nd Trimester	March 7, 2008
End of 3rd Trimester	June 20, 2008
<i>Middle & High</i>	
End of 1st Quarter	November 6, 2007
End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester	January 25, 2008
End of 3rd Quarter	April 4, 2008
End of 4th Quarter/2nd Semester	June 20, 2008

PARENT CONFERENCES*

Elementary Schools	November 15-21, 2007
Middle Schools	November 19-20, 2007
High Schools	November 19, 2007

*There is early dismissal during conferences. No half-day AM/PM kindergarten classes during conference week. PM kindergarten classes during conference week.

90-minute late starts at all schools (All schools start 90 minutes later than usual.)

AM Kindergarten attend school full day

(Late start Friday's without the dot) PM Kindergarten attend school full day

Holiday, No School

Teacher Training Day, No School

First & Last Day of School

Snow Make-Up Day if needed

Parent Conferences

High School Testing Dates