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Henry County Schools Calendar Adjusted for Second Semester

Board of Education amends calendar to push back return from break, add teacher workdays

HENRY COUNTY, GA – The Henry County Board of Education took formal action to amend the 2020-2021 school year calendar during the December Business Session, a decision that moves the start of the second semester for students to Monday, January 11 and adds seven days designated as teacher workdays.

Board members heard reports and updates from members of Superintendent Mary Elizabeth Davis' executive cabinet regarding a longer window to coming back from the semester break. After hearing from teachers regarding the need for additional planning time to adequately prepare for the complexities of teaching in a hybrid environment, board members supported the move to push back the return from the break for students to allow teachers more time to prepare.

"Our teachers have done an amazing job during this school year," said Davis. "Starting with delaying the beginning of a regular school year just weeks before the original start date and moving all learning to remote, the educators in our school district have adapted to more changes than are common in order to meet the evolving needs of teaching during a pandemic."

With classes not starting back until January 11, there will be three teacher workdays from January 6 through January 8. Also added to the amended calendar are full teacher workdays on January 29, February 12, March 12, and April 23. These are days when there will be no on-campus or remote learning for any students.

Board members know how crucial these extra days of preparation will be to teachers who have been working non-stop to ensure that student learning continues and families are supported.

"Our teachers have worked harder than ever to provide a high-quality education during this uncommon school year," said Vice-Chair Holly Cobb. "These extra days for our educators will ensure they have plenty of time to prepare for the rigors and challenges of teaching in a hybrid setting to reach every student."

Henry County Schools' newest calendar adjustments still meet all state instructional days requirements. State guidelines guide districts primarily on the amount of time spent in a classroom as opposed to the number of days.

As approved, the new calendar does not otherwise impact any dates outside of those already mentioned.

The 2020-2021 school year is still slated to conclude on Wednesday, May 26, and Class of 2021 graduation ceremonies have already been approved by the board of education to commence at Atlanta Motor Speedway starting May 19 and running through Friday, May 28.

“We are on track to continue providing quality instruction to all students in the second semester just like the first semester,” stated Davis. “Each and every student in our system is being provided with an education that fits their needs, including that of a safe and healthy learning environment. We are glad to be able to provide both on-campus and remote learning for our students and their families.”

To view an updated version of the calendar, families are encouraged to visit the district website and find the latest version in multiple locations.

For more information on Henry County Schools, visit www.henry.k12.ga.us.

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