

The **BALANCED CALENDAR**

BULLETIN

November 2015

Survey results and answers to commonly asked questions

More than 3,500 parents, students and staff responded to surveys conducted last month about intersession programming and thoughts related to the implementation of the Balanced Calendar next school year. All groups were asked to share thoughts about potential themes and topics for the four-day intersessions, which will be held October 24-27, 2016; February 20-23, 2017; and May 22-25, 2017. All students will be invited to attend the intersessions, however, participation is optional and there will be a minimal cost to attend.

Overall, field trips, arts, fitness/sports, hobbies/leisure activities, life skills and technology garnered the most votes as potential intersession topics. Many high school students also expressed an interest in careers and career planning.

Nearly 50 percent of the parents who took the survey indicated they plan on sending their children to all three intersessions while 36 percent of high school students and nearly 70 percent of students in grades 5-8 said they were very likely or likely to attend an intersession. More than 65 percent of elementary students responded that they were very likely or likely to attend intersession.

Those taking the survey were also asked to give input on any other topics or issues the District may need to consider in the implementation process. We have selected some of the common questions that were posed and have answered them below.

Q: *“Transportation issues. Not sure if there is still busing on intersessions.”*

A: Transportation will be provided during intersessions. While routes may differ from students’ normal routines, all students who register to attend intersessions and indicate they will be riding the bus will be scheduled to be picked up and dropped off.

Q: *“What is the schedule for seniors? I hope their school year still ends in May. They need summer jobs for college ...”*

A: The Class of 2017 will end their high school careers just prior to the last intersession. The last day for seniors will be **May 19, 2017**.

Q: *“My child is in kindergarten and I don’t know if this pertains to her age.”*

A: We are excited to provide intersession activities for all grade levels.

Q: *“With multiple children this could get pricey for those on a fixed income.”*

A: While we are still working on the specifics of intersession programming and tuition, we are committed to keeping costs at a minimum for all of our families. In addition, it is our intent to make sure that any child who wants to attend intersession to be able to do so. That is why the district will continue to seek sponsorships, grants and other funding opportunities to help those who may need assistance.

Committee begins planning intersession themes, developing partners

This week, members of the district’s Balanced Calendar Committee began the process of discussing programming for the 2016-17 intersessions. Using results from the surveys, members selected topics that students and parents expressed a high interest in to begin planning efforts. The Committee plans to announce the 2016-17 intersession themes next month’s *Balanced Calendar Bulletin*.

Committee members were also impressed with a presentation by Brandon Morgan, Grants Coordinator with the Flint and Genesee County Chamber, about developing a community partnership in offering intersession programming and opportunities. The committee will continue to pursue this possibility as well as seek additional community partnerships and funding opportunities. If interested, please call the district’s Communications Department at (810) 591-0852.

District Calendar for 2016-17

If you want to know when school starts next year (August 22) or are thinking about booking a vacation during one of the intersessions, please note that the 2016-17 District Calendar is posted on our website (under the Parents tab) at: <http://www.davisonschools.org/files/filesystem/2016-2017DistrictBalancedCalendar.pdf>

 **Davison Community Schools**

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