



Sisters School District

“Home of the Outlaws”

Curtiss Scholl
Superintendent

January 9, 2018

Dear Parents, Students, Community Partners and Staff,

We would like to inform you that the 2018-2019 Student School Year Calendar was approved by the Sisters School District Board of Education on Wednesday, December 13, 2017. This year's calendar was created by a committee involving staff, administrators and parents. The first step was to survey parents, students and staff. The results of the survey were a primary factor in creating the 2018-2019 calendar. We asked questions about the start of school, Thanksgiving break, spring break and then prioritized. We explained in the survey that all decisions impact the last day of school in June, so we also asked folks to prioritize their preferences. Here are the results:

- **Starting school before or after Labor Day:** 55% preferred to start after Labor Day; 27% preferred to start before Labor Day; and 18% stated that it doesn't matter
- **Thanksgiving Break:** 52% preferred a full week; 40% preferred three days; and 8% said it didn't matter
- In regards to **spring break:** 48% said they favored two full weeks, 33% thought one full week was ideal; and 19% stated they would choose something in between or they did not have a preference

The calendar committee is grateful for those who took the time to take the survey. The information was extremely helpful in creating the calendar. With all the great feedback from the survey there were still decisions that had to be made in regards to teacher workdays, conferences and how it all impacted the end of the school year. The committee spent three meetings discussing these issues. With the assistance of the administrative team, we created a calendar that is compliant with the Oregon Department of Education's instructional hours requirement and the Sisters Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. The calendar committee also believes we created a calendar that meets the wishes of our community, and most importantly, the instructional needs of our students.

With all that being said, the calendar committee will continue to seek input as we develop future calendars. We fully anticipate that we will send another survey in the fall of 2018 to gain additional insight before we create the 2019-2020 calendar.

Sincerely,

Curtiss Scholl, Superintendent