

2014-15 ANCS School Calendar & Weekly Schedule Proposal - *DRAFT*

Purpose:

To align school calendar and schedule with teacher collaboration time needed for enhanced student outcomes

Why is this time needed and how will it be used to improve student outcomes?

Reasons why regular, consistent collaboration time among the full faculty and staff is needed:

- the demands of learning about and implementing new Common Core standards;
- complicated new school accountability requirements to which our school is held;
- curriculum is planned by teachers around creative projects that cut across disciplines rather than relying on superficial textbooks;
- time to provide high levels of feedback and information for students and parents—through blogs, narrative report cards, conferences;
- there is a higher percentage of students with special needs at ANCS than most other schools which requires more training and more time in which teachers are involved in SST and IEP meetings; and
- K-8 alignment—educationally and operationally—across two separate campuses.

Some examples of how this regular collaboration time would be used to improve student outcomes:

- looking together at student work to norm what “meeting” and “exceeding” the standards looks like in different skills at each grade level
- analyzing schoolwide and grade-level student assessment data to identify students in need of support and challenge
- taking part in professional workshops on areas of schoolwide learning (such as Conscious Discipline, meeting the needs of academically advanced students) to insure consistency across the school
- receiving training in critical areas of compliance (special education, allergy management, emergency protocols, mandated reporter, CPR) so that a safe and supportive environment exists for all students

Weekly Schedule:

Each week school is in session, students would be dismissed on

Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays at 1:30 PM (elementary campus) and 2:15 PM (middle campus).

Regular after care would be available on those days at the same rate and until the same end time as all other days:

- *For families who qualify for free meal program:* \$
- *For families who qualify for reduced price meal program:* \$
- *For all other families:* \$

Teachers and staff would be engaged together in collaboration and professional learning activities such as those described above each **Monday/Wednesday/Friday** for approximately 2 hours.

Yearly Calendar:

The ANCS yearly calendar would follow the Atlanta Public Schools 2015-16 calendar in terms of the first day of school and the major breaks during the year. To maintain a higher level of instructional time than most traditional APS schools, two school days would be added to the calendar to account for the weekly earlier dismissal days. These two school days would be **August 3 and 5/November 23 and 24 (prior to Thanksgiving break)/May 26 and 27 (last days of school year)**.