

Ballard families,

At the Monday, November 9th Board meeting, the Board of Education approved changes to the 2020-21 academic calendar. In response to the increased time required to prepare for distance learning, hybrid learning, and supporting the high number of students in quarantine, administration proposed three days this year that all students will engage in asynchronous learning (working independently on their own schedule) and one day that will extend winter break.

On these dates, teachers will focus on professional development and collaboration that was planned for Wednesday early dismissal days. Moving professional development to these four days will allow teachers to have additional time, week to week, to plan, prepare, and collaborate. Teachers will assign asynchronous work in advance of the day, so students will understand what work needs to be completed prior to returning on the following day.

Asynchronous learning from home for all students will take place on the following Wednesdays:

- Wednesday, December 9th
- Wednesday, February 17th
- Wednesday, April 21st

Winter break will be extended to include:

- Monday, January 4th

Meals may be ordered and picked up on the Wednesday asynchronous learning days only. Meals will not be available for pick-up on Monday, January 4th. The Board-approved calendar changes will not impact the last day of school on the original academic calendar; it remains as June 4th.

Thank you for your flexibility and understanding as we provide the time and resources for our teachers to meet the needs of our students in this challenging academic environment.

Ottie Maxey, Superintendent

Katie Claeys, Director of Teaching and Learning