



**March 6, 2017**

***BRSD Board approves change to 2017-2018 school calendar***

The Battle River School Division Board of Trustees approved next year’s school calendar last November, but made an additional change to the schedule at their February 23 meeting.

In order to ensure all school staff are well equipped to meet the needs of students, BRSD has made the decision to add extra staff collaboration and learning days to next year’s calendar. These learning days will be provided for all staff who work within schools – including teachers, educational assistants, librarians and administrative assistants, as well as Principals and Vice Principals.

“We believe that providing this opportunity for all school staff to gain knowledge and skill will ultimately benefit all students,” says Superintendent of Schools Rita Marler. “Everyone who works with students can play a part in student success and we want to make sure all staff have the skills to do that.”

Every school in the division will be asked to adjust the number of minutes in their school day slightly next year, in order to ensure that students receive the required number of instructional hours, even if they are at school for fewer overall days. As schools each have a slightly different number of minutes in their day, the adjustments in minutes will vary from school to school but the overall change is expected to be less than 15 minutes per day at any school.

The addition of extra staff collaboration and learning days is seen as a very positive move by the BRSD Board of Trustees, who were unanimous in their support.

“Students have a wide range of needs,” says Board Chair Laurie Skori. “It’s our responsibility to ensure staff have the skills they need. We believe this is a very positive step in making sure students can succeed at school.”

A copy of the revised calendar is on the next page.

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For more information contact  
Diane Hutchinson, Community Relations Advisor  
[dhutchinson@brsd.ab.ca](mailto:dhutchinson@brsd.ab.ca); 780-672-6131 (ext 5248)

**Battle River School Division #31  
2017 - 2018 School Calendar  
Approved by BRSD Board Feb. 23, 2017**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	
AUGUST	30	NON-INSTRUCTIONAL-PLANNING DAY (No School for Students)
	31	PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES (No School for Students)
SEPTEMBER	1	NON-INSTRUCTIONAL-PLANNING DAY (No School for Students)
	4	LABOUR DAY (Schools Closed)
	5	FIRST DAY OF CLASSES
	15	STAFF COLLABORATION (No School for Students)
	29	SCHOOLS CLOSED
OCTOBER	5	STAFF MEETING/EARLY DISMISSAL
	6	SCHOOLS CLOSED
	9	THANKSGIVING DAY (Schools Closed)
	20	PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES (No School for Students)
NOVEMBER	2	STAFF MEETING/EARLY DISMISSAL
	9&10	NOVEMBER BREAK (Schools Closed)
	13	DAY-IN-LIEU OF PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS (Schools Closed)
	24	PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES (No School for Students)
DECEMBER	7	STAFF MEETING/EARLY DISMISSAL
	8	STAFF COLLABORATION DAY (No School for Students)
	22	LAST DAY OF CLASSES
	25	CHRISTMAS BREAK BEGINS (Schools Closed)
JANUARY	8	SCHOOL RESUMES
	11	STAFF MEETING/EARLY DISMISSAL
	19	STAFF COLLABORATION DAY (No School for Students)
	31	SEMESTER BREAK (Schools Closed)
FEBRUARY	1	STAFF MEETING/EARLY DISMISSAL
	16	PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES (No School for Students)
	19	FAMILY DAY (Schools Closed)
MARCH	1	STAFF MEETING/EARLY DISMISSAL
	2	STAFF COLLABORATION DAY (No School for Students)
	8&9	TEACHERS' CONVENTION (Schools Closed)
	16	SCHOOLS CLOSED
	26	SPRING BREAK BEGINS (Schools Closed)
30	GOOD FRIDAY (Schools Closed)	
APRIL	2	EASTER MONDAY (Schools Closed)
	3	SCHOOL RESUMES
	5	STAFF MEETING/EARLY DISMISSAL
	20	PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES (No School for Students)
MAY	3	STAFF MEETING/EARLY DISMISSAL
	4	SCHOOLS CLOSED
	18	PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES (No School for Students)
	21	VICTORIA DAY (Schools Closed)
	22	DAY-IN-LIEU OF PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS (Schools Closed)
JUNE	1	STAFF COLLABORATION DAY (No School for Students)
	7	STAFF MEETING/EARLY DISMISSAL
	15	SCHOOLS CLOSED
	28	LAST INSTRUCTIONAL DAY
29	LAST OPERATIONAL DAY (No School for Students)	

**Rationale**

**Professional Learning and Staff Collaboration Days** - As an organization that learns, we are ensuring sacred time for staff professional development and skill enhancement, using research-based practice and opportunities for collaboration to support mastery of our Everyday 4 priorities.

**Staff Meeting Days** - Based upon feedback from administrators, we have incorporated an early dismissal of 60 minutes on the first operational Thursday of each month beginning in October.

**November Break** - The November Break is a grouping of non-instructional days placed in the calendar strategically around the first reporting period (similar to Spring Break in Me