Appendix A

Forum Invitation Letter sent to all SMFCSD families in English and Spanish and to all Classified staff and Administrators
Dear SMFCSD Parents/Guardians:

Currently, our District has two calendars with the same total of school days (180) throughout the school year:

**“Traditional Calendar:”** The Traditional Calendar starts in late August with school ending by the middle of June. The calendar includes a two week winter break and a one week spring break.

**“Year Round Calendar:”** The Year Round Calendar starts the last week of July and ends in late June. The Calendar includes three 3-week breaks which occur in October, December-January, and March-April.

The School District would like to hear your input on the current arrangement of having the two calendar options. The School District is also considering a single calendar beginning in the 2015-16 school year for all schools in the School District and aligning the Winter and Spring breaks with the San Mateo Union High School District’s calendar.

A Calendar Advisory Committee has been formed to gather input from parents and staff about the current calendars and what a single or common calendar might look like.

**Public Forums** are scheduled to provide information about the calendars. The Forums will be held throughout the District on different dates and times from Monday, March 3 through the middle of March.

To participate in a Forum, please go to [www.smfc.k12.ca.us](http://www.smfc.k12.ca.us) and click on the Calendar Forum link under the News & Announcements section to see the locations, dates and times of the Forums and to sign up to participate.

Those **without online access** are invited to call the following numbers to sign up for a Forum:  **English** 650-312-7777 ext. 4053 **Spanish** 650-312-7777 ext. 4232

Each Forum will be limited to 80 participants. All Forums are open so it is not necessary to attend one at your school. Two Forums will be conducted in Spanish; all other Forums will be in English.

There will be an opportunity to complete a Calendar Advisory Survey to provide your opinions about the current calendars and parameters for a possible single calendar. On March 3, the District will post a Calendar Survey link on the District’s website ([www.smfc.k12.ca.us](http://www.smfc.k12.ca.us)). The deadline for completing a Survey is Monday, March 17.
Forum feedback and Survey results will be shared with the Calendar Advisory Committee and the District’s negotiating teams. Calendar parameters for 2015-16 will be negotiated by the representatives of the Board of Trustees and the San Mateo Elementary Teachers’ Association (SMETA). After ratification by the Board and SMETA, the 2015-16 calendar will be distributed to parents and staff.

Sincerely,

Donna Lewis, EdD.
Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Appendix B
Calendar Forum Power Point (annotated)

English version
Appendix C

Opinions Expressed at Each Forum
Opinions about the Positives of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar

- Like the later start to the school year
- There’s more programming aligned with the traditional calendar breaks/vacations
- Long summer break/vacation
- Calendar aligns with traditional calendar in other parts of the country
- Calendar makes it easier to travel internationally to visit family where school doesn’t end until mid to late July

Year Round Calendar

- Opportunity to start school before the start of other activities such as sports
- Less burnout for teachers and students with breaks
- Students forget less
- Traveling is easier during the off season—cheaper and more opportunities
- 3 weeks is a longer time over Winter break to travel
- Likes intersessions because she knows she’s going back to school
- Easier to schedule doctor appointments and other things during intersessions
- Easier transitions for students
- Third week of Winter intersession is enjoyable
- Children look forward to breaks
- More opportunities during intersessions for play dates, etc.

Opinions about the Challenges of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar

- Economic challenges of covering long summer for camps etc. especially for economically struggling families
- School starts too soon—hottest time of the year is in August/September
- Thanksgiving break is hard—not long enough
- Vacationing with the “mobs” who are on traditional school year calendars
- Lack of alignment with the High School District calendar

Year Round

- Summer vacation is too short
- There is not enough time during the summer break for both enrichment and family time
- Energy costs must be higher with air conditioning needed in the summer
- Lack of alignment with the High School District
- Sports calendars are more aligned with the traditional calendar
Opinions about what should be in a Blended Calendar if one is considered

- Include 7-9 weeks of summer vacation
- Include an October break
- Have two weeks for Spring break
- Have the Spring break at a set time each year—don’t have the break “track the Easter bunny”
- Try to make a calendar with the High School District
- Have all of the week of Thanksgiving off
- Make Winter break a 3 week break
- Make start of school early to mid August
- Have a summer break of 6-7 weeks to avoid language learning regression
- Align with High School District’s Spring break
- Change the summer vacation by moving the end of school to later in June and starting school after Labor Day
- Blended calendar will result in more community and enrichment opportunities
- Start school early to mid-August before other activities/sports start
- Alignment with the High School District will result in less revenue loss due to absences

Comments from those with children on two calendars

- Intersession kids get “gyped” in a family with children on two calendars—there’s only 4 weeks of true vacation for them

Misc.

- Whatever calendar is chosen, provide 3 years notice for planners and at least a year’s notice from the start of the school year
Forum #2: March 3, 1:30pm
Location: Audubon School

Opinions about the Positives of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar
- Longer summer vacation allows us to take full advantage of summer programs
- Like the later start date for school
- Calendar is familiar
- More likely a fit with school calendars in other areas
- Closer to the High School calendar
- Non school sports programs are aligned with the traditional calendar

Year Round Calendar
- October intersession
- I like the longer spring and winter breaks
- Shorter summer break fits well with work lives
- Less boredom with shorter summer break
- Offseason vacations during intersessions are cheaper
- Positive impact on shared custody arrangements
- Less restart/gear up/anxiety because of shorter summer vacation

Opinions about the Challenges of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar
- Would like a whole week off for Thanksgiving
- Summer vacation is too long
- Long summer vacation results in readjustment/anxiety when school restarts
- School should start after Labor Day
- The traditional calendar focuses most of the costs of camps and activities at one time—in the summer
- There are no camps the last week of summer vacation
- Long summer vacation is difficult for working parent

Year Round Challenges
- Summer break is too short
- Hard to find programs/activities during the October break
- Difficult for families with two and three school year calendars
- Concern about how forced relocation/moves result in changes in schools and school year calendars
Opinions about what should be in a Blended Calendar if one is considered

- Include a ski week in mid February which has the advantage of being germ-free
- Have a week off at Thanksgiving
- Align with High School District calendar more closed at the start and end of the school years but don’t have graduations on the same day
- Overlap breaks with the High School District calendar for family time
- Make summer break longer than year round and shorter than the traditional calendar
- Make traditional spring and winter breaks longer especially good for those who travel
- Fantasy—have “no tell” absence days

Comments from those with children on two calendars

No additional comments made

Misc.

- Mid-week start and end dates of both calendars don’t fit with week-long sign-ups for camps and programs and are strange
- Concern about whole week of half-days for parent teacher conferences
- Try to look at calendars for the whole region
- Align SMFC professional development days with the High School District
Opinions about the Positives of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar

- Longer summer vacation
- Calendar aligns with summer programs, families with sabbaticals, and high school and college calendars with college students available to work in summer programs
- The traditional calendar is more the norm
- Sports schedules—especially competitive ones—are more aligned with the traditional calendar
- Calendar is aligned with private and parochial schools
- Calendar fits work schedules

Year Round Calendar

- There’s less burnout with frequent breaks
- Shorter summer vacation means less language loss for language immersion students
- Shorter summer vacation
- Short vacations—can spread out work vacations over breaks because there’s more flexibility to take vacations at different times
- Less burnout for both staff and students
- More opportunities for vacations during intersessions when traditional calendar schools are in session
- The longer winter break provides more flexibility in travel
- Able to find program opportunities during intersessions
- “Camp grandparent” is easier to arrange when there are more breaks of shorter duration
- 3 week Spring intersession gives more opportunities for overlap with other school year calendars
- Intersessions are a plus for teachers for Common Core planning
- Shorter summer vacation is a plus for special ed students with easier transitions from/to breaks
- Total vacation time is more affordable because costs of camps, programs and child care are spread across the school year
- More family time with shorter breaks
- Calendar allows for focus during breaks on sports, etc.
- Opportunities during intersessions to help my child catch up

Opinions about the Challenges of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar

- Summer vacation is too long
- Winter break is too short
- Concern about burn out
- Non-syncing of calendars is a problem
- More prolonged re-learning time needed
- Traditional calendar vacations/breaks are at peak travel times resulting in higher vacation and travel costs
- Difficulty of having summer learning packets—hard to sustain
Year Round

- No August time off
- No time off in June
- More specialized camps are aligned with traditional calendars so opportunities for my child are limited
- Children who need routines are challenged by frequent breaks
- Difficulties in planning vacations with other families who are on traditional calendars
- Outside resources—eg school field trip opportunities—are more limited in June and August when year round schools are in session

Opinions about what should be in a Blended Calendar if one is considered

- Fantastic idea
- Spread breaks (2 weeks plus) and have summer vacation length at a mid-point between the current calendars
- It should result in the community being aligned and alignment with the High School District
- It will help build neighborhood schools to deal with parents opting out because of the calendar that the school is on
- With a single calendar, there will be more opportunities for camps/enrichment
- Single calendar will provide more opportunities for fundraising by the Ed Foundation

Comments from those with children on two calendars

- I didn’t choose to have my children on two different calendars but one child is in a special education program assigned to a school with a different calendar
- Two different schedules are a problem
- Two different schedules has the potential to create more truancy issues
- Non-syncing of calendars is a problem
- Neighborhoods are splintered with children from the same neighborhood going to schools with different calendars
- Non-alignment within the District and with the High School District creates challenges
Opinions about the Positives of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar
• Aligns better with High School calendar

Year Round Calendar
• Students retain more with shorter breaks, especially in immersion program for students who speak Spanish and are learning Mandarin and English
• Less costs all at one time for programs, tutoring, etc.

Opinions about the Challenges of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar
• Summer vacation is too long
• Cost for programs, tutoring, childcare, etc., too much at one time during the summer

Year Round
• Difficulty finding childcare—sometimes my high school student has to miss school to take care of my younger child during intersessions
• Difficult to plan vacations for families that have children in high school
• Parents may need to miss work due to inability to find childcare during intersessions
• Absenteeism of students due to parents’ work schedule and being unable to get child to and from school
• ASES (the free after school program) program is not available during intersession
• Intersession packets for students are too intense
• More costs incurred for programs, childcare, etc.

Opinions about what should be in a Blended Calendar if one is considered

• Shorter breaks, but more of them
• Prefer 1-2 week spring break as opposed to fall
• Summer break to be longer than year round, but shorter than traditional
• Overlap or match high school breaks for vacations

Misc.
• Multiple calendars make it difficult for families to help each other out
Opinions about the Positives of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar
- Longer summer vacation
- Winter break when it’s easier to schedule family vacations
- More possibilities during the summer for international travel
- More options for diverse programs/camps summer vacation for following child’s passions
- Calendar provides consistency for families

Year Round Calendar
- Fall intersession allows travel off season which is less crowded with more options and good weather
- More frequent breaks allow for continuation of language immersion learning
- This calendar provides a greater sense of routine/discipline
- Children are ready for breaks—esp. good for some boys
- Breaks/intersessions allow parents to help their children catch up academically
- Calendar provides a good balance between school and refreshing
- Less burn out on this calendar
- Easier to bridge academics/school with shorter break in the summer
- Longer spring break doesn’t interfere with Passover
- Feeling of refreshment/enthusiasm among students and staff after breaks
- Breaks allow for spreading of expenses throughout year
- Less parent burnout with shorter summer vacation

Opinions about the Challenges of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar
- No camps available last 2 weeks of August after high schools start
- Concern about brain drain during the summer vacation
- No opportunities for extra academic help without breaks
- Starting a few days before Labor Day and then having a 3 day Labor Day break is a waste of the first few days of school
- Spring and winter breaks are not long enough
- There’s more competition for vacations, travel, costs and available options on the traditional calendar
- It’s a challenge not to have an October break during the best weather
- Time between breaks is too long—school burn out and lack of enthusiasm about school

Year Round
• Very little overlap with High School District calendar
• Two calendars are a problem
• Year round calendar is harder for Special education students because of multiple adjustments
• Summer vacation is perhaps a bit too long
• Mid-week start and end dates are a problem
• Challenges with PTA planning
• Harder to take adult classes during shorter summer vacation
• Child care harder to find/do during intersessions
• Longer spring break conflicts with sport team calendars
• Limited opportunities to take academic and specialized camps and programs during the shorter summer vacation
• Shorter summer vacation doesn’t allow enough time for vacation, camps and enrichment
• Limited Middle School programs available during intersessions

Opinions about what should be in a Blended Calendar if one is considered

• There will be more continuity between schools
• There will be more support for parents
• There will be equity between schools
• Please match the High School District beginning and end dates especially at the start of the school year
• Add breaks to the calendar but perhaps shorter than 3 week intersessions
• Split the difference on the length of summer vacation
• Have 2 week breaks—fall, winter and spring

Comments from those with children on two calendars

• Preschools have more absences with schools on different calendars
• Having children on two different calendars results in too many things for parents to deal with—every five weeks there is a change and chaos
• Challenges with 2 calendars in one family for scheduling, planning and supporting children
• Difficulty in managing schedules, camps and vacations
• Parent burn out with children on two calendars
• There’s no choice in some complexes to get on children in one family on one calendar because some schools are too full for transfers
Forum #6: Tuesday, March 4, 6:00pm  
Location: College Park – English

Opinions about the Positives of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar
- Longer time during summer for family, friends, summer camps, enrichment programs, and travel

Year Round Calendar
- Many opportunities during intersessions for friends, camps, childcare
- Less learning loss
- Less stress on students and parents/child thrives
- Less burnout
- Immersion calendar suits and supports travel abroad which can take longer
- Costs for camps, tutoring, child care spread out more evenly throughout the year
- More opportunities for quality time with our children
- Travel in October less expensive
- Use of intersessions to support children struggling in school after I learn at parent/teacher conferences in October what my child needs help with
- Less chance for behavioral problems from being out of school for too long
- Easier for scheduling doctor/dentist appointments during intersessions to avoid having them during school time

Opinions about the Challenges of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar
- More traffic if calendar aligned with high school possibly causing safety issues
- I don’t think there are summer packets to help students keep up
- Long summer break may cause behavior issues if students are out of school too long
- Children who are in lower income families with food insecurity don’t have access to free lunch program for 10 weeks
- More costs for tutoring sessions to maintain Mandarin language acquisition
- Latch key students may have more safety risks during longer summer
- Less opportunity to schedule appointments, ie. doctor/dentist
- Less social engagement with friends and less physical activity (PE)
- Difficulty finding child care for a long period of time
Year Round

- Air conditioning needed during summer and early fall
- Lack of camps, social programs during intersessions
- No programs for middle school age students during intersessions

Opinions about what should be in a Blended Calendar if one is considered

- Shorter summer than traditional calendar but longer than Year Round summer calendar
- Would make transition to high school easier
- 2 weeks in fall, 2 weeks in spring as well as 2 weeks in winter
- 4 week winter break
- 3 weeks in fall, 2 weeks in spring

Misc.

- Could language immersion choice schools stay on year round while the rest of the District is on 1 calendar because of the need to maintain language skills?
- Would like the District to continue 2 calendar options
Opinions about the Positives of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar

- Aligns with most schools nationally
- More availability of out of state camps
- More availability of camps and programs which are staffed by college students
- Longer summer vacation during the warm weather
- Opportunity to establish a summer routine with longer summer vacation
- Longer summer vacation provides time for enrichment, a true break and a time to catch up on academics
- Preferable for staff members who have students on traditional calendars
- More aligned with the High School District calendar
- No break in momentum during the school year

Year Round Calendar

- Shorter summer vacation is a plus especially for younger learners
- Breaks throughout the year are nice for children and families
- There is access to camps and programs during all breaks
- The impact and cost of child care is spread across the whole year rather than just the summer
- 3 week breaks are great
- Breaks are good for positive behavior
- There are benefits for learning retention with shorter summer
- Less competition for travel and it’s cheaper during intersessions
- Shorter summer is a positive for language immersion students
- Spreading out the breaks provides a lifestyle balance for families
- With shorter summer, children aren’t as bored
- Better consistency in routines with breaks that are spread out
- Teachers like breaks for themselves when they have their own children on a different calendar

Opinions about the Challenges of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar

- Lack of alignment with the High School District calendar
- 10 weeks summer vacation is too long
- Children are burned out without more breaks
- Summer vacation is not long enough
- One has to travel when everyone else is and with higher cost
- Children burn out with long summer
• Long summer is a challenge for special education students for therapies, school-based services and education
• Difficult to plan child care and schedule for long summer of 10 weeks

Year Round
• Fewer opportunities for child care and programs during Fall and Spring Intersessions
• Summer vacation is too short
• We lose neighborhood families and sense of neighborhood when families don’t want year round which our neighborhood school is
• Year Round calendar not being the norm may affect choice of schools

Opinions about what should be in a Blended Calendar if one is considered
• Achieve a balance of vacation/breaks and school
• Have overlap with the High School District calendar
• Establish a “mid-way” summer vacation with 2 week breaks during the school year
• Keep the October break, add extra time to Thanksgiving and an extra week at the Winter Break

Comments from those with children on two calendars
• Difficult to coordinate schedules/vacations with families on different calendars especially when the families are farther away
• It would be horrendous if we were on two calendars and both my spouse and I worked outside the home
• 10 week summer vacation is too long
• We miss speech therapy for one child because of two calendars
• My child who’s in school wants to be on break because my other one is
• Summer vacation for year round calendar is too short especially with children on both calendars because we have fewer weeks together as a family
Forum #8: March 6, 4:00pm
Location: Bowditch Middle School

Opinions about the Positives of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar
- Calendar is more conducive to summer sports, esp. competitive teams
- It’s the norm—what I’m used to

Year Round Calendar
- With breaks/intersessions spread out over the year, there are less days off continuously
- Days off match up with the holidays
- Get to take vacations during non-peak times

Opinions about the Challenges of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar
- Summer vacation is too long
- Not enough regular breaks
- It’s a problem because it’s peak vacation travel time

Year Round
- Not being able to go to camps/sports with friends
- Intersession opportunities are not as interesting in fall and spring
- Summer break is too short
- Pick-ups from schools for off-site programs don’t cover the end of the year round calendar

Opinions about what should be in a Blended Calendar if one is considered

- Have intersessions of 1-2 weeks. It would be great if the intersessions could be “tied” to the flow of the curriculum
- Have 2 week intersessions and add 3 weeks to year round summer calendar

Comments from those with children on two calendars

- Difficulties of having children on different calendars

Misc.

- Like vacation days for professional development added to weekends; others like “random” days for vacation days due to professional development
Forum #9: March 10, 9:00 am
Location: Fiesta Gardens International School

Opinions about the Positives of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar
- Longer summer vacation provides a true break with no homework
- More options during the summer for working parents

Year Round Calendar
- Multiple breaks give us a little more time with our child
- Special needs children are able to maintain academic learning with multiple breaks
- Cheaper and less crowded travel opportunities during the intersessions
- Regular breaks result in less schedule and homework fatigue/also less teacher fatigue
- Opportunities for academic interventions during intersessions
- Less teacher and student burn out
- Good for working parents—students and families get breaks
- Shorter summer and intersessions are cheaper for parents because 1) 10 weeks of summer camps/programs are costly and 2) there are different child care and program opportunities during intersessions
- Having schools on year round calendars provides more opportunities for large facilities and maintenance projects at all schools
- 3 week breaks give more options for families who have families/relatives overseas and in different parts of the US
- The yr calendar is a healthier calendar for staff and students
- Children’s attitudes about school are good—they look forward to returning to school after breaks
- Easier to manage vacation time financially when breaks are spread over the year
- Amazing camp opportunities during yr breaks

Opinions about the Challenges of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar
- More burnout because of fewer breaks
- More absences because I would take my child out when he/she needed a break
- Working parents may have to leave their children alone during the long summer
- Summer vacation is too long
- Annex staff planning for a 10 week summer Annex program is challenging—6-10 weeks of summer camp makes camp less special
- Parents are burned out at end of summer vacation
- There are not enough breaks in the traditional calendar
- More time is spent on review when school starts after long summer vacation

Year Round
- Adjustment of high school calendar may be difficult for year round calendar students
- Breaks are not long enough
- 4-5 week summer vacation not long enough
• Camps and child care options are limited during intersessions
• Some parents think that education is choppy because of the breaks
• If breaks have homework, they are not true breaks

**Opinions about what should be in a Blended Calendar if one is considered**

• Make summer vacation longer and have some breaks whether one, two or three weeks during different seasons
• Have breaks in October, Winter and April and add one week to the summer vacation on year round calendar
• Have a longer summer vacation than year round with an October break of 3 weeks, and 2 week Winter and Spring breaks
• October break is important; one week is not long enough. Make Winter break 3 weeks and no spring break. Make summer break longer than current year round summer break
• Make summer break shorter than 10 weeks
• Keep the Winter break
• Align MS and K-5 as the first priority; lesser priority to align with the High School District

**Comments from those with children on two calendars**

• Spring break is not the same as the High School District’s
• Our family needs coordinated breaks to visit family in other states
• Having children on two calendars is better than I expected
• Problem with scheduling family vacations when children are on different calendars

**Misc.**

Look at scheduling of District-provided therapies for special needs students
Opinions about the Challenges of Each Calendar

Year Round

- Some said they would like to send their children to their country during the summer so they could improve their Spanish, but that it’s more difficult to do when they have a short summer.
- Summer camps and activities are designed mostly for traditional calendars and it’s difficult to register kids in these camps when their children are on a year round calendar.
- There are no activities during three week intersessions so they have to send the children to a babysitter. However, they would prefer to send them to a place that had educational programs. A babysitter does not, it’s just child care.
- It’s more difficult to find babysitting for year-round calendar.

Opinions about what should be in a Blended Calendar if one is considered

- The majority liked a calendar that looked like this:
  - 8 weeks off for summer
  - 1 week off for Thanksgiving
  - 2 weeks off for winter break
  - 1 week off for spring break
- One mother suggested a 3 week summer break.

Comments from those with children on two calendars

- Parents do not like to have different calendars. It’s too complicated for them to have two different calendars when their children go to different schools.

Misc.

- Is there a difference in children’s academic performance if they attend a school with a traditional calendar vs. a year-round calendar?
- Are teachers going to have a say on the new calendar?
Observations/Opinions

- The Ed Services Department works 25% harder to provide professional development for teachers on 2 different calendars
- There’s no break for District Office staff with schools on 2 calendars because of the need to support school sites
- Having two calendars is harder for collaboration Districtwide
- Three calendars—when the High School District calendar—is included is very difficult to manage
- When year round middle schools are on intersessions, there are often problems with middle school youngsters who come to the K-5 schools which are in session
- Two calendars impacts reassignment of students on “overflow” because their respective schools have reached enrollment capacity—limits options for reassignment
- Difficulty in scheduling parent or staff committees with schools on two different calendars
- Difficulty in scheduling professional development for administrators with two different calendars
- In the preschool program, children are leaving and enrolling twice per year because the preschool classes have children who will go to school on both calendars
- Having two calendars requires two different testing cycles/periods
- There is an impact on hiring and creates some tension/competitiveness between schools when there should be collaboration
Opinions about the Positives of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar

- Longer summer vacation
- Shorter breaks during the school year
- Calendar provides opportunities for family get-togethers with people in other districts, places and countries
- SMFC traditional calendar is most aligned with the Sequoia HSD calendar where I work
- Vacations in the business world are more supported by the traditional calendar
- Longer summer makes some travel/visiting families in other countries easier
- There are opportunities for language immersion during vacations
- Traditional calendar helps students focus more than frequent breaks
- More programs are available during the summer and there are more options during the longer summer vacation

Year Round Calendar

- Coincides with school calendar internationally—eg. South America
- Good weather during October break
- More flexibility for working parents and cheaper travel during intersessions
- There are intersession offerings for struggling students
- Teachers on year round calendars with children on traditional calendars can participate in their children’s school during intersessions
- Less learning loss and less review needed with shorter summer vacation
- With 3 week breaks, students are ready to go back to school
- 5 weeks of summer camps is affordable for families
- Shorter summer and frequent breaks helps maintain routines
- Year round calendar is consistent with the working world which works year round
- Language immersion students are helped by shorter breaks when the new language is not spoken at home

Opinions about the Challenges of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar

- Summer vacation is too long—concerned about learning retention during the summer
- Longer summer vacation takes a bigger toll on economically disadvantaged students whose families can’t afford camps and programs
- Special education resources and services may not be available during the longer summer vacation
- Lack of alignment with other school districts and the County

Year Round

- Summer break is too short
- The 3rd week on Winter Break is a killer for working parents
• Some “cool” summer camps are not available during October and Spring intersessions—especially an issue for middle school children
• Not aligned with the High School Calendar
• Concern that more frequent breaks may interrupt learning and result in loss of momentum
• Academic interventions are not available for all students

**Opinions about what should be in a Blended Calendar if one is considered**

• Frequent but shorter breaks with a “mid-sized” summer
• Start earlier than the traditional calendar and end earlier than the year round calendar

**Comments from those with children on two calendars**

• High school absences result to take care of younger siblings on vacation
• I have taken my child out of school on the traditional calendar to take vacation during year round calendar intersessions and vice versa

**Misc.**

• Concerned about mid-week start and end dates for both calendars
• Operational efficiencies and inefficiencies are valid to look at
Forum #13: March 12, 4:00pm  
Location: Borel Middle School

Opinions about the Positives of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar

- Easing into school year at the start of the year with mid-week start, then a four day week, and then a full week
- Longer summer allows for more travel time esp. internationally
- Longer summer allows more time for families
- Longer summer allows more time for teachers to regroup
- Traditional calendar matches private school calendars more closely
- Longer summer allows students to feel a sense of completion of one grade before starting the next one
- More options for camps etc. during the summer because many are staffed by college students
- Clubs/outside sports are more aligned with the Traditional Calendar
- For children, it’s nice for them to know that they don’t have school for a long time in the summer

Year Round Calendar

- Shorter summer is better for language immersion programs
- Students and staff hit the ground running after summer and breaks
- Easier to travel off season because of cost, availability and weather
- Year round is easier for working parents
- Availability of camps and programs during intersessions has increased
- Children are less bored and parents are happier with shorter summer and more breaks
- Breaks allow for students, teachers, and families to “regroup”
- Better balance and pacing to the school year from chunking school days and breaks
- Opportunities for early intervention in October for struggling learners

Opinions about the Challenges of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar

- Loss of learning during long summer break
- Hard to do immersion program successfully with longer summer vacation
- Cost of 10 weeks of camps/programs—too expensive for families
- Stress level higher because of more school days between breaks
- Lack of breaks may cause parents to take children out of school creating a conflict/dilemma for “rule followers”
- 10 weeks is too long to have children at home

Year Round

- As a teacher, I can’t imagine starting school in July
- Children miss having a longer summer vacation
- Camps and other programs are more limited during intersessions because of staffing and potentially increased costs of operating
- Winter 3 week intersession is too long
• Hard on staff who use summer for course work, internships and/or second jobs
• Schools in Asia don’t have the same breaks/vacations so more limited windows to visit family there
• 4 weeks during summer is not enough for refreshment of students and perhaps for staff
• For staff, not enough time during the summer for maternity leave without needing substitute teachers

**Opinions about what should be in a Blended Calendar if one is considered**

• Reduce the summer vacation on the Traditional Calendar
• Make the full week of Thanksgiving a break
• Reduce YR intersession at winter to 2 weeks
• Provide some 4 day weeks in the calendar
• Make the Monday right after the December break a vacation day
• Have spring and fall intersessions of 2-3 weeks, a 2 week winter break and a 6-8 week summer
• 3 two week intersessions, a full week break at Thanksgiving and an 8 week summer

**Comments from those with children on two calendars**

• Easier than expected; nice for each child to have their own time
• As a Year Round teacher with children on the traditional calendar, I love the extra week for myself at Winter Break
• Being on two calendars is challenging

**Misc.**

• Mid week start and end dates are challenges on both calendars because camps/programs are Monday-Friday
• Will schools (staff and parents) have an opportunity to choose their own calendar?
Forum #14: March 12, 7:00pm
Location: Meadow Heights School

Opinions about the Positives of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar

- Variety of summer camps
- Length of summer vacation is good for family time and travels—need to consider the “whole child”
- Closer alignment with the calendar that the majority of schools are on for family and fun
- Closer to the High School District calendar
- More decompression time for children during the summer vacation
- Calendar is more aligned with the out of school sports calendars
- Summer vacation provides more time for lack of structure and developing independent skills
- Summer vacation provides time to explore non-school activities
- Time to get bored
- Children need time when an adult is not telling them what to do
- Longer summer vacation beneficial to teachers

Year Round Calendar

- Shorter summer better for language immersion programs because of better language retention
- More frequent breaks help with decompression from school for children and staff
- Frequency of breaks spread throughout the school year
- Shorter summer and frequent breaks better for my work schedule and travel
- Less “brain drain”
- More learning retention with shorter summer especially for struggling learners
- More quality parent time with shorter beaks
- Less adjustment/better behavior with shorter breaks throughout the school year/year is more routinized
- Cheaper travel

Opinions about the Challenges of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar

- Lack of ski week
- Camps/programs for the whole summer doesn’t work
- 10 week summer vacation is too long
- Lack of balance in breaks
- Children are “fried” in October—they need a break
- 2 week Winter Break isn’t always relaxing
- It’s difficult to pay for 10 weeks of vacation programs/camps all at one time
Year Round (Challenges)

- No match with High School calendar
- Calendar is not aligned with most other schools
- If no camps/programs are available during intersessions, parents may have to take time off from work and some may not be able to
- Concerns about children who have to be left alone during intersessions esp. middle school children (reference to recent neighborhood robberies)
- 4-5 week summer is too short
- Fewer enrichment and camp opportunities for students on year round calendars
- Anxiety among children about coming back from breaks

**Opinions about what should be in a Blended Calendar if one is considered**

- Summer vacation length should be in between TC and YRC
- Keep the October break
- Have 1 day more for Thanksgiving break
- Add a “ski week”
- Try to align with the High School District
- Have 2 week fall, winter and spring breaks
- Have 3 week breaks wherever possible for cheaper travel and less competition for travelling
- Align spring break with the High School District

**Comments from those with children on two calendars**

- Lack of alignment with the High School District
- Choices one may be forced to make with children on different calendars—leaving a child home alone or taking the other one out of school to care for the one on break
- Loss of peer support group when most needed
- If one transfers to get children all on one calendar, then children are leaving friends behind or no longer at their neighborhood school

**Misc.**

- Would the District consider aligning within Middle School complexes?
- Concern about not just two calendars but the different calendar for the preschools
- Both calendars have the same mid-week start and end of school problems
Forum #15: March 13, 1:00pm  
Location: Abbott Middle School

**Opinions about the Positives of Each Calendar**

**Traditional Calendar**
- Calendar is aligned with most other calendars for families
- Most closely aligned with High School District calendar
- More opportunities for students during vacations—especially for middle school students during summer and spring breaks—because locations are at traditional calendar schools (eg. Sports fields and theaters at high schools)
- College students and professional staff are available for camps during traditional calendar vacations and breaks
- Summer jobs, internships and classes are usually scheduled using the traditional calendar
- Like longer summer vacation for family vacations and camps

**Year Round Calendar**
- 3 weeks minimum are needed to travel to visit friends/families in some countries
- The spread of the costs of vacation camps and child care throughout the year for families
- We don’t have to “fill” a summer
- Less burn out with shorter breaks spread out across the school year
- Less worry about learning loss
- Less worry with shorter breaks about my children as a working parent
- My child gets to see his/her grandparents more frequently because of breaks
- More opportunities to travel off season with both availability and fewer crowds

**Opinions about the Challenges of Each Calendar**

**Traditional Calendar**
- Filling the long summer vacation
- Long summer vacation is sometimes not great for parents
- Testing this year is happening right after Spring Break
- It’s difficult when Spring break moves around each year
- Lack of overlap with the High School District calendar for Spring break this year

**Year Round (Challenges)**
- Not many camps for Middle School and K-5 children during fall and spring intersessions especially
- Always in and out of breaks and school
- More breaks seem to mean more parties just before breaks at Middle School
- Is air conditioning needed for year round schools?
Opinions about what should be in a Blended Calendar if one is considered

- Keep the Winter break
- Have a shorter summer than the traditional calendar has which provides time to have an October break and spread breaks across the school year
- Keep intersessions for 2 weeks
- Line up the calendar a little bit more with the High School District
- Have a lot more match with the High School District

Comments from those with children on two calendars

- Having children on 2 or 3 different calendars is horrible; I don’t have anything positive to say about it
- If I worked, I’d have to quit with children on more than one calendar

Misc.

- If there is a single calendar, the issue of equal opportunity could be addressed.
- Is it possible to have a longer school day to meet the needs of working parents?
Opinions about the Positives of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar

- Longer periods in school help children to be focused and productive
- Summer vacation coincides with summer heat
- More camps and other opportunities for working parents and family vacations with the longer Summer vacation
- This calendar is more closely related to the High School District calendar
- The end of school date is good
- Longer summer vacation is less disruptive for parents

Year Round Calendar

- Shorter summer vacation and regular breaks in the winter, spring and fall
- Cheaper travel and shorter lines during intersession breaks
- Less summer boredom
- Less education loss
- October is the best month for vacations—fewer people, best weather around the world, cheaper
- The regular breaks get children “recharged”
- Breaks give students opportunity to catch up academically and get “back in the groove” more quickly
- Year round calendar has grown in popularity—trendy and trending positively

Opinions about the Challenges of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar

- Summer is too long; children get bored and drive their parents crazy
- Lack of Significant breaks in the fall and spring

Year Round

- Summer break is too short
- It’s hard for my children to be in school during the summer when other children are still enjoying their summer vacation
- Lack of alignment among schools in Foster City and with the High School District
- K-5 students are more likely to be pulled out of school when there is a High School vacation/break
- More difficult transitions back with several breaks

Opinions about what should be in a Blended Calendar if one is considered

- Mid-August start of school with a shorter summer break and alignment with the start of school for the High School District
- Include three 2 week breaks
- Have 2 intersessions only—they could be longer
- Align Spring break with the High School District
Comments from those with children on two calendars

None

Misc.

- The sooner the decision is made, the better but don’t rush to a decision
- Share information and results with parents
- Concerns about opportunities during breaks/vacations may be solved by demand/supply
- “If it ain’t (sic) broke, don’t fix it.”
Forum #17: March 13, 7:00pm  
Location: Sunnybrae School

Opinions about the Positives of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar

- It’s what my experience is
- Children need longer summer breaks for social and emotional development
- Summer vacation is important for family time and there’s more opportunity to get away
- Calendar is most aligned with rest of State and country—easier to connect with families and friends
- More camp and other offerings on traditional calendar

Year Round Calendar

- The year round calendar is the greatest ever
- Good for working parents
- Better affordability when costs of breaks/vacations are spread across the year
- More opportunities for quality family time when breaks are spread out
- Children are academically fresh after breaks; they can’t wait to go back to school
- Less burn out with 4 breaks
- Good for travel
- Children don’t get bored
- Fall break is the most important
- Flexibility with breaks to do other non-school activities and avoid truancy which occurs when I take my child out of school
- Easier to schedule doctor and other appointments during breaks when they are spread throughout the year
- Lots of camps available for year round calendar students
- Our children like the year round calendar

Opinions about the Challenges of Each Calendar

Traditional Calendar

- 10 weeks of summer camps/programs are very costly when they all occur at one time during the year
- Many children are bored with long summer vacation
- With fewer breaks, children may end up not liking school
- Concerned about school burn out
- There is not equal access to camps, enrichment activities, and programs for all income levels because of cost of these activities and cash flow challenges
- It’s hard for parents to get a lot of time off
- It’s a long period between start of school and Winter Break
- Summer brain drain might happen because of a longer summer vacation

Year Round

- Some intersessions/breaks can be too long
- End of school is too late
Concern about the number of transitions: in/out, in/out, in/out, etc. (perhaps more a transition problem for parents)
Sometimes our children miss out on some camps and activities because schools elsewhere are on the traditional calendar and some camps align with the traditional calendar
Summer break is a little too short
Are there air conditioning challenges?
More child care issues for teachers and parents who work

**Opinions about what should be in a Blended Calendar if one is considered**

- The District has to be aligned to the High School District
- Spring and winter breaks should be two weeks
- Keep October break—3 weeks
- Make length of summer vacation in-between the two current calendars
- Start mid-August for alignment with the High School District and to reduce the long summer vacation on the traditional calendar
- Alignment with the High School District is a priority especially for Spring break

**Comments from those with children on two calendars**

None
Appendix D
Parent/Guardian Survey
English
Dear Parents/Guardians:

The San Mateo Foster City School District currently has two school year calendars: 1) a “Traditional Calendar” which starts in late August with school ending by the middle of June with a two week winter break and a one week spring break and 2) a Year Round Calendar with school starting at the end of July and ending in late June with three 3 week breaks (called intersessions) occurring in October, December, January, and March-April.

Both calendars have the same number of school days (180) and vacation days—the days are just spread differently across the year.

The District is interested in having a single calendar for all schools in the District beginning in the 2015-16 school year. A Calendar Advisory Committee has been formed by the Superintendent to do research and gather input from parents and staff about the current school year calendars and what a single or common calendar might look like. This Survey and the Public Forums scheduled for March are an important part of the data and opinion gathering process.

Once the data and opinions are shared with the District and Committee, a calendar will be negotiated by the representatives of the Board and the Teachers’ Association.

Only one Survey should be completed by a family. Thank you for completing the following Survey to provide your perspective. The Survey should take 5-10 minutes to complete. The deadline for completing the Survey is Monday, March 17, 2014.

Note that the questions in Section I (Background Questions) are marked with an *** and require an answer. The rest of the questions do not require an answer and can be skipped if you have no opinion.
*1. Please mark which SMFCSD school/schools that your child or children attend:

- Abbott MS
- Bayside STEM
- Borel MS
- Bowditch MS
- Audubon
- Baywood
- Beresford
- Brewer Island
- College Park
- Fiesta Gardens
- Foster City
- George Hall
- Highlands
- Horrall
- Laurel
- Meadow Heights
- North Shoreview
- Park
- Parkside
- Sunnybrae
- Turnbull Children's Center
SMFCSD Calendar Survey--Parents

*2. Please mark the current grade level/s of your child/children:

- Preschool
- Transitional Kindergarten
- Kindergarten
- First (1st)
- Second (2nd)
- Third (3rd)
- Fourth (4th)
- Fifth (5th)
- Sixth (6th)
- Seventh (7th)
- Eighth (8th)

*3. Did you attend one of the District Forums on the Calendar?

- Yes
- No

*4. Please mark as many as apply:

- Parent/Guardian
- Classified Staff
- Member
- Certificated Staff
- Member
- District
- Administrator

*5. Which calendar/s is your child/children on?

- Year Round
- Traditional
- I have children on both SMFCS D calendars

YEARMOUND Calendar Opinions

This part of the Survey should only be filled out if you have a child/children attending a school on a YEAR ROUND Calendar.

6. What aspects of the YEAR ROUND Calendar do you like BEST? Please mark up to three (3) choices ONLY:

- Fall Intersession of 3 weeks
- Winter Intersession of 3 weeks
- Spring Intersession of 3 weeks
- Shorter summer vacation
- School starting in late July/August
7. What aspects of the YEAR ROUND Calendar do you like LEAST? Please mark up to 3 choices ONLY:

- Fall Intersession
- Winter Intersession
- Spring Intersession
- My children are on different calendars in SMFCSD schools
- The calendar is different from the San Mateo Union High School District’s calendar
- Childcare challenges during Intersessions
- Lack of camps and community programs during Intersessions
- The Summer break/vacation is too short

8. Please provide any comments about the YEAR ROUND calendar that you’d like to share:

9. Which aspects of the TRADITIONAL Calendar do you like BEST? Please mark up to three (3) choices ONLY:

- Two week Winter Break
- One week Spring Break
- 9-10 week Summer Vacation
- School starting in late August
10. Which aspects of the TRADITIONAL Calendar do you like LEAST?
Please mark up to three (3) choices ONLY:
- Winter Break
- Spring Break
- The summer vacation is too long
- My children are on different calendars in SMFCSD schools
- The calendar is different from the San Mateo Union High School District’s calendar
- Child care challenges during Breaks
- Lack of camps and programs during vacations

11. Please provide any comments about the TRADITIONAL calendar that you’d like to share:

For those who have children on BOTH SMFCSD calendars

Parents/guardians with children on BOTH the Year Round and Traditional calendars are asked to complete these questions.

12. What aspects of the YEAR ROUND Calendar do you like BEST? Please mark up to three (3) choices ONLY:
- Fall Intersession of 3 weeks
- Winter Intersession of 3 weeks
- Spring Intersession of 3 weeks
- Shorter summer vacation
- School starting in late July/August
13. What aspects of the YEAR ROUND Calendar do you like LEAST? Please mark up to 3 choices ONLY:

- Fall Intersession
- Winter Intersession
- Spring Intersession
- My children are on different calendars in SMFCSD schools
- The calendar is different from the San Mateo Union High School District’s calendar
- Child care challenges during Intersessions
- Lack of camps and community programs during Intersessions
- The Summer break/vacation is too short

14. Please provide any comments about the YEAR ROUND calendar that you’d like to share:

15. Which aspects of the TRADITIONAL Calendar do you like BEST? Please mark up to three (3) choices ONLY:
Two week Winter Break

- One week Spring Break

- 9-10 week Summer Vacation

- School starting in late August

16. What aspects of the TRADITIONAL calendar do you like LEAST?
Please mark up to three (3) choices ONLY:

- Winter Break

- Spring Break

- The summer vacation is too long

- My children are on different calendars in SMFCSD schools

- The calendar is different from the San Mateo Union High School District’s calendar

- Child care challenges during Breaks

- Lack of camps and programs during vacations

- other
17. Please provide any comments about the TRADITIONAL calendar that you’d like to share:

---

18. Which calendar do you prefer?
- Traditional
- Year round
- No Preference

**Single Blended Calendar Preferences**

In this section, you will be asked about your preferences if a common calendar were considered that “blends” the current two calendars. In responding to the choices, it’s important to keep in mind that the total number of weeks in school and on vacation will be the same as now—approximately 39 weeks in school and 13 weeks on vacation.

19. What length of SUMMER VACATION would you prefer?
- At least 4 weeks of summer vacation
- At least 6 weeks of summer vacation
- At least 8 weeks of summer vacation
- No preference

20. What length of FALL BREAK (OctoberNovember) would you prefer?
- No Fall break
- 1 week in the fall
- 2 weeks in the fall
- 3 weeks in the fall
- No preference

21. What length of WINTER BREAK (DecemberJanuary) would you prefer?
- No Winter Break
- 1 week
- 2 weeks
- 3 weeks
- No preference
22. What length of SPRING BREAK would you prefer?
   - No Spring Break
   - 1 week
   - 2 weeks
   - 3 weeks
   - No preference

23. When would you like each SCHOOL YEAR to START?
   - By the beginning of August
   - By the middle of August
   - By the end of August
   - After Labor Day in September
   - No preference

24. When would you like each SCHOOL YEAR to END?
   - By the end of May
   - By the middle of June
   - By the end of June
   - No preference

Calendar Alignment with the San Mateo Union High School District
The next part of the Survey is about the importance of alignment of the SMFCSD school year calendar with the school year calendar in the San Mateo Union High School District. The High School calendar begins by mid August and ends by the end of May with a 2 week Winter Break and a 1 week Spring Break.

25. Please rank how important the following are to you regarding ALIGNMENT of the SMFCSD calendar with the San Mateo Union High School District’s calendar with 4 being “most important” and 1 being “not important at all.”

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<thead>
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<th>Alignment at the start of the school year</th>
<th>4 Most important</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1 Not important at all</th>
<th>No opinion</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alignment at Winter Break</td>
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<td>n</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alignment at Spring Break</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>j</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alignment whenever possible with High School District Calendar</td>
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</table>

**Summary Question**
26. You have had the opportunity on the previous questions to provide your opinion about a number of different calendar considerations. Below is your opportunity to provide your priority ranking for each feature that goes into developing a calendar, regardless of what kind of calendar it is. Please rank each of the categories below with 4 being your highest priority and 1 being your lowest priority.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

27. Below is space for you to make any comments you wish about having a common calendar for the District—which could be either the Traditional or Year Round calendar or a blend of the two calendars.
Traditional Calendar Parent Responses

The winter and spring breaks would be better if one week was added to them, making it three weeks for winter break and two weeks for spring break.
3/17/2014 6:00 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

No overlapping in spring break at all between middle school and high school
3/17/2014 5:06 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

We are fortunate to have several extended family members in the area, all of whom are on traditional school year calendars. June, July, and August are our opportunities to gather for family reunions and multiple summer activities together. These summer months offer the working parents in our family the opportunity to take vacation due to seasonally slower business. With more of our family members growing up, all of our college-aged relatives (including our oldest daughter) come home for summer vacation only.
3/17/2014 4:59 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I would prefer that kids didn't go back to school until after Labor Day
3/17/2014 4:19 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Would like the Spring Break to be the same on both SMFCSD and SMUHS District's calendar so we can take vacation in Spring Break as both kids off the same time.
3/17/2014 3:19 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Grandma is primary caretaker during the summer. She works at a trad sched school. So a traditional sched works best for me for child care reasons.
3/17/2014 3:07 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

My kids are in Chinese school on the weekends, which follow TRADITIONAL calendars at Cupertino Monte Vista high school, and the Milpitas School District, because both Chinese school uses rented facilities. I don't like year round or blended Calendars because of weekend Chinese school for my children. Teachers deserve a long long break, so I prefer fewer breaks during the school year, and short breaks during the school year. Long summer breaks allows teachers to take summer classes at universities. We want teachers to have advanced degrees, and more advanced education during the summers, in order to teach my children. If teachers choose not to, teachers should enjoy a long break from the students, they worked hard, and they deserve a long break from teaching the kids, if they choose, please give teachers a long summer break. Long summer breaks allows for major renovation and remodeling of aging school facilities. You can tear down the one story buildings at Bowditch, and build two story classrooms in their place, this is critical at Bowditch for the long term needs of the SMFC school district's plan in accommodating additional students, so many more residential buildings are coming up in Foster City. Look at the major buildings near McDonald's and Chevron gas station in Foster City. Year round schedules don't allow for long summer breaks to do major construction and renovation required for the continued expansion of school capacity in Foster City San Mateo K-8 schools. Test scores of children on Traditional Calendars are the same as children on year round calendar. October free intersession is a bad reason for year round calendars, because teachers must recommend, secondly, parents must drive, thirdly children must have no vacation travel plans during October intersession, and fourthly, traditional calendar children have no October intersession and do equally well in test scores, which prove year round calendar children are deficient, unless fortified by October intersession. I will e-mail my comments to other parents. If they think my points are valid, I hope they will also stress these points. When everyone's first child enters high school, and the second child is on a radically different calendar, that creates logistical problems. At the forum I attended, many parents only had one child, or their children are very young, that they have no foresight in thinking about the first child entering high school because it is so far in the distant future for them, and the logistical problems of year round calendar of a younger sibling. When high school calendars vastly differ from K-8 calendar, this impacts attendance significantly. Attendance has a direct correlation to academic performance. Children of my relatives are all on traditional calendar around the country, and around the world, and we get together during the long summer breaks easily. If the summer break is shortened significantly, this will impact my children's experience with grand parents, and relatives, while growing up. Long summer breaks are necessary for
children to have many memories of their relatives, grand parents, while they grow up, exactly like I did. My relatives are half way around the world in other countries, so I need a long summer break to visit three different countries with my children. I dislike year round calendar for the above reasons, and I like traditional calendars with long summer breaks for the above reasons. Children will do equally well on traditional calendar, if not better, because children are intelligent enough to adapt. I had dinner with other parents at year round calendar, and they agree that parents are the problem. Parents are the problem with year round calendars, which was originally created to deal with enrollment problems due to lack of classrooms. Building/facility maintenance is significantly impacted by year round calendars.

3/17/2014 2:54 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  
the spring break should be set and not floating based on religious holidays. it should also follow the high school break and possibly increase to two weeks.

3/17/2014 1:19 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  
good

3/17/2014 12:16 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  
My least favorite scheduling issue with the school calendar is the "minimum" days each Wednesday. More trouble is caused by having short days EVERY week than with any of the other breaks.

3/17/2014 11:50 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  
Could we have both the Bowditch school and the elementary school transition to Year Round calendar? The traditional calendar has too long of summer vacation. They don't need such long summer vacation, but they do need periodic breaks from the regular school session. The year round calendar will keep children refreshed after each break and are less likely to get burned out on a long school session.

3/17/2014 11:28 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  
I understand and agree that it will be better to have ALL schools on one common calendar.

3/17/2014 11:14 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

3/17/2014 10:11 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  
my daughter tends to forget some of the info she has learned during the long summer break.

3/17/2014 9:51 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  
The type of calendar is not as important as having only one calendar common to all schools in the district.

3/17/2014 9:40 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  
Thank you for initiating this change and unification of calendars. The summer vacation for traditional calendar is waaaay too long. By the time the kids go back to school - their brains have a hard time to adjust back to disciplined work. Pls consider changing all to year round. Many many thanks!

3/17/2014 9:40 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

3/17/2014 1:00 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  
My other child is at Aragon in the San Mateo Union High School Districct. I like my younger child's traditional calendar being similar to my high schooeler's traditional calendar. However, I would like the spring breaks and the winter breaks to be the same.

3/17/2014 1:00 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  
I wish we had a ski week like a lot of other districts

3/16/2014 10:57 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

3/16/2014 10:07 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  
For our family, two working parents, it is challenging to find childcare during breaks and summer.

3/16/2014 8:54 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  
Spring Break does not always align with other local schools or religious holidays.
My kids are in Chinese school on the weekends, which follow TRADITIONAL calendars at JL Stanford middle school in Palo Alto, and the Milpitas School District, because both Chinese school uses rented facilities. I don't like year round or blended Calendars because of weekend Chinese school for my children. Teachers deserve a long long summer break, so I prefer fewer breaks during the school year, and short breaks during the school year. Long summer breaks allows teachers to take summer classes at universities. I want teachers to have advanced degrees, and more advanced education during the summers, in order to teach my children. If teachers choose not to, teachers should enjoy a long break from the students, they worked hard, and they deserve a long break from teaching the kids, if they choose, please give teachers a long summer break. Long summer breaks allows for major renovation and remodeling of aging school facilities. You can tear down the one story buildings at Bowditch, and build two story classrooms in their place, this is critical at Bowditch for the long term needs of the SMFC school district's plan in accommodating additional students, so many more residential buildings are coming up in Foster City. Look at the major buildings near McDonald's and Chevron gas station in Foster City. Year round schedules don't allow for long summer breaks to do major construction and renovation required for the continued expansion of school capacity in Foster City San Mateo K-8 schools. Test scores of children on Traditional Calendars are the same as children on year round calendar. October free intersession is a bad reason for year round calendars, because teachers must recommend, secondly, parents must drive, thirdly children must have no vacation travel plans during October intersession, and fourthly, traditional calendar children have no October intersession and do equally well in test scores, which prove year round calendar children are deficient, unless fortified by October intersession. I will e-mail my comments to other parents. If they think my points are valid, I hope they will also stress these points. When everyone's first child enters high school, and the second child is on a radically different calendar, that creates logistical problems. At the forum I attended, many parents only had one child, or their children are very young, that they have no foresight in thinking about the first child entering high school because it is so far in the distant future for them, and the logistical problems of year round calendar of a younger sibling. When high school calendars vastly differ from K-8 calendar, this impacts attendance significantly. Attendance has a direct correlation to academic performance. Children of my relatives are all on traditional calendar around the country, and around the world, and we get together during the long summer breaks easily. If the summer break is shortened significantly, this will impact my children's experience with grand parents, and relatives, while growing up. Long summer breaks are necessary for children to have many memories of their relatives, grand parents, while they grow up, just like I did. My relatives are half way around the world in other countries, so I need a long summer break to visit two different countries with my children. I dislike year round calendar for the above reasons, and I like traditional calendars with long summer breaks for the above reasons. Children will do equally well on traditional calendar, if not better, because children are intelligent enough to adapt. Parents are the problem with year round calendars, which was originally created to deal with enrollment problems.

3/16/2014 5:02 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... œ

I would love to see a ski week in February. I think that longer breaks during the school year give the chance for students to properly relax and also take a break from classmates. My kids get SO sick of some of their classmates by late April... I also think parents making traditional v. YR calendar decisions based on availability of childcare options should be reassured that once our entire district goes to one calendar, the many providers will adjust. Parents are the demand, providers are the supply. Demand will drive supply in this case - not the other way around.

3/16/2014 4:29 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... œ

Ten weeks in the summer is far too long for my child. He forgets much of what he's learned prior to the summer break, so we have to spend a lot of our summer reviewing. I also find that if Easter is late any particular year, then the stretch from January through to the middle of April without a good break is far too long. Coming rom England, I liked the weeks in February and October just to recharge our batteries.

3/16/2014 4:17 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... œ

The traditional calendar works very well for our family. I think the year round calendar will create many challenges for child care issues for a number of people. Since the traditional calendar coordinates well with when college & high school students are on summer break there are a lot of opportunities to take advantage of college/high school children providing childcare and working in camps my kids love to attend. This would not be the case with the year round calendar. Also, it is nice having more time during summer when the weather is nicest here to enjoy outdoor activities such as the beach and swimming. The traditional calendar also works well since the momentum of the school year is not disrupted. The longer, more frequent breaks would not work as well for my children since we like the consistency of having a regular school year and then only adjusting to a summer break where we have enough
time to get into a good summer routine and fit in some family vacations. In addition the traditional calendar matches what our teacher's kids are on which creates less childcare issue with our school's teaching staff.

3/16/2014 2:03 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I would like a longer spring break (2 wks), and perhaps a whole week at Thanksgiving OR a 2wk fall break. Shorter summer would be great (8wks).

3/16/2014 12:20 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

In the future I will have children on different calendars and I can imagine some distress. It seems to make sense that all children within same district are on the same calendar.

3/15/2014 11:17 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Why can't SMFCSD have a ski week like many other bay area school districts?

3/15/2014 1:30 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Very happy with the traditional calendar. Would like the spring break to be more fixed vs floating.

3/15/2014 8:46 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I grew up with the traditional calendar and feel comfortable with its schedule for my children.

3/14/2014 11:50 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Its the best way to go. Long summers!

3/14/2014 9:33 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I like the traditional calendar just fine and it doesn't present any challenges to our family, however, when summer break nears it's end my children are ready to return to school and it takes them a few weeks to get back into school mode.

3/14/2014 6:31 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Would prefer the vacations/breaks are more spread out - longer breaks during winter, spring breaks and shorter summer breaks

3/14/2014 5:19 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I would like to change to year round calendar.

3/14/2014 3:48 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

My kids are in Chinese school on the weekends, which follow TRADITIONAL calendars at Hillsdale High School in San Mateo, and the Milpitas School District, because both Chinese school uses rented facilities. I don't like year round or blended Calendars because of weekend Chinese school for my children. Teachers deserve a long long summer break, so I prefer fewer breaks during the school year, and short breaks during the school year. Long summer breaks allows teachers to take summer classes at universities. I want teachers to have advanced degrees, and more advanced education during the summers, in order to teach my children. If teachers choose not to, teachers should enjoy a long break from the students, they worked hard, and they deserve a long break from teaching the kids, if they choose, please give teachers a long summer break. Long summer breaks allows for major renovation and remodeling of aging school facilities. You can tear down the one story Pods at Audubon during the long summer breaks, and build two story classrooms in their place, this needs to be done at Audubon due to construction of more residential buildings in Foster City. Year round schedules don't allow for long summer breaks to do major construction and renovation required for the continued expansion of school capacity in Foster City San Mateo K-8 schools. Test scores of children on Traditional Calendars are the same as children on year round calendar. October free intersession is a bad reason for year round calendars, because teachers must recommend, secondly, parents must drive, thirdly children must have no vacation travel plans during October intersession, and fourthly, traditional calendar children have no October intersession and do equally well in test scores, which prove year round calendar children are deficient, unless fortified by October intersession. I will e-mail my comments to other parents. If they think my points are valid, I hope they will also stress these points. When everyone's first child enters high school, and the
second child is on a radically different calendar, that creates logistical problems. At the forum I attended, many parents only had one child, or their children are very young, that they have no foresight in thinking about the first child entering high school because it is so far in the distant future for them, and the logistical problems of year round calendar of a younger sibling. When high school calendars vastly differ from K-8 calendar, this impacts attendance significantly. Attendance has a direct correlation to academic performance. Children of my relatives are all on traditional calendar around the country, and around the world, and we get together during the long summer breaks easily. If the summer break is shortened significantly, this will impact my children's experience with grand parents, and relatives, while growing up. Long summer breaks are necessary for children to have many memories of their relatives, grand parents, while they grow up, just like I did. My relatives are half way around the world in other countries, so I need a long summer break to visit two different countries with my children. I dislike year round calendar for the above reasons, and I like traditional calendars with long summer breaks for the above reasons.

3/14/2014 2:28 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The Traditional Calendar lines up with other calendars of families who are outside of SMFC school District. So it is easier to schedule with other families for events because of that.

3/14/2014 1:21 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I wish the timing of spring break would align with all schools in the area.

3/14/2014 1:08 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I wish we had a ski week and spring break. I feel kids should go to school through June and start in September. August is the hottest month to be in school. And a lot of classes don't have air conditioning.

3/14/2014 11:51 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The summer vacation is too long, therefore, children take longer time to readjust and retention of academic learnings are lost.

3/14/2014 11:11 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

We are so used to the traditional calendar school year and enjoy having the schedule because summers are long and that's when our family are able to spend a lot of quality time together. We wish to not have to do a year-round schedule at Laurel Elementary.

3/14/2014 10:33 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The great thing is that the traditional calendar is aligned with high school calendars. This is key for middle school, especially. Managing children on different calendars (think family vacations, child care, etc) for working parents is very difficult as you probably know. Having the middle be off from high school will be particularly challenging. These are the years that sports, drama and many other clubs become important and if you are trying to manage across such varied calendars, while working, would be difficult (and you wouldn't be able to leverage the older child to help the younger).

3/14/2014 10:32 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I most definitely prefer traditional calendar. I think the concentrated school year with a long summer break is best.

3/14/2014 9:48 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

There is nothing I dislike about the Traditional calendar. Most of the country is set up to accomodate this calendar, including things like child care during breaks. There are numerous options for summer camps and an entire industry built around the traditional calendar, so it is vastly preferable to have the long summer break. In addition, a longer summer breaks allows for more extended travel opportunities and enriched cultural experiences in the lives of our children. It allows them to build bonds with their friends and I find that children do much of their growing and exercise during these summer months. There is no good reason to switch everyone to a year round calendar.

3/14/2014 9:45 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Would like for school to start after Labor Day. Wondering why some schools have "ski week" and we don't? What is that?

3/14/2014 9:36 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
I feel a traditional calendar works best for working parents. It's the calendar that most companies are used do.  
3/14/2014 9:32 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

An additional week for winter break with an extended calendar into June would be better and/or a "ski" week in February and/or two week spring break. 
3/14/2014 9:30 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I would like school to start after Labor Day. 
3/14/2014 9:21 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

DO NOT CHANGE THE TRADITIONAL CALENDAR!!!! Multiple multi-week breaks are IMPOSSIBLE to deal with as a two-parent working family with a high school student as well!!!! 
3/14/2014 9:19 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Longer spring break please 
3/14/2014 9:13 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

It's easier to manage from a camp perspective & we take advantage of the good weather in the U.S. 
3/14/2014 9:09 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

The issue with the long summer breaks is that my children's brains become rusty. Everyone needs a break from school and work however the summer breaks turns everyone into mush! 
3/14/2014 9:07 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

From my perspective, I dont see a reason for change other than starting in early September after the holiday. 
3/14/2014 9:05 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

They will be on different calendar starting 2014-2015 
3/13/2014 10:50 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

My kids are in Chinese school on the weekends, which follow TRADITIONAL calendars in the Redwood Shores Belmont school District, and the Milpitas school District, because both Chinese school uses rented facilities. I don't like year round or blended Calendars because of weekend Chinese school. Teachers deserve a long long summer break, so I prefer fewer breaks during the school year, and short breaks during the school year. Long summer breaks allows teachers to take summer classes at universities. I want teachers to have advanced degrees, and more advanced education during the summers, in order to teach my children. If not, teachers should enjoy a long break from the students, they worked hard, and they deserve a long break from teaching, if they choose, please give it to them. Long summer breaks allows for major renovation and remodeling of aging school facilities. You can tear down the one story Pods at Audubon during the long summer breaks, and build two story classrooms in their place, this needs to be done at Audubon. Year round schedules don't allow for long summer breaks to do major construction and renovation required for the continued expansion of school capacity in Foster City San Mateo K-8 schools. Test scores of children on Traditional Calendars are the same as children on year round calendar. October free intersession is a bad reason for year round calendars, because teachers must recommend, secondly, parents must drive, thirdly children must have no travel plans during October intersession, and fourthly, traditional calendar children have no October intersession and do equally well in test scores, which prove year round calendar children are deficient, unless fortified by October intersession. I will e-mail my comments to other parents. If they think my points are valid, I hope they will also stress these points. When everyone's first child enters high school, and the second child is on a radically different calendar, that creates logistical problems. At the forum I attended, many parents only had one child, or their children are very young, that they have no foresight in thinking about the first child entering high school because it is so far off in the distant future for them, and the logistical problems of year round calendar of a younger sibling. When high school calendars vastly differ from K-8 calendar, this impacts attendance significantly. Attendance has a direct correlation to academic performance. Children of my relatives are all on traditional calendar around the country, and around the world, and we get together during the long summer breaks easily. If the summer
break is shortened significantly, this will impact my children's experience with relatives while growing up. Long summer breaks are necessary for children to have many memories of their relatives, grandparents, while they grow up, just like I did. My relatives are halfway around the world in other countries, so I need a long summer break to visit two different countries with my children. I dislike year round calendar for the above reasons, and I like traditional calendars with long summer breaks for the above reasons.

3/13/2014 8:54 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

My kids are in Chinese school on the weekends, which follow TRADITIONAL calendars in the Redwood Shores Belmont school District, and the Milpitas school District, because Chinese school uses rented facilities. Teachers deserve a long long summer break, so I prefer fewer breaks during the school year, and short breaks during the school year. Long summer breaks allow for major renovation and remodeling of aging school facilities. You can tear down the one story classrooms in the long summer break, and build two story classrooms, this needs to be done in Foster City. Long summer breaks allows teachers to take summer classes at major universities. My mother, a school teacher for 40 years, earned two Master's degree during the summer breaks, and completed all her Ph.D classes during the summer breaks. Test scores of children on Traditional Calendars are the same as children on year round calendar. October free intersession is not a good reason for year round schedules, because teachers must recommend, secondly, parents must drive, thirdly children must no travel plans during october intersession, and fourthly, traditional calendar children have no october intersession and do equally well in test scores, which prove year round calendar children are deficient, unless fortified with october intersession. I will e-mail my comments to other parents. If they think my points are valid, I hope they will also stress these points. When everyone's first child enters high school, and the second child is on a radically different calendar, that creates logistical problems. At the forum I attended, many parents only had one child, or their children are very young, that they have no foresight in thinking about the first child entering high school, and the logistical problems of year round calendar. When high school calendars vastly differ from K-8 calendar, this impacts attendance significantly. Attendance has a direct correlation to academic performance. Children of my relatives are all on traditional calendar around the country, and around the world, and we get together during the long summer breaks easily. If the summer break is shortened significantly, this will impact my children's experience with relatives while growing up. Long summer breaks are necessary for children to have many memories of their relatives, grandparents, while they grow up, just like I did. My relatives are halfway around the world, so I need a long summer break to visit two different countries with my children. I dislike year round calendar for the above reasons, and I like traditional calendars for the above reasons.

3/13/2014 4:02 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

The traditional calendar allows us to establish a summer routine that involves incorporating ongoing reading, math and other learning while also including summer learning camps.

3/13/2014 1:23 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

We prefer to have 2 weeks spring break.

3/13/2014 10:00 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

My husband and I work full time jobs. It will make it extremely difficult to figure out daycare/summer camps if my children are on different calendar. Summer camps/Daycare are on the traditional calendars. What will the working parents do with children with a wide range age difference? I am very concerned about this change. I am a homeowner in Foster City. There needs to be more notice and thought of this change to occur.

3/13/2014 9:39 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

My family likes the long summer, but it is a bit too long. 7-8 weeks would be perfect.

3/13/2014 9:17 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

It matches the private school calendar which will affect my kids.

3/13/2014 8:18 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I would like school to start after Labor Day, not before.

3/13/2014 7:34 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
Traditional calendar is easier on working parents. We like longer summer breaks because it lets us have different activities for kids and be able to take longer trips
3/12/2014 11:33 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c

Given that the HS district is on traditional, it is huge logistical and parenting challenge to have the kids on different calendars.
3/12/2014 10:38 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c

The summer vacation is too long but it's great to have all the options for summer camp during the summer time.
3/12/2014 10:31 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c

1. A variety of Summer Camps and learning activities are available for the kids. Activity ranges from Science, Technology, Outdoor Sports, Robotic Camps, Writing Workshops, Aviation Museums, Zookeeper Camps. These extracurricular activities are not offered when the All Year Around Calendar Students are on vacation. 2. Summer Vacation seems long as the kids are eager to go back to school by the 8th week. Perhaps this is due to missing their friends and peers.
3/12/2014 9:57 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c

Financially it is a hardship to have to provide childcare or pay for camps during the long summer break. I can't take off that much time during the summer so I feel like I lose some of that quality time with my child but would prefer to have time spread out more during the fall and spring time. Traveling during the 2 week winter break can also be expensive so it would be nice to have other options for taking vacation as a family in the "off season" such as spring and fall. As parent's we feel that it is important to have time with the family and to travel and take vacations together which means that on the traditional calendar we end up taking my son out of school when they have shortened weeks in order to minimize his time out of school, but still be able to travel in off times (meaning not just summer and winter breaks). We feel pressure from school and teachers to not take our child out of school for vacation but with the limited options on the traditional calendar to travel it makes it difficult with out work schedules to only take time during the summer or winter breaks. Also, with the long summer break it is harder for my son to adjust with going back to school which I feel may impact his overall learning.
3/12/2014 9:38 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c

I feel strongly all schools (and ideally SMCCD) be on the same calendar. Which calendar that is, I don't feel as strongly about.
3/12/2014 8:17 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c

The summer is very long. I recommend a hybrid as this worked well in our last school. School starts the third Monday in August, there is a two week break in October, a three week break in December/January. a two week break in April and then school lets out the third week of June.
3/12/2014 7:58 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c

As a dual working family, it is very very difficult to find care for our son during the summer. We have noticed because of the long break, the first few weeks of the new school year, it's all review from the previous year. It takes them way too long to get caught up from forgetting all the information over the summer. Again, to live in the Bay Area, both parents usually have to work in some sort of capacity, so it puts us at a disadvantage. We strongly support the YEAR ROUND school year.
3/12/2014 3:25 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c

Our family is "very" strongly in favor of keeping the traditional calendar. It works much better for our family in planning trips and events, and fitting in with job schedules.
3/12/2014 1:28 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c

The traditional calendar is much easier, most programs offered during summer is ideal for a child that is on a traditional calendar.
3/12/2014 12:49 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c
Love the traditional calendar!
3/12/2014 12:35 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

The traditional calendar is Convenient and acceptable to my employer. If I had to constantly ask for vacation throughout the year it would not be as acceptable. Summer is traditionally known for kids to be on vacation and to be juggled to different camps, family members etc. I personally also rely on friends and family that attend catholic schools in the area to help out on our breaks. We share taking days off and watching each others kids. If one calendar that revolves around both the public (elementary, middle and high) schools and the catholic schools that could help out greatly with childcare as well. Additionally, if the high school is off the same time as the younger grades, it can be a great opportunity for parents to use the older kids to help babysit during the day- win win situation; kids make a little cash and the parents have babysitters.
3/12/2014 12:34 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

I'm only familiar with the Traditional Calendar, since both my kids are on it. I'm sure the year round would work for my kids too, as long, they both share the same calendar.
3/12/2014 12:18 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

My wish list: 1. Each break would be at least two weeks so we can visit family abroad without missing school. 2. The high school/middle school/primary school calendars would be aligned. 3. A two week break in October.
3/12/2014 11:23 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

I am a stay-at-home parent and I enjoy the long summer break time that I get to spend with my kids. My kids need a mental break from the stresses of school and a few weeks here and there is not enough. The long summer break is great. Also, the weather around here is best in August and September - please let the kids enjoy the summer weather outside, not stuck in a classroom.
3/12/2014 10:25 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

I would like to see a longer spring break, the week of Thanksgiving off, ski week and a shorter summer to accommodate.
3/12/2014 9:49 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

I would like to see the SPring Break aligned with the SMUHSD Spring Break.
3/12/2014 8:41 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

I think it is very important for children to have an extended break from school in the summer to engage in activities that promote learning in a different way. Children need a break from the grind. They need to have fun.
3/12/2014 7:34 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

My wife and I have differing opinions about the schedules. My wife prefers the 'traditional' schedule for various reasons but primarily due to the familiarity of it. She also feels, and I happen to agree, that it is important for children and parents to have a real chunk of time, i.e., summer vacation, away from the riggers of the school but I feel that may still be possible with year round (wait and see). The reason I am leaning more towards a year round schedule is mainly due to statistics pointing towards, albeit slight, higher test scores for year round students. Additionally, I feel that the 'year round' vacation/time-off schedule may be easier to deal with than a traditional schedule but then my wife thinks it'd be a wash -eh. We both do agree however, that there may be some risk in taking away the long summer break from the teachers. We'd hate to lose any as a result of a schedule change.
3/11/2014 10:36 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

I'd like to take fall or spring family vacations when it's not so crowded in travel destinations!
3/11/2014 9:58 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 


I miss having a break in the fall. Going to school from August-December is TOO LONG for the kids. I would like them to have 1 week of Fall break, and a week less during Summer. Summer break is too long: they forget half of what they have learned. From August-November teachers are only going over what they have learned! Waste of time!

Also, 2 weeks of minimum days during parent teacher conferences is hilarious. Why not one week of conferences, and one week off! Working parents have a hard time during these weeks to be home to take care of their kids. Or: do the conferences in the evening!

3/11/2014 9:41 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

My child attends a 4 week summer sleepaway camp each summer, and it would be hard to fit this in with a year-round schedule because it is unlikely the schedules would align.

3/11/2014 9:32 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

As working parents, we have strong preference for traditional calendar vs. year-round.

3/11/2014 5:23 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

Although it is not the case this year, there has been times when Spring break does not connect on to Easter. Either week before or week after doesn't make a difference to me but I know the High Schools in San Mateo are three weeks before Easter

3/11/2014 5:07 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

Would prefer the year round calendar as traditional calendar breaks are too short during the year and too long over the summer.

3/11/2014 4:56 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

Would like to have a ski week. Ending school later in the year would be fine. Look into reducing or removing spring break. Really appreciate the bundling of teacher training days with holidays!

3/11/2014 4:47 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

I'd prefer the year-round calendar only I have enough camp options.

3/11/2014 4:17 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

We love long summer vacations so we make arrangement for kids for more trips.

3/11/2014 4:17 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

I do worry about sun protection for my kids if they were to be in school during the summer.

3/11/2014 4:15 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

Winter Break could be a week longer, or Spring Break could be a little longer. Long summers are nice, but they don't need to be as long as they are now.

3/11/2014 4:12 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

I actually don't have any issues with the traditional calendar but thought I had to pick something. I enjoy taking my daughter on extended trips to family in Europe that we couldn't do with a year-round calendar.

3/11/2014 4:08 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

I am comfortable with the traditional calendar, but would likewise be okay with a year round. The point is, sync the calendars as closely as possible to the middle and high schools!!!!

3/11/2014 4:06 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

prefer a long summer vacation

3/11/2014 3:57 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 


I work a traditional school calendar so a switch to a year round calendar would be a nightmare for me. Please keep the traditional calendar for middle and high school.

3/11/2014 3:55 PM [View respondent's answers] [Categorize as…]

I would like to switch to 2-3 week breaks more frequently through the year with a shorter summer.

3/11/2014 2:56 PM [View respondent's answers] [Categorize as…]

I am torn - as a working parent, childcare options are a chief concern, and I know that a year round calendar may alleviate that... HOWEVER, I am also a believer that kids need and deserve the long summer break. I make it a point to enroll my kids in as much enrichment activity as we can afford during the off season, and I think that is a welcome change from the classroom...

3/11/2014 2:52 PM [View respondent's answers] [Categorize as…]

I hate the Tuesday staff training days. Please do these during vacations or outside school days, because I cannot find childcare for those random days.

3/11/2014 2:40 PM [View respondent's answers] [Categorize as…]

The traditional calendar has a very long break during the summer, where the children lose interest in learning. It is very difficult to keep them active and stimulated. It is also difficult and very expensive to find childcare.

3/11/2014 2:25 PM [View respondent's answers] [Categorize as…]

I like the traditional calendar as it is. I feel that summer vacation is a time for fun, exploration, discovering new things, riding bikes at twilight, and most importantly spending time with family and friends. I think that starting school in July takes away from all that I stated above and strongly support the traditional calendar to be adopted by the school district.

3/11/2014 11:43 AM [View respondent's answers] [Categorize as…]

For 2 working parents - the traditional calendar works best. It aligns with our work vacation schedule. There are the most camps/childcare options that support the traditional calendar, which makes it easier for us as parents and more fun choices for the kids. It also aligns with our family in other states when we go on vacation together.

3/11/2014 10:20 AM [View respondent's answers] [Categorize as…]

I have 3 children and they all are on different calendaring systems (Private, Traditional and SMUHD). Nightmare! I have never had my children on the same calendar system due to going from a traditional & year round elementary school to a year round/traditional middle school to high school. I can tell you, my juggling skills are impeccable. BUT, it has been nothing less than difficult. We have no extended family in the Bay Area, therefore we travel back East for most holidays. Doing so without missing school is impossible for us. Family time is important to us as we want our children to have meaningful relationships with their grandparents, cousins, etc. Education is also important to us. We help to make certain our children do well in school and are extremely involved in their education. Having children on both traditional and year round calendars has made no difference in my children's learning abilities. They learn how they learn whether or not in traditional or year round setting. Vacations in our family are an integral part of learning. Traveling and being around new cultures and languages, trying new foods and exploring new environments are vital to our children's learning. I would bet those experiences will be remembered long after many school curriculum components are. I have experienced three different school calendars and I prefer a traditional calendar. In my ideal world all schools would start after Labor Day and end on the last day of May.

3/11/2014 10:10 AM [View respondent's answers] [Categorize as…]

I like the traditional calendar, but am concerned that the calendars are different than others schools in the district. Also as a teacher in another school district, I would find it extremely difficult to have my child have three weeks off at intersession if we moved closer to a year round calendar.

3/11/2014 8:01 AM [View respondent's answers] [Categorize as…]

I think it's an imbalanced calendar -- the summer is too long of a stretch, but then the school terms are too long of a stretch.

3/11/2014 7:46 AM [View respondent's answers] [Categorize as…]
Teachers need sufficient time to relax and refresh to come back and be ready to face the many challenges of the school year in the fall. A short summer is not enough. Also, many need the summer weeks to make more income to live in the Bay Area. Also, many families of all socioeconomic levels consider the summer a time to travel and/or return to home countries; this is important family time and should be valued. In the past, the district always said the calendar was a site decision. It greatly concerns me that suddenly a district-wide decision would be imposed upon us after many years of struggle regarding calendar issues.
It is nice to have a year round schedule to help students retain what they have learned. Having the traditional schedule, I would need to find summer camps or other programs for a longer period of time. With a year round schedule, we can vacation off season during different periods of the year instead of only during the summer.

The kids should be in school more. The number of days and length of the hours needs to increase.

A short break around Presidents day will be nice.

Traditional calendar jives the best with our work schedules.

As dual working parents, any calendar should be supported by childcare options during non-school days.

I think year-round calendar will be better for the summer vacation under traditional calendar is too long. 3 weeks of vacation every 2-3 months is good.

I feel that the long summer break can lead kids to loose too much drive for learning. There needs to be just enough of a break to feel like they recharged and then get back to learning. I also feel that having 3 week breaks helps the children to process what they’ve learned and want to do more when they return to school.

First - the differences betw SMUHD and SMFCD is troubling. We are transplants to the Bay for work and family time out of state will now be significantly disrupted. Very troubling! Second - schedule in AZ was fantastic - one week in fall, one week in spring, cut summer a bit shorter worked fantastic. Kids need a break from the study schedule, but 10 weeks in the summer is excessive. We aren’t farmers anymore! The long summer is long overdue for an overhaul! Third - Spring break when everyone else has it makes vacations/visiting family very expensive. Consider moving it to an off week - perhaps end of March.

I want to keep a summer school of SMFCSD. The summer vacation is a little long but it is no problem if we have summer programs.

Traditional calendar is OK with our family. The only issue is the lack of available camps the week before school starts (approximately the last week of August).

I think the traditional calendar is good in a way that it is the same time with all other schools. That makes scheduling easier and to find summer/spring camps easier.

I like the traditional calendar because it provides enough time for travel, family time, camps that focus on certain skills.
Traditional calendar works well with how all kids activities and camps are set up. No real summer break means kids can never participate in programs that are available. The issue is less of lack of camps/programs during breaks, but more of not being able to participate in the good programs that do exist.

3 weeks winter break, one week shorter in the summer will be good for students and families.

Summer break too long and Spring Break is too short.

Spring break is a little late.

I love the traditional calendar.

we like having a nice long summer vacation

I like a nice “chunk” of time off in the summer, but I would be ok with a minimum of 6 weeks off (ideally, 8 weeks would be best). I would not like the vacation to start and end mid-week. I believe school should start on a Monday and end on a Friday to maximize those 6, 7, or 8 weeks off in the summer. During the summer, my children attend wonderfully rich camps—a science and art camp, Girl Scout camp, horse camp, etc. A 6-8 week summer would allow us to continue to attend those camps.

I prefer a traditional calendar. I would not want my children in year round school.

I like having an opportunity to travel during the long summer break but it would be nice to travel during off-peak times as well. Though my child is on the traditional schedule, I see many benefits to the year-round schedule. However, I would like to have more than 3 weeks off during the summer (i.e. 5 weeks?) to visit family out of state, etc. Currently, camps are set up for the traditional schedule but my assumption is camps will change their schedules to match whatever the school district does so child-care shouldn’t be an issue.

rather start after Labor Day

The only change I’d make to the current calendar is to add a “ski week” week off in February that would be the week of President’s Day.

I’d prefer shorter summer vacation and more breaks during school year.

My daughter is a serious ballet student and the summer break allows her to attend the ballet summer intensive which can last up to eight weeks. I love the long winter break to allow time to visit with out-of-state family members.
I feel that the district should be aligned although I believe it is vital for the children to have a long summer break and feel we can still start a little earlier in August and still avoid a year around schedule.

3/6/2014 7:10 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... |

I like the traditional calendar and want to keep it.

3/5/2014 10:02 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... |

Too many "staff days" when there is a minimum day every single week - so lazy!

3/5/2014 9:37 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... |

I find summer vacations is too long. Also, children get less motivated to read, or do "homework". They get kind of "disconnected" academically.

3/5/2014 9:04 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... |

I am Happy with the Traditional calendar. You can reduce one week in summer vacation and add that to spring break.

3/5/2014 4:56 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... |

We must align with the high schools. It is a nightmare for parents to manage two, sometimes, three different calendars. While we do not want to universally mandate a non-traditional (year-round) calendar, it should be put back on the table for consideration at other school sites. Meanwhile, the priority needs to be on better aligning our calendars within the district and to our feeder schools.

3/5/2014 4:31 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... |

The traditional calendar is super challenging for the above listed reasons - really hoping that a year round school calendar for the entire SMFCSD will be possible.

3/5/2014 4:29 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... |

I feel that children lose a lot of valuable knowledge during the long summer break and too much time is spent reviewing what they learned/lost once the school year begins. The long gap during the summer can also be challenging in trying to find child care for an extended period of time.

3/5/2014 4:28 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... |

It is very important to me that my children have downtime and enjoy Summer. I am very much opposed to year-round as feel that most children today are overscheduled with not enough free time to enjoy other pursuits or just plain have fun.

3/5/2014 3:07 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... |

I have no issues with the Traditional calendar. Many non-school programs are synched with the traditional calendar.

3/5/2014 2:53 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... |

Have a child in Elementary and a child in High School. Vacations are impossible outside of winter and partial summer break - Need to be aligned. Most of the break is in the Summer - Too long. Need some shorter breaks through the year.

3/5/2014 2:07 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... |

It needs to be aligned with the SMUHSD calendar.

3/5/2014 1:58 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... |

I would prefer a shorter summer by a week or two and place a ski week or two in February and March. Whatever is decided, all the schools should be on the same schedule. It is crazy that kids who transition from Meadow Heights to Abbot have to change their schedules. So many families are impacted, it's a wonder the District hasn't been sued.

3/5/2014 1:43 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... |
We like traditional calendar better because there are more child care/camps/programs options for kids using this calendar.

3/5/2014 1:32 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ±

Summer break is too long and students get exhausted from long semester without a break.

3/5/2014 1:22 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ±

Would prefer to go to Year-Round calendar as long as camps/programs are available accordingly.

3/5/2014 1:14 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ±

I like TRADITIONAL calendar because I go and my kids to see my family in another country and spend more time with them and four weeks in summer break not enough.

3/5/2014 12:46 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ±

I prefer the traditional calendar.

3/5/2014 12:33 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ±

I am happy with traditional. Next year my children will be on different schedules. Not looking forward to this.

3/5/2014 12:16 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ±

I think the camp options are better in the longer breaks. Also, for working parents, frequent, short breaks (like the year round calendar) are challenging to coordinate and rely on. The options aren't as interesting for our kids to get a fun experience. It becomes more "day care".

3/5/2014 10:47 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ±

Summer break is really too long for the kids and it's hard to juggle when you start off in year round school but move to traditional (jr high/high school) and then you have siblings in year round

3/5/2014 10:19 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ±

There should be more smaller breaks, rather than the one long summer break.

3/5/2014 10:17 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ±

Family is just as important as education and a long summer makes it easier to coordinate activities and vacations. High schools are traditional and should be unified with elementary for many reasons, including "family".

3/5/2014 9:57 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ±

I am quite satisfied with the calendar as it stands as we have planned many family traditions during the times that our children are out of school. There are plenty of child care options offered during the breaks in the traditional calendar year in the Bay area. I am not a proponent of change to the Traditional school year calendar.

3/5/2014 9:41 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ±

I strongly feel that the summer vacation is too long and they need better breaks in the fall and spring.

3/5/2014 8:25 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ±

My son is a fifth grader at Meadow Heights , my daughter is a second grader at Meadow Heights . My son next year will be at Abbott . I will have two kids on two different schedule's it is going to be extremely difficult to navigate two kids with different agendas

3/5/2014 7:55 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ±

I think the traditional calendar is a struggle for those of us who work full time and need to find care for the long stretch of summer...and its expensive. A year round schedule at least allows us to break that up.
3/5/2014 7:53 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as… æ
There is no need for a 12 week summer break. Even a modified traditional calendar would be an improvement over this.
3/5/2014 7:18 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as… æ
The traditional calendar prevents off season travel which is more economical and enjoyable which opens opportunities for our children to learn about different cultures first hand; when I have other children in the other schools it will present a problem to have a different calendar than the high school or middle schools (I have 3 children).
3/5/2014 12:51 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as… æ
The long summer vacation provides an opportunity for students to pursue their own interest and to acquire skills other than regular schools teach.
3/4/2014 11:18 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as… æ
I like that the traditional calendar is closer to the high school calendar. Eventually we will have a child on that calendar, and the SMFC calendar of our middle school, Abbott, and it would be nice to have more similar calendars as a family.
3/4/2014 9:49 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as… æ
I really like the traditional calendar. I would be happy to keep it intact if it was possible.
3/4/2014 9:35 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as… æ
We do not like the traditional calendar. Summer break is too long. Spring break is too short which makes family vacation destinations limited. Winter break is also too short for long distance travels.
3/4/2014 7:20 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as… æ
We transferred our 6th grader from Abbott (our neighborhood school) to Borel so that our kids would be on the same calendar. We would rather be at our neighborhood school but could not make the schedule work as two working parents.
3/4/2014 7:15 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as… æ
it is not very smart to have completely different spring break and start/end of summer between elementary-middle and high school: 1. as a family we cannot take vacation in Spring 2. for 8th graders summer is very short - finishing later with middle school and starting early with high school 3. sumemr is on different schedule for high school (regardless of the grade)
3/4/2014 6:59 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as… æ
my kids like school and do better with routine
3/4/2014 6:50 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as… æ
Unless I see research suggesting otherwise I feel that the traditional calendar lends itself better in allowing the child to experience learning outside the school environment during the Summer break and therefore makes for a more
balanced path for the child to develop and grow intellectually and emotionally. We have good schools, but not all teachers do every child in their care justice in terms of academic development and impressing upon malleable minds the wonders of learning.

3/4/2014 6:41 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

there doesn't seem to be consistency in the days taken off, which weekends are 3 day vs 4 day, etc.

3/4/2014 6:39 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The summer break is too long. Kids have a hard time to go back to school and then have no breaks for so long. They also forget a lot of what they learned. It is difficult to take a family vacation in summer, when everybody travels and prices are high and places are crowded. It's much better to have options and a fall and spring break.

3/4/2014 5:15 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The district should have a unified calendar. While I prefer the traditional calendar, as long as it is unified across the district and coordinated with the high school district, I have no preference.

3/4/2014 5:03 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I like the traditional calendar, because of the long summer break, but can also see the merits of the year round calendar with it's longer more frequent breaks. My children are not on different calendars (yet), and I what I want most of all is for my children and family to be all on the same calendar as they grow up here in San Mateo. I would like to see the high schools also in alignment.

3/4/2014 4:50 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

We have tried both calendars and believe the year-round school is much better. What I miss most are the long fall and spring breaks that provide opportunities to travel to places like China, which is too hot during the summer, see polar bears (only in the fall), etc. We've used spring and fall breaks to see Boston, NY, Costa Rica, tour CA* gold rush region, etc. The choices for summer programs in August are also poor or non-existent.

3/4/2014 4:48 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I don't mind the traditional calendar and have no experience of the year round...yet. I don't care which schedule is ultimately chosen I would simply like the same calendar for my soon to be middle school student and what will still be my elementary school student. The conflicting schedules I hear and can imagine very difficult for many working parents. I would like to see the lower grade schools mirror the High School schedule.

3/4/2014 4:46 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Easy to find camps for coverage during summer months; my eldest will be at Abbot next year and my youngest will still be at Meadow Heights....two different schedules for several years ahead if no changes. Crazy that different schools in the same district operate on different schedules. ALL should be on same calendar either way!

3/4/2014 4:40 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Traditional is great for families who have relatives abroad . Plenty of time to travel . If year round I'd have to take my kids out .

3/4/2014 2:45 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I prefer a traditional calendar because it's at least close to the dates that high school students in my home, and students in other districts, are attending school, and are out for summer. As part of a family where both parents have to work, I appreciate the additional options for camps available to me when my child's schedule is similar to those in neighboring districts, so that more schools and companies are offering activities which are of interest to my child. A year-round schedule for the elementary student, with siblings in high school, would mean it only takes one child having to take summer school to wipe out family vacations, or to require us to decide which child(ren) will miss school in order to have a family vacation.

3/4/2014 2:34 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The summer break can be shortened in order to gain another break in October or February.
Prefer year round school. Vacations are much cheaper and less crowded.

Please keep the traditional calendar for North Shoreview! We have arranged our work and travel schedules around these dates, and the year-round transition would be true detriment to our family and many others.

I think ALL schools in the district need to be on the same calendar. I cannot fathom how they became different. It is hard enough to keep families together these days. Why a school district would make that harder is beyond my ability to comprehend. Don’t really care which schedule you pick but please align all schools ASAP.

The traditional calendar allows my son a consistent schedule of learning with minimal breaks to recover from or prepare for. When break are about to occur - it seems that school activities slow (learning) and when breaks are over - it takes a few weeks to get back into the groove of things (learning, schedule). I appreciate the traditional calendar with a long summer to enjoy learning independently and allows for additional sports. Also - longer summer nights allows for play and activities outdoors longer and an extended bedtime. Would hate for my son to have to go to bed early for school while the sun is still up.

The summer is too long and there are large gaps of childcare when the calendar is completed in a timely manner for childcare providers to set their dates. I feel more like I am trying to fill gaps rather than offering my child rewarding experiences outside of school. I would love to see school end later June or early July and start after Labor Day to shorten up the summer. Starting school on a Tuesday makes more sense to me too, rather than a 1/2 day on Wednesday 2 full days of school and then a 3-day weekend. I do not yet have high school aged children, but I know this will be a factor for me as my kids are 3.5 years apart, thus will be on 2 different calendars most of their school years as we are slated for Abbott, which is a year round school. I do not look forward to those years.

I like the Traditional calendar but would love to see the school year start after Labor Day. I don’t mind it ending later in June.

It makes no sense to me that the current calendar is different that the high school calendar. Makes planning vacations for the breaks an extreme challenge.

I am on the traditional calendar now moving to having kids on both calendars next year. This is incredibly difficult to manage as a parent with multiple children.

prefer year round calendar

I like the calendar to be predictable from year to year. It is great when the calendar is available early, at least by Jan. for the school year that starts the following July/Aug.

It would be nice if the summer vacation about 4-5 weeks. My child seems to lazy.
It would be very welcomed to have a “ski week” even if that means starting early in August.

Lengthen the winter break and shorten the summer break

Traditional calendar supports kids who might be slow to warm up and kids who need consistency to adjust to the school environment.

The traditional calendar is most closely aligned with the SMUSD high school calendar and with other local elementary school districts (Burlingame, San Carlos, Palo Alto). Being on a traditional calendar similar to other local elementary school districts enables parents to choose from a variety of summer camp options in a variety of local communities. San Mateo camps (Galileo, Safari Run, Curiodyssey) and swim schools fill up completely before summer even begins. It is important for parents to be able to take advantage of camp opportunities outside of San Mateo. San Mateo’s programs are not big enough or developed enough to accommodate all of the SMFC students who wish to participate in them. The Traditional calendar also enables families the opportunity to take a long vacation or sabbatical. For working parents who want childcare such as a nanny or babysitter instead of camp, a long traditional summer provides a good period of employment for childcare workers and is a popular job sought after by our local high school students. Other than simple childcare/camp logistics, the traditional calendar resonates with many families as a nostalgic tradition, a part of being a kid -- having a long break for the rigors and routines of the school year. Many believe that this long break is important and that summers are a precious part of childhood.

I like the nontraditional calendar better because it it year round and flows better for parents’ work busy work schedules and vacations.

Students have a tendency to grow “stale” over the lengthy traditional summer break.

Won't be able to take my child on a longer vacation in spring or fall when the weather is nicer.

I love the traditional calendar and it works perfect with our family schedule. We usually travel to Brazil in the summer time and it's nice to have a long vacation.

I wish there was a ski break in addition to winter break.

We would have preferred to enroll our children in the year round but chose not to because of different calendars in Bowditch Middle School

The long summer vacation puts the kids in a learning hibernation that takes them many steps back. We would prefer the kids to have a balanced year long learning with breaks spread more evenly through the year. We believe this would lead to better absorptive capacity and better education outcomes for the kids.

I’m a divorced parent with primary custody. Year round school would provide more regular breaks to share time with both parents. My child would also remain more focused with shorter breaks and regular transitions
We truly like the traditional calendar as it works great with our work holiday breaks and we feel that our child fully gets to enjoy the three holiday breaks (winter, spring and summer).

3/3/2014 8:05 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... «

Would love a longer Spring break

3/3/2014 7:53 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... «

This is the first year that our kids will return to school after Labor day instead of before, and I think it will probably be a positive experience. Having friends within the same school district but on different calendars makes it difficult to travel together. Personally, I like and prefer the traditional calendar.

3/3/2014 7:48 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... «

It takes 1 to 2 months for the teachers to review everything with the children after 10 weeks off during the summer. It's a waste of time. If we have shorter summers, then the review time will be less or none.

3/3/2014 7:44 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... «

It would be VERY nice if the SMFC School District and the SMUHSD calendars coincided either via the year round or traditional calendar! I was saddened to learn that they did not and that the two districts did not work together. It seemed odd. However, in relationship to this survey, I am a strong proponent of the year-round schedule. I think it keeps the kids "on track" and thinking about school. It helps build relationships, friends and keeps them busier. AND, high likelihood of vacations coinciding with different districts.

3/3/2014 7:43 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... «

they can explore new things in summer with the long break. but 10-weeks seems too long.

3/3/2014 7:27 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... «

I would like to have different break options throughout the year so we have more flexibility for family vacations. Also we are planning to send one child to College Park for GATE next year so will be on both calendars. We would prefer a single calendar closer to the year-round schedule.

3/3/2014 5:52 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... «

I would Bowditch and San Mateo high to be aligned.

3/3/2014 5:37 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... «

I would prefer to be not on a traditional calendar. I prefer a year round calendar. I wish we would adopt a year round calendar at north shoreview.

3/3/2014 5:31 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... «

I would prefer a year round calendar.

3/3/2014 5:19 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... «

I worry about what my child will forget over the long summer breaks.

3/3/2014 5:16 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... «

My biggest problem is the different schedules between the High School and Elementary Schools.

3/3/2014 4:49 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... «

summer too long, more breaks more often would be great. would be great if calendar aligned closer to the high school (spring breaks at same time is biggest priority, but start date around same time would be great too.

3/3/2014 4:37 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... «
I would have preferred to put my children in the year round calendar school but because I have three children this would have resulted in two different school calendars once the oldest reached middle school. I would prefer all schools follow a year round calendar.

3/3/2014 4:36 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ☒

I like the traditional calendar since there are a variety of child care programs available during breaks and for the entire summer vacation. I would like it if spring break matched the San Mateo Union High School District though.

3/3/2014 4:23 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ☒

Since I also work in a school (not SMFCSD school), it's important that my child be in a traditional calendar, so that I don't have to find coverage for 3-week breaks during the regular school year. My school always tries to match up with its feeder schools, and I think that similarly SMFC should match its partner schools.

3/3/2014 4:08 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ☒

I like Traditional School because they don't have to much weeks of breaks until summer is very convinient for us parents that we work.

3/3/2014 3:40 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ☒

Children need extended times off during the summer to explore and just have time off.

3/3/2014 3:31 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ☒

Summer camps generally run during the summer break - which follows the traditional calendar model. Most employers are aware of "summer off" traditional model and generally expect employees to take vacation and time off work then.

3/3/2014 2:46 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ☒

I like that the traditional calendar has a larger adoption nationally so it makes it easier to coordinate vacations, etc with family that lives in other places in the US.

3/3/2014 2:39 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ☒

I think the summer break is too long; the kids need to be learning more. It is very costly and timely for us to find summer camps to keep them entertained. We have seen that kids do lose some of the items they were taught in school. Then once the kid goes back to school in August, the teacher has to review everything from the previous year for at least 2 months. This is causing our kids to lose out on valuable learning time. Other countries are advancing quicker because they have the kids in school more days throughout the year than we do. I would prefer a year round calendar with 200 school days or more.

3/3/2014 1:44 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ☒

My students (and research has shown that most students) tend to forget skills and knowledge over the long summer breaks. They need to 'relearn' and reset at the beginning of each school year.

3/3/2014 1:09 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ☒

I'm not sure if there will be similar questions as to what I like about YEAR AROUND calendar, so I'm just going to tell you what we know based on our older son completing K through 5th grade at Brewer Island. In our experience, YEAR AROUND calendar works really well. Having the school year broken down into 4 quarters instead of two halves is much more effective: just as the children start getting tired - they get a break; the breaks are not too long, so the kids do not completely forget the material. In the traditional calendar, the summer break is way too long and then, when the school starts, through the end of September all the time goes into refreshing of what was taught last year. Our family has a first hand experience with both school calendars and we would strongly support YEAR AROUND. However, we are also realistic and do not think this will actually happen. But if you just look at Brewer Island test scores, maybe you will realize that it is no coincidence that they are consistently higher than the scores of the other Foster City schools'. Thank you for putting together this survey.

3/3/2014 12:42 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ☒
Frankly, I don't care which schedule is chosen, as long as it is consistent district wide. With 4 kids, we will face challenges meeting different schedules.

3/3/2014 11:41 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

The summer 10 week is too long. Many students lose the academic gains they made during the school year with the longer summer. Thus, the review and assessment period at the start of the school year seems to go on for weeks. Also, not all families encourage academic learning of some sort (reading, worksheets, museums etc) in the summer.

3/3/2014 11:18 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

Child burn out

3/3/2014 10:39 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

I don't have any issues with the traditional calendar and actually have a strong preference towards it. The only issue I would foresee is when I have one child in middle school and the other in high school and them not being on the same schedule.

3/3/2014 10:30 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

Schools year should start AFTER Labor Day. It makes no sense to have 2 days of school and then a 3-day weekend. I would prefer a shorter summer break and longer fall, winter and spring breaks.

3/3/2014 10:28 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

We need to be on the same schedule as the San Mateo Union High School District Calendar. The change whether to traditional or year round will still become a problem regardless when children are in different schools.

3/3/2014 10:06 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

Summer vacation is too long and my child spends too much time beginning of new school year reviewing. Also, I wanted to put one of my children in a magnet program but because of two different schedules, not possible with our family/work schedule.

Last question I am definitely in favor of a blended calendar. Take two or even three weeks out of the summer, add one week to winter break and one week to spring break and possibly add another week in between. Summer break is too long and winter break is definitely too short.

3/17/2014 6:06 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

Fine with blend as long as it coordinates

3/17/2014 5:37 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

We prefer the Traditional calendar for the many reasons listed above in this survey. A year round calendar would prohibit many of our most treasured family experiences. A traditional school calendar allows for planning ahead months/years ahead of time, knowing July and most of August will overlap with most family and friends. The warmer months can be uncomfortable for students and teachers to be in the classroom and out on the blacktop, and it is comforting to be able to limit our children's exposure to those environments day to day in the hottest weeks/months. I think a year round calendar would lead to more students being pulled from school in order to participate in important family events. I cannot begin to imagine the huge negative impact transitioning to a year round calendar would have on working parents who need to seek childcare during school breaks. Year round calendars seem to be extremely disruptive to families. Thank you for your time.

3/17/2014 5:12 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

I feel very strongly that the two district calendars align. I currently take my children out of school from time to time to make our family plans work. I see no reason why that can’t be done.

3/17/2014 4:35 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
I may take a hs teaching position. So alignment is fairly important.

3/17/2014 3:10 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

My kids are in Chinese school on the weekends, which follow TRADITIONAL calendars at Cupertino Monte Vista high school, and the Milpitas School District, because both Chinese school uses rented facilities. I don't like year round or blended Calendars because of weekend Chinese school for my children. Teachers deserve a long long summer break, so I prefer fewer breaks during the school year, and short breaks during the school year. Long summer breaks allows teachers to take summer classes at universities. I want teachers to have advanced degrees, and more advanced education during the summers, in order to teach my children. If teachers choose not to, teachers should enjoy a long break from the students, they worked hard, and they deserve a long break from teaching the kids, if they choose, please give teachers a long summer break. Long summer breaks allows for major renovation and remodeling of aging school facilities. You can tear down the one story buildings at Bowditch, and build two story classrooms in their place, this is critical at Bowditch for the long term needs of the SMFC school district's plan in accommodating additional students, so many more residential buildings are coming up in Foster City. Look at the major buildings near McDonald's and Chevron gas station in Foster City. Year round schedules don't allow for long summer breaks to do major construction and renovation required for the continued expansion of school capacity in Foster City San Mateo K-8 schools. Test scores of children on Traditional Calendars are the same as children on year round calendar. October free intersession is a bad reason for year round calendars, because teachers must recommend, secondly, parents must drive, thirdly children must have no vacation travel plans during October intersession, and fourthly, traditional calendar children have no October intersession and do equally well in test scores, which prove year round calendar children are deficient, unless fortified by October intersession. I will e-mail my comments to other parents. If they think my points are valid, I hope they will also stress these points. When everyone's first child enters high school, and the second child is on a radically different calendar, that creates logistical problems. At the forum I attended, many parents only had one child, or their children are very young, that they have no foresight in thinking about the first child entering high school because it is so far in the distant future for them, and the logistical problems of year round calendar of a younger sibling. When high school calendars vastly differ from K-8 calendar, this impacts attendance significantly. Attendance has a direct correlation to academic performance. Children of my relatives are all on traditional calendar around the country, and around the world, and we get together during the long summer breaks easily. If the summer break is shortened significantly, this will impact my children's experience with grand parents, and relatives, while growing up. Long summer breaks are necessary for children to have many memories of their relatives, grand parents, while they grow up, exactly like I did. My relatives are half way around the world in other countries, so I need a long summer break to visit three different countries with my children. I dislike year round calendar for the above reasons, and I like traditional calendars with long summer breaks for the above reasons. Children will do equally well on traditional calendar, if not better, because children are intelligent enough to adapt. I had dinner with other parents at year round calendar, and they agree that parents are the problem. Parents are the problem with year round calendars, which was originally created to deal with enrollment problems due to lack of classrooms. Building/facility maintenance is significantly impacted by year round calendars.

3/17/2014 2:55 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I prefer the traditional calendar because of the longer summer break that provides enough time to visit family overseas. If a new calendar is developed it would be great to consider the timing of (summer) camp options as well.

3/17/2014 1:42 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

traditional calendar is good

3/17/2014 12:20 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Coming from outside of California, I find the idea of having an un-aligned calendar quite strange. Highly suggest having the calendars for all elementary and middle schools align with that of their associated High School.

3/17/2014 11:55 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

It's good we have the option to have a blend calendar. I think it's important to have a periodic break for children during the school year. Two weeks of fall break and two weeks of spring break will allow children to learn and behave at their best condition during the school session.

3/17/2014 11:33 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

One common calendar for all schools in district
3/17/2014 9:52 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ¶

I definitely do not want the Year Round calendar because it would conflict with my older child's San Mateo Union High School District calendar. I am open to a blended calendar which could have a fall break and a shorter-than-traditional summer vacation but be aligned to conform as much as possible with the High School District calendar and definitely match the High School District's winter break and spring break exactly.

I think it is important to have consistency of the GATE program schedule to align with the majority of schools within the district. It is most important to me to eliminate the hardship of multiple schedules for families in our district. A slightly shorter summer seems reasonable.

Would like to see a start date after Labor Day.

My kids are in Chinese school on the weekends, which follow TRADITIONAL calendars at JL Stanford middle school in Palo Alto, and the Milpitas School District, because both Chinese school uses rented facilities. I don't like year round or blended Calendars because of weekend Chinese school for my children. Teachers deserve a long long summer break, so I prefer fewer breaks during the school year, and short breaks during the school year. Long summer breaks allows teachers to take summer classes at universities. I want teachers to have advanced degrees, and more advanced education during the summers, in order to teach my children. If teachers choose not to, teachers should enjoy a long break from the students, they worked hard, and they deserve a long break from teaching the kids, if they choose, please give teachers a long summer break. Long summer breaks allows for major renovation and remodeling of aging school facilities. You can tear down the one story buildings at Bowditch, and build two story classrooms in their place, this is critical at Bowditch for the long term needs of the SMFC school district's plan in accommodating additional students, so many more residential buildings are coming up in Foster City. Look at the major buildings near McDonald's and Chevron gas station in Foster City. Year round schedules don't allow for long summer breaks to do major construction and renovation required for the continued expansion of school capacity in Foster City San Mateo K-8 schools. Test scores of children on Traditional Calendars are the same as children on year round calendar. October free intersession is a bad reason for year round calendars, because teachers must recommend, secondly, parents must drive, thirdly children must have no vacation travel plans during October intersession, and fourthly, traditional calendar children have no October intersession and do equally well in test scores, which prove year round calendar children are deficient, unless fortified by October intersession. I will e-mail my comments to other parents. If they think my points are valid, I hope they will also stress these points. When everyone's first child enters high school, and the second child is on a radically different calendar, that creates logistical problems. At the forum I attended, many parents only had one child, or their children are very young, that they have no foresight in thinking about the first child entering high school because it is so far in the distant future for them, and the logistical problems of year round calendar of a younger sibling. When high school calendars vastly differ from K-8 calendar, this impacts attendance significantly. Attendance has a direct correlation to academic performance. Children of my relatives are all on traditional calendar around the country, and around the world, and we get together during the long summer breaks easily. If the summer break is shortened significantly, this will impact my children's experience with grand parents, and relatives, while growing up. Long summer breaks are necessary for children to have many memories of their relatives, grand parents, while they grow up, just like I did. My relatives are half way around the world in other countries, so I need a long summer break to visit two different countries with my children. I dislike year round calendar for the above reasons, and I like traditional calendars with long summer breaks for the above reasons. Children will do equally well on traditional calendar, if not better, because children are intelligent enough to adapt. Parents are the problem with year round calendars, which was originally created to deal with enrollment problems.

I have been on the traditional calendar for 6 years, with one year, several years ago, with one child on the year-round simultaneously, so I have some first hand experience from both sides. PLEASE, PLEASE make a hybrid calendar that gives us a fall break and also a ski week. I do think that alignment with the HS calendar will be a good thing in the long run. We have many, many years of school ahead of us and want to respect the importance of consistent attendance at school, but we also want to maximize the opportunities we have as a family to be together and enjoy time together. Also, I'd love to see schools find some kind of common calendar for parent-teacher conferences. This
past year, if you had a YR student & a student @ Highlands (Trad), you went from 3 weeks of fall break to 1 week of so-called normal and then straight into nearly 2 weeks of PT conferences. YIKES!!!

With a Sophomore in High School and a third grader in Elementary School, our vacation time is shortened to six weeks anyway and it's usually the most expensive six weeks of the year! I would very much like the elementary schools and the high school holidays to be aligned and for the duration of those holidays to be shortened with the remaining weeks intersperses throughout the calendar year e.g. October and February. I understand this may be problematic for people who work full time, but I'm sure camps would start up once a calendar was decided upon (where there's a need and all that). Having experienced both a traditional and a year-round calendar, I definitely personally prefer the year round, but it also understand the concerns of those who prefer the traditional calendar.

I strongly fell we should stay with a traditional calendar. Over two thirds of San Mateo/Foster City elementary schools are currently on this calendar and it makes the most sense to stay on traditional so that less people are affected by a calendar change. The majority of schools in the Bay Area, California and the nation are on Traditional calendars and I think it would be a mistake to change our calendar to Year Round or Blended. Our current calendars works best for the majority of our teachers with the childcare issues that they face with their own children. Also there are tremendous resources available for summer childcare and enrichment activities due to college and high school students also sharing that summer break. The year round calendar or blended calendar would create many childcare issues for a lot of people that rely on college students and high school students to help during the summer months. These resources would not be available during the various intercessions in a year round or blended calendar.

As a parent with 20% custody of my children, I rely on the traditional calendar in order to maximize the time I can spend with my children. Right now, I'm able to have full custody for 8-9 weeks in the summer, plus 2 weeks in the winter. If their school (or the district) were to adopt a year-round calendar or a hybrid of the two calendars, it would minimize the time I could spend with my daughters. Since they are a plane ride away - I am in the military, stationed on the east coast - it is not practical or financially viable to fly them out for shorter breaks. Our quality time together is hugely dependent on the long summer vacation.

it just makes sense to have 1 calendar! it is crazy 2 have 2 different calendars in the same district! when it comes time for a family vacation, we will have to likely take a kid out of school, as the overlapping dates are THE MOST EXPENSIVE dates to travel - and we can't afford that. But the district can't afford for me to take a child out of school... good luck!!

While we make every effort to have our children attend school when in session, not aligning calendars increases the likelihood that my younger child will be out of school for certain days due to family obligations/vacations. In our busy lives, family time to reconnect is very important, and sacrifices will be made. Aligning calendars will allow us to minimize those sacrifices.

Have a longer winter break and spring break. Add a 3-week fall break is great as well.

we like the traditional yr

Either year round or blend. Spread out the vacation break is the best.

I think a blend of both calendars or the year round calendar appeals to our family most. Shortening summer and adding longer breaks through the school year seems to be a good way to give students a reprieve, but doesn't let
them fall out of the school routine for too long. I will eventually have my children at two different schools as the oldest goes on to Borel and the SMHS and our priority would be having the schools calendars align (especially breaks) regardless of which calendar is chosen. Thank you for hearing the voice of parents during this decision and creating several opportunities for families to educate themselves on the matter before giving their opinion.

3/14/2014 6:36 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

shorter summer break would be best - 8 weeks would be best
3/14/2014 5:22 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

Year Round calendar is so easy for family travel plan.
3/14/2014 4:00 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

Please do not go to a year-round calendar. Please maintain at least 8 weeks of summer - this is important for us many dual working parents. A fall break would be nice. Also if you are going to make a change, alignment with the high school seems like a priority. I'm not clear that there needs to be a change at all, though, given that because it is a choice district, families have already opted into a calendar that meets their needs.
3/14/2014 3:08 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

My kids are in Chinese school on the weekends, which follow TRADITIONAL calendars at Hillsdale High School in San Mateo, and the Milpitas School District, because both Chinese school uses rented facilities. I don't like year round or blended Calendars because of weekend Chinese school for my children. Teachers deserve a long long summer break, so I prefer fewer breaks during the school year, and short breaks during the school year. Long summer breaks allows teachers to take summer classes at universities. I want teachers to have advanced degrees, and more advanced education during the summers, in order to teach my children. If teachers choose not to, teachers should enjoy a long break from the students, they worked hard, and they deserve a long break from teaching the kids, if they choose, please give teachers a long summer break. Long summer breaks allows for major renovation and remodeling of aging school facilities. You can tear down the one story Pods at Audubon during the long summer breaks, and build two story classrooms in their place, this needs to be done at Audubon due to construction of more residential buildings in Foster City. Year round schedules don't allow for long summer breaks to do major construction and renovation required for the continued expansion of school capacity in Foster City San Mateo K-8 schools. Test scores of children on Traditional Calendars are the same as children on year round calendar. October free intersession is a bad reason for year round calendars, because teachers must recommend, secondly, parents must drive, thirdly children must have no vacation travel plans during October intersession, and fourthly, traditional calendar children have no October intersession and do equally well in test scores, which prove year round calendar children are deficient, unless fortified by October intersession, I will e-mail my comments to other parents. If they think my points are valid, I hope they will also stress these points. When everyone’s first child enters high school, and the second child is on a radically different calendar, that creates logistical problems. At the forum I attended, many parents only had one child, or their children are very young, that they have no foresight in thinking about the first child entering high school because it is so far in the distant future for them, and the logistical problems of year round calendar of a younger sibling. When high school calendars vastly differ from K-8 calendar, this impacts attendance significantly. Attendance has a direct correlation to academic performance. Children of my relatives are all on traditional calendar around the country, and around the world, and we get together during the long summer breaks easily. If the summer break is shortened significantly, this will impact my children's experience with grand parents, and relatives, while growing up. Long summer breaks are necessary for children to have many memories of their relatives, grand parents, while they grow up, just like I did. My relatives are half way around the world in other countries, so I need a long summer break to visit two different countries with my children. I dislike year round calendar for the above reasons, and I like traditional calendars with long summer breaks for the above reasons.
3/14/2014 2:29 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

I would be more than happy to trade a week of summer vacation, which is way too long, for a week's break in the fall.
3/14/2014 2:13 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

I think the blended calendar could be a good idea with a summer break that was 7 or 8 weeks long. That would allow 2 weeks of break in the winter, and either 1 or 2 in fall or spring. I think the 3 week intersessions are too long when the kids are in competitive sports outside of the school district. These sports teams compete with other teams on the Peninsula that are on a traditional calendar. I think ideally, the district would have: - 8 weeks of summer - 2 weeks of
fall break - 2 weeks of winter break - 1 week of spring break I know that people with their kids in year round like having the opportunity to have a fall break that is not when the rest of the country is on holiday.

A blending of the two, with a slightly shorter summer break than traditional, but then another break in Oct/Nov.

Alignment for all school (elementary, middle, and high school) is preferred.

Having the breaks all aligned with ALL schools is greatly needed and considering the Community College schedules would also be another good thing as many of us have child care givers who attend the local community colleges

If SMFCSD goes to a year round schedule, that may push us over the edge to explore private school options for our kids. We've experienced a year round calendar through College Park and the schedule did not work well when blended with the kid's after school academic schedule.

I think it is critical for middle school and high school to be aligned. I know it is difficult to manage kids across calendars no matter the age, but it is much easier to find and afford care for younger kids. As kids get older, it is optimal to have siblings be on the same schedule as it is less likely that camps can accommodate them. Just leaving them on their own is not optimal, especially if they cannot count on their brother or sister to be around.

For me it is MOST important to have the new calendar align with the SMUHSD. We are currently attending a school on a traditional calendar and I would be happy with a blend of the traditional and year long calendar. I'd be open to an 8 week summer and extending/adding breaks where needed to fulfill the 13 week total. I noticed on the survey that the options only included full weeks. I would be open to half week options i.e spring break for one and a half weeks or a fall break for one and a half.

It's not only important to align with other public districts, but private schools too. It would be very inconvenient to switch to year-round or a "blend"!!

To me, summer break is way too long. Would much prefer a blended calendar with more breaks/or longer breaks through the school year.

Pushing the start date of summer out and/or having them go back earlier in August would be preferred for more time in the winter/spring. We are a household of two working parents so we fully appreciate the challenges with childcare - that being said, the first and last weeks of summer are challenging to find camps as well. I would prefer to have the opportunity to take a vacation or visit relatives in the spring or wintertime when travel expenses tend to be more moderate.

I really need my elementary and middle school to be on the same calendar. We transferred out of our local school "Abbott" because we can not swing two jobs and two school calendars.

I strongly prefer the traditional calendar. I am strongly opposed to the year round calendar.
A modified year-round or modified traditional calendar, whatever you want to call it is a TERRIBLE idea! I can barely deal with child care for PD days! I at least have help and options during the longer summer break. Please DO NOT CHANGE the calendar. I beg you!!!

3/14/2014 9:24 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

I would like year round school
3/14/2014 9:03 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

Really like 3 weeks fall break in October.
3/14/2014 12:20 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

no matter what calendar is decided, please please just one common calendar for children in a family to be at different schools.
3/13/2014 9:53 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

I would love a 7 week summer and then 2 week breaks in the fall, winter, and spring. I would prefer it to be consistent across the District for at least the elementary and middle schools. It sounds like Hillsdale won’t be adjusting its calendar based on sports involvement. I wouldn't advocate that we all adopt their schedule but maybe a compromise of their and my suggestion of 7, 2, 2, 2.
3/13/2014 9:06 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

My kids are in Chinese school on the weekends, which follow TRADITIONAL calendars in the Redwood Shores Belmont school District, and the Milpitas school District, because both Chinese school uses rented facilities. Teachers deserve a long long summer break, so I prefer fewer breaks during the school year, and short breaks during the school year. Long summer breaks allows teachers to take summer classes at universities. I want teachers to have advanced degrees, and more advanced education during the summers, in order to teach my children. If not, teachers should enjoy a long break from the students, they worked hard, and they deserve a long break from teaching, if they choose, please give it to them. Long summer breaks allows for major renovation and remodeling of aging school facilities. You can tear down the one story Pods at Audubon during the long summer breaks, and build two story classrooms in their place, this needs to be done at Audubon. Year round schedules don't allow for long summer breaks to do major construction and renovation required for the continued expansion of school capacity in Foster City San Mateo K-8 schools. Test scores of children on Traditional Calendars are the same as children on year round calendar. October free intersession is a bad reason for year round calendars, because teachers must recommend, secondly, parents must drive, thirdly children must have no travel plans during October intersession, and fourthly, traditional calendar children have no October intersession and do equally well in test scores, which prove year round calendar children are deficient, unless fortified by October intersession. I will e-mail my comments to other parents. If they think my points are valid, I hope they will also stress these points. When everyone's first child enters high school, and the second child is on a radically different calendar, that creates logistical problems. At the forum I attended, many parents only had one child, or their children are very young, that they have no foresight in thinking about the first child entering high school because it is so far off in the distant future for them, and the logistical problems of year round calendar of a younger sibling. When high school calendars vastly differ from K-8 calendar, this impacts attendance significantly. Attendance has a direct correlation to academic performance. Children of my relatives are all on traditional calendar around the country, and around the world, and we get together during the long summer breaks easily. If the summer break is shortened significantly, this will impact my children's experience with relatives while growing up. Long summer breaks are necessary for children to have many memories of their relatives, grand parents, while they grow up, just like I did. My relatives are half way around the world in other countries, so I need a long summer break to visit two different countries with my children. I dislike year round calendar for the above reasons, and I like traditional calendars with long summer breaks for the above reasons.
3/13/2014 8:56 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

My kids are in Chinese school on the weekends, which follow TRADITIONAL calendars in the Redwood Shores Belmont school District, and the Milpitas school District, because Chinese school uses rented facilities. Teachers deserve a long long summer break, so I prefer fewer breaks during the school year, and short breaks during the school year. Long summer breaks allows for major renovation and remodeling of aging school facilities. You can tear
down the one story classrooms in the long summer break, and build two story classrooms, this needs to be done in Foster City. Long summer breaks allows teachers to take summer classes at major universities. My mother, a school teacher for 40 years, earned two Master's degree during the summer breaks, and completed all her Ph.D classes during the summer breaks. Test scores of children on Traditional Calendars are the same as children on year round calendar. October free intersession is not a good reason for year round schedules, because teachers must recommend, secondly, parents must drive, thirdly children must no travel plans during october intersession, and fourthly, traditional calendar children have no october intersession and do equally well in test scores, which prove year round calendar children are deficient, unless fortified with october intersession. I will e-mail my comments to other parents. If they think my points are valid, I hope they will also stress these points. When everyone's first child enters high school, and the second child is on a radically different calendar, that creates logistical problems. At the forum I attended, many parents only had one child, or their children are very young, that they have no foresight in thinking about the first child entering high school, and the logistical problems of year round calendar. When high school calendars vastly differ from K-8 calendar, this impacts attendance significantly. Attendance has a direct correlation to academic performance. Children of my relatives are all on traditional calendar around the country, and around the world, and we get together during the long summer breaks easily. If the summer break is shortened significantly, this will impact my children's experience with relatives while growing up. Long summer breaks are necessary for children to have many memories of their relatives, grand parents, while they grow up, just like I did. My relatives are half way around the world, so I need a long summer break to visit two different countries with my children. I dislike year round calendar for the above reasons, and like traditional calendars for the above reasons.

The year round calendar would be very disruptive for my first grader. He thrives on routine, as most kids his age do. Returning from winter break takes a week or two before the routine is back on track. The proposed year round calendar would force this several times. The year round calendar also would mean compromising summer camps, travel, learning, and lessons that are important to us.

We prefer Traditional Calendar, with 2 weeks spring break.

I think that the two calendar should be blended together. Both parents in my household work full-time. I also have a 6 year age gap that puts my children different schools. It would be better if they are on the same school calendar. It will help to plan for daycare.

The district should be on one calendar, and align as much as possible with the high school calendar. A blended calendar would be best: 7 weeks of summer, 1 week fall break, 2 weeks winter break, 2 weeks spring break. If there are days left over, having all of thanksgiving week off would be great, too.

6 week Summer Vacation, 2 week Fall break, 3 week Winter break and 2 week Spring break would be great to have.

I believe there should be one calendar versus a blend of the two.

I think traditional calendar works the best for the majority of parents. Year round calendar will be inconvenient for working parents.
1. Aligning the SMFCSD calendar to the High School District is imperative for the sanity of working parents with more than one child. 2. It will be fantastic to align the calendar among all the SMFCSD's schools to provide the opportunity to children with siblings that are GATE qualified to participate in the program. We have two GATE identified children that for the first time will be in the GATE program this year, the youngest in College Park and the oldest in Bayside. My oldest son did not have the chance to participate in the program going to 4th grade because we did not let him take the GATE test during 3rd grade to avoid the harsh decision as to not let him move to College Park for his 4th grade. Having the choice convey having children in two calendar years at the time. Choice that was out of the table as we are both working parents.

I think a blend of the 2 calendars would be great as it would not allow too much time off from school on breaks to get out of a school routine but would give families generally enough time to take vacations together during the summer and during the cheaper "off season or non-traditional " times. We only have one child so having the high school and calendar aligning with middle and elementary schools does not concern us. Most importantly for us as parents we want to be able to take our son with us on vacation without having to take him out of school, and feel pressure not to be able to except during expensive travel times such as summer and winter breaks. My son will attend more school days on a year round or blended calendar than on the traditional calendar that he is currently on.

I like the idea of a blended calendar. As much as the calendar has been seen as a "choice", I believe that having two calendars has limited the selection of Bayside Stem & Abbott by parents who would rather have their students on one calendar.

Having a common calendar would make it a lot easier with regards to my kids, otherwise at some point in the future, one will end up in a school with a Traditional calendar and the other in a Year Round calendar. If this can be avoided, having a common calendar will be a very good idea.

I feel strongly all schools (and ideally SMCCD) be on the same calendar. Which calendar that is, I don't feel as strongly about.

I recommend a hybrid as this worked well in our last school. School starts the third Monday in August, there is a two week break in October, a three week break in December/January. a two week break in April and then school lets out the third week of June.

As listed earlier, our family strongly prefers the traditional calendar, or something close to it.

Starting school a few days before labor day weekend can really cut families short of vacations together. Many employers give their employees a 4-day weekend and we can't take advantage of family time together because the kids are already back to school with only a 3-day weekend. Many families including myself can feel tempted to pull the kids from school in order to enjoy their last 4-day weekend of the summer.

It's hard to answer #16 -- I can't just pick a few things that are priority because there is no descriptor with each item. For example, what do you mean "length of summer vacation?" It could be a priority for me to have a short vacation or a long one; however the question doesn't give an option to describe what would make the length a priority. Each of the items above is like that so the question is useless. I like the idea of a blended calendar--start beginning of August, end and the end of May, with two week breaks in autumn, winter and spring. Thanks for asking.
Please let kids enjoy summer and not be stuck in a classroom during that time.
3/12/2014 10:28 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... С

I do wish for a blend of the two calendars. I would like a shorter summer for a Traditional school year with a few breaks throughout the year, as in a Year Round. But I do wish we could have only one calendar for all the schools in the SMFC School District.
3/12/2014 9:14 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... С

We only have one child now but if/when we have more we think it makes all the sense in the world to have them on the same school schedules.
3/11/2014 10:50 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... С

Large families with children at different schools need to have children aligned on the same schedule.
3/11/2014 10:07 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... С

We immigrated from The Netherlands almost 3 years ago where EVERY school has a Year Round school. I think a Summer break of 6 weeks is too short, that's what I miss in a Year Round calendar. 10 weeks of Summer Break is too long for the Traditional because the children FORGET what they have learned! Teachers have to start all over again, waste of time! I think 8 weeks would be nice because what I miss is the break during Fall. The kids are SO TIRED by the time they have a Winter Break. That's what I miss in the Traditional calendar.
3/11/2014 9:47 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... С

When our kids were young we did the year round calendar for several years and it was good, especially with respect to planning family vacations. But as the kids reached late grade school / middle school, they started attending a 4 week sleepaway camp in Southern California. The schedule for that camp would probably not line up with a year round calendar summer. I don't think it would be fair to force everyone into a year round calendar, although it is a nice option for some.
3/11/2014 9:38 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... С

Year round calendar or blend of two is preferred.Having summer break for 2 and half months for traditional calendar is not useful at all
3/11/2014 9:16 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... С

I think the school district needs to be the same no matter which way it decides to go. Currently my kids are at Highlands and my middle school will be Abbot. There is no way I can do two different calendars.
3/11/2014 5:13 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... С

I'd like the Summer break to be about 7 weeks.
3/11/2014 5:02 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... С

I would prefer the year round calendar only if I have enough camp options.
The idea of a modified calendar that could mix the best of the Traditional and Year-Round calendars is definitely appealing to me: a break in the Fall, a slightly longer Winter and Spring Break, starting a little earlier than the Traditional, ending earlier or close to the Traditional. Looking ahead, I will have 3 children at three different schools, so a unified calendar would be very convenient.

I think the winter break should be minimum 2 weeks!!!!

Although I don't love the high school district start and end dates, my priority is to align our elementary, middle, and high school calendars to alleviate family stress at scheduling important family time (i.e. trips to see family, vacations, etc)

I think a blend of both calendars will be ideal. The start and end of school year doesn't matter too much to me. I think the winter and spring vacation should align with the high school.

Again, as an educator working a traditional school calendar I want my kids on the same schedule as much as possible.

Traditional is always better

Would like to see the week of Thanksgiving taken for vacation due already having 2 days off, why not the other 2 1/2. This is a heavy traveled holiday and definitely affects my families attendance on the wed. prior.

I would like to have a year around calendar that had longer fall and winter breaks.

4-6 weeks max in summer, more frequent 2-3 week breaks throughout the year

Perhaps a middle ground could be met- and the district could switch to quarters (like many colleges) where students are in their regular classroom during fall/winter/spring quarters, but take elective programs (enrichment language, art, computer, and other specialized instruction) during the summer quarter at either their own or another SMFCSD campus?

I'd like schools to be consistent for families. Otherwise it is hard to plan for family trips. We'd have to take one kid out of school to do vacations.

A common calendar absolutely must be on traditional calendar, as it would be very inconvenient to all working parents to be on a year round calendar.

Year round calendar is really difficult for child care.
I would like the elementary, middle school and high school calendars to be on a common Traditional Calendar because currently, for families with more than 1 child, it is too confusing to have different calendars, e.g. different spring break weeks for the elementary and high school district.

I think year round for the entire District would be ideal. We have friends in SF in year round schools and their children are much more stimulated and active.

Uniformity for me is important so that the district could work together easily. I think having a year round calendar is better and good for the children because they would able to have a continuous learning without a long pause from school, specially today children are so distracted with technology.

As I have already stated I support the adoption of the Traditional calendar by the School District.

A blend makes sense, most families have multiple children and it's stressful trying to juggle different calendars. A single calendar would help families plan vacations, child care etc. For year round, some of the 3 week breaks are frustrating for parents. And the XL summer break for traditional can be too long as well. There could be a compromise shortening traditional's summer break by 1-2 weeks, shortening the year round fall break to 1 week, spring break could be 1-1.5 weeks. It is nice having school start later in Aug, especially since Northern CA's summer usually starts in Sept nowadays. We seem to hit major heat waves just as the kids go back to school, and it can be hot and hard to concentrate since the classrooms don't have AC.

The more closely the elementary school aligns with the high school schedule the better.
There are advantages and disadvantages to both the traditional and year round calendars. We definitely like the idea of a blended calendar that would shorten the traditional calendar's summer break somewhat in exchange for some additional breaks during the rest of the year, whether it be fall, winter, or spring; or all of them.

3/10/2014 11:08 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... œ

Please consider changing Foster City Elementary school calendar to Year Round calendar for easier vacation planning.

3/10/2014 3:28 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... œ

I do not have any children in high school. So the calendar alignment with high school doesn't matter.

3/10/2014 3:06 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... œ

Having two children with 3 years apart, it makes it very difficult to have both on two different calendars. Just does not make for a great QUALITY of life.

3/10/2014 9:31 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... œ

We wish to have longer fall and spring break, then cut off the length of summer break. So the year round calendar is the best.

3/10/2014 12:23 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... œ

Year round may take a little time to get used to, but I think it will be better for the kids to get a more even school year & avoid the LONG summer break. That being said in needs to done through a common calendar with the other schools so both kids are on the same schedule.

3/9/2014 5:11 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... œ

My preference is a blend. After hearing how beneficial it is to reduce burn out during the school year and reduce boredom during the summer break, it seems a blended calendar would be an excellent solution. A common calendar in our school district makes sense for students, parents and administration.

3/9/2014 4:16 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... œ

A common calendar aligned with the traditional calendar makes most sense when having kids in different schools and working parents.

3/9/2014 1:12 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... œ

I prefer the year round calendar.

3/8/2014 10:42 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... œ

I would like the breaks to be aligned (at least a start date)... but if the year round schedule lasts a week longer, it is ok.

3/8/2014 9:06 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... œ

I would like a blend of the two calendars if possible. If not, then the Year Round calendar would be preferred.

3/8/2014 6:38 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... œ

The kids should be in school more. The number of days and length of the hours needs to increase.

3/8/2014 3:34 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... œ

For us, we prefer that children just have the major days off such as winter holidays and summer breaks. We think that too much unnecessary breaks in between take their concentration. Some short breaks is fine but 3 weeks each season change for me is not helping kids to be interested in going to school. Thank you.

3/8/2014 7:06 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... œ
Please, please build in a Fall break!!
3/7/2014 10:37 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

3 weeks at winter would allow us to travel overseas to see family
3/7/2014 10:28 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Either calendar works for me. Please just align elementary, middle, and high-schools, so that siblings don't have different schedules if they are at different schools. Thank you!
3/7/2014 8:58 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I would very much like to keep a traditional calendar. it would be great if we could have ski week in February like so many other schools do. thanks!
3/7/2014 1:30 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I think summer vacation should shorter such as 6 weeks, winter and spring break should be longer, 3 weeks each.
3/7/2014 10:05 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Year round makes much more sense, but not if the High School and Elementary districts can't be aligned. Kids/families do need a break from schedule and need to have family time. Regular breaks during the year make the most sense (year round) versus a long summer break. Teachers need breaks during the school year as well. It can get mentally exhausting for them and it shows. Having a break during the fall (Oct) in addition to spring and cut the summer break down. I'm not concerned with when school starts/ends, as long as the calendars are aligned.
3/7/2014 8:53 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

They are different amounts of learning. so I think it is not necessary to match.
3/7/2014 8:49 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Next year, I will have a student at Meadow Heights and Abbott, on drastically different calendars. Both parents work full time in our family. This becomes a logistical nightmare, creating unnecessary stress on the family dynamics. Furthermore, the summer is the time when we have the opportunity for enrichment, which is not provided at school. Students at Abbot no longer has as much opportunity for this enrichment. There also seems to be a lot of concern regarding aligning to the high school calendar. Children in high school are much more self-sufficient. The bigger concern is aligning the elementary and middle schools.
3/7/2014 7:56 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I would like year round. Children are less likely to get burned out and less trouble in summer. Boredom =behavior issues I can't afford expensive camps and they remember what they have learned the year before
3/7/2014 6:16 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I like the idea of a blended calendar, provided that the breaks serve the curriculum. Ideally, the fall could be divided into 2 parts with a 1-2 week break between the start of school and Christmas/Winter break - where there is a natural break in studies - where the kids have come to the end of a unit/series. Same idea with the placement of spring break. I would not want any longer than a 2 week break for Fall, Winter or Spring Breaks.
3/6/2014 9:21 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Having vacations that align is the most important item, so that families with kids in different grades can all go on vacation together. Ski Week - President's Week. Would be very nice to have this off, K-12 should have this time off, which aligns with many private schools and helps families with kids of different ages, some of whom are in private schools, or to allow families to travel with friends who may be in private schools.
3/6/2014 8:44 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

No opinion
3/6/2014 8:29 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  
A week in February for ski week would be awesome too... my ideal would be: 2 weeks at winter, 1 week "ski week", 1+ weeks in spring, and the rest of the break in the summer.

3/6/2014 8:20 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

Having a common calendar across all schools develops a community. A chance for a patent like me to seek out HS or college kids to help me w/ my boys either by kid sitting, mentoring or music lessons. A common calendar allows for flow among all grade levels and continuity in family planning.

3/6/2014 6:51 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

Almost every parent at work has children on traditional calendar which makes it challenging to take vacations at the same time, especially during summer. Having my child in a year-round calendar gives me the opportunity to take my child on longer vacations because I do not have to compete with everyone at work for vacation time.

3/6/2014 6:42 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

We have a fifth grader that will start Abbott Middle School next year and a first grader continuing on at Sunnybrae. We would love to see them both on a traditional calendar. Thank you for taking the time to consider our opinion on this matter!

3/6/2014 3:36 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

A blended calendar is a wonderful compromise. With a 6 or 8 week summer, a 2-3 week fall break, 2 week winter break, and 1 week around President's Day and 1 week at spring break would allow nice chunks of time for instruction and nice chunks of time for recharging—travel, camps, family time, enrichment, interventions. The two most important factors to me are the length of summer and my children being on the same calendar. Our elementary school is traditional and the middle school is year round. That puts a fair amount of stress on a family as they try to juggle work/school, family time, childcare, travel, etc.

3/6/2014 1:47 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

I do not want my children to attend year-round school.

3/6/2014 12:36 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

Where possible it would be great to sync up the two calendars, but the Fall Break, Winter and Spring break would be my priorities to try and sync.

3/6/2014 12:35 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

We are on the year-round calendar for two years before switching to traditional. My preference is year-round based on the ease/options of scheduling child care around my full-time work schedule and giving the kids more frequent, but shorter breaks to increase learning and retention of subject matter.

3/6/2014 10:51 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

They should match as families don't have much time for family vacations and with children at different ages it's too hard to plan to fit the needs of family time if the calendars don't match.

3/6/2014 9:27 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

I have just served on my school district's advisory calendar committee and have spent many hours researching this topic. I will attend one of the forum meetings next week. I feel that the district can align calendars for all schools with perhaps an earlier start time still keeping in place a adequate summer break without going year round.

3/6/2014 7:16 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

I would very much like to see all the elementary and middle schools aligned. For working parents that have one child in a traditional elementary and another child in a year-round middle school (as the zoning assigns us), is a logistical nightmare. Very difficult to deal with 2 kids on different schedules with managing camps, drop offs, vacations,
aftercare, etc. I would strongly encourage the district to align the schools, with either calendar or a hybrid, just so long as they are aligned.

I insist only on Traditional calendar. That is the most preferred for our kids.

As a school district, why would you subject families with multiple children to so many years of inconsistent and unbalanced school calendars? Who thought it was a good idea? The fact that you are talking about it now is a clear indicator that the decision was a bad one to begin with. Common sense is finally kicking in. Either go with one or the other. To be honest, I could care less which you choose. But just decide on one and have it consistent across all schools.

Ideally align all schools in district - Elementary and high school. Ideally would like the following vacations for 13 weeks. Breaks up the year and think there have been studies done that better for kids education rather than long breaks. - 6 weeks in summer (mid July to end August) - 1 week mid-way between summer and winter - 2 weeks in Winter - 1 week mid-way between Winter and Spring - 2 weeks in Spring - 1 week mid-way between Spring and Summer

Align with high school calendar.

There should be one calendar with a blend between the two types. A ski week should be put in place in March and a spring break in mid April. No more half days on a Wednesday because of the hardship this places on working families. If you need a half day place it on Friday. Otherwise combine the half days and give the kids a Monday or Friday off so families may have a long weekend. Stop the different schedules so parents aren't stuck with a kid on vacation and one in school. We were lucky one child was able to transfer to another School, so both would be on the same schedule. If it didn't happen we were prepared to send both children to a private school.

Will not support Year Round Calendar because Year Round calendar brings a big child care challenge for families where both parents work, or single parent families. More childcare/camps/programs are available if using Traditional calendar.

I think a blended calendar with 6 weeks of summer, 2 weeks of Spring/ Fall break, and 3 weeks of Winter break all align with High School calendar whenever possible would be ideal for all students.

Prefer year-round calendar. IF Traditional calendar is chosen, would prefer to have school start after labor day.
Summer calendar start/finish is easier to work around, then different mid session breaks.
3/5/2014 10:50 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ø

There should only be one calendar for the District and this calendar should include more smaller breaks rather than the large summer break.
3/5/2014 10:24 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ø

I would prefer a year round calendar for all the schools.
3/5/2014 10:22 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ø

Blending the two calendars makes childcare very difficult with longer breaks. Many kids are left home unsupervised. There is no conclusive research that proves year-round improves test scores. Most families have more than one child. The closest a modified traditional calendar to the SMUHS District would serve families best. It's time to be a unified district!
3/5/2014 10:08 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ø

In my opinion a Fall Break would be irresponsible as the students in a Traditional calendar setting would just gotten back into the structure and routine. I am not a parent with children in multiple age categories therefore the alignment with the High School Calendar does not interest me.
3/5/2014 9:45 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ø

Align at least the calendars for the SMUHD and SMFC. Currently one family could have kids in Middle School and other kids in High School, and their Spring Breaks are 2 weeks apart, and summer vacation is not aligned. High School kids often take summer courses at other schools, or do other things in summer that last 8 weeks, making it very difficult to try to schedule family vacation time during the few days of remaining overlapping vacation days when the time off is not aligned.
3/5/2014 9:22 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ø

I STRONGLY agree that the district should have one calendar for all schools. With multiple children eventually going through the system (4 at this time), the more consistent the schedules, the less confusing and more manageable it is. I favor the year-round schedule, but REALLY would like a blended concept where there are two-week breaks (Fall//Spring) but an earlier three-week break for Winter (prepare for Christmas) for less burnout for both the children and parents, more economical choices for vacation off-season, and a shorter-than-traditional summer of six weeks (less work to academically bridge them, less cost in one lump sum for camps)
3/5/2014 8:47 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ø

I think the year round calendar helps students stay on track with learning ....not that everyone needs to be ahead but it keeps the mind from going to lazy. Year-round also helps alleviate some of the stress on parents for finding a longer stretch of childcare
3/5/2014 8:00 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ø

I believe a blend would work best. End dates are less important then aligning start dates.
3/5/2014 7:25 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ø

I support a shorter summer than the traditional calendar to prevent brain drain. I want intersessions of 2 weeks for off-season travel and short mental breaks for my children. I support one calendar and alignment with the high schools too.
3/5/2014 12:56 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ø

Adopting traditional calendar will allow students to have a large block of time to pursue their own interest. Adopting one calendar will reduce after-school care cost.
3/4/2014 11:30 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ø
I think it is too hard for families to deal with 2 or 3 school calendars. It makes it difficult to enjoy family time together in the brief time our children are young. It is hard to schedule vacations and enrichments when overly fragmented. Families also have to consider work schedules. I would appreciate a calendar closest to the high school calendar. Eventually we will all have children on that calendar. Thank you for considering parents’ input on this issue.

3/4/2014 11:09 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as…

Alignment is the most important thing. We have two girls four years apart which means they will be a different schools the majority of the time. Having kids on different school calendars is a massive headache. Managing activities during school breaks and planning family vacations becomes very difficult.

3/4/2014 9:56 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as…

I would like the traditional calendar to carry on.

3/4/2014 9:53 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as…

A blend: most important 3 weeks winter break.

3/4/2014 9:42 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as…

You lose momentum in learning and teaching when breaks occur too often. No need for a fall break after summer break.

3/4/2014 9:02 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as…

As a parent it will be extremely difficult to have my children on two different schedules.

3/4/2014 8:15 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as…

I like the Winter Break that runs into the first or second week of Jan. and a break in early to mid October. A Spring break before or after other schools’ are great too. The length of Summer vacation could be shorter than the current 2.5 months will be great (but not shorter than 4 weeks). End of school year, ideally, no later than the 3rd Friday of June. Regardless of which calendar, please ensure there will be Camps aligned with the calendar. Thank you.

3/4/2014 7:47 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as…

I would like a blended calendar IF it kept summer at least 8 weeks long and added a week off in the Fall.

3/4/2014 7:43 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as…

I would prefer a year round calendar or a blend of the two.

3/4/2014 7:38 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as…

Please just align on one calendar, regardless of what calendar you choose, since it is already challenging enough for parents to juggle and manage multiple kids schedules. I like the idea of a slightly shorter summer break in favor of having a one week fall break and a two week spring break so families have flexibility to plan vacations different times of the year. If you go that direction, make sure to work with independent camp providers to get them to line up camp offerings during those breaks so there are decent choices for dual working parents. The options during year round school breaks now are pretty few and far between and not terribly enriching or varied.

3/4/2014 7:24 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as…

I would rather have traditional calendar year to blend with high school district calendar

3/4/2014 7:23 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as…

just imagine have couple of kids with age difference of 3-4 years - this means that as a family they have to for 10-15 years in a row plan vacation weird way - no spring break together and during summer just short time. it is very unfortunate for san mateo area - we know a couple of districts and all of them have same calendar for elementary, middle and high schools - which is awesome for families.

3/4/2014 7:03 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as…
need consistency on long weekends and when spring break is (holiday based, or not?) and then explain it to the parents. we need to plan vacations and college visits, not to mention all the sports and other tournaments that expect long weekends for each holiday weekend.

3/4/2014 6:42 PM View respondent's answers  Categorize as...  

The key element to this for many of us is that having Abbott on a year round schedule when there are traditional primary schools that feed it and then switching back to the traditional calendar once in High School. The only people this benefits are the teachers that prefer the year round schedule. It is a nightmare for families with multiple children at different schools. I hope the committee will consider the families involved this time around instead of the just catering to the agenda of the principal and staff, as they did when the year round decision was made at Abbott last time. I take this survey on good faith that our voices will be heard this time.

3/4/2014 5:28 PM View respondent's answers  Categorize as...  

my preference would be a blend with 2 to 3 weeks in fall, spring and winter and shorten the summer vacation. It does not matter as much when school is out or starts, as long as there is ample notice.

3/4/2014 5:23 PM View respondent's answers  Categorize as...  

I like the traditional calendar, because of the long summer break, but can also see the merits of the year round calendar with it's longer more frequent breaks. My children are not on different calendars (yet), and I what I want most of all is for my children and family to be all on the same calendar as they grow up here in San Mateo. I would like to see the high schools also in alignment. All I have witnessed thus far from watching friends with kids that are in middle school (Abbott - year round) and Meadow Heights (Traditional), is the strain it puts on everyone as different children are out at different times, and it makes scheduling anything for these families - be it childcare, vacations, activities, etc difficult. I am SO happy the district is looking to remedy this. In the end, I don't care so much which calendar you choose, I just want us all to be on the same calendar!

3/4/2014 4:59 PM View respondent's answers  Categorize as...  

I believe it is important to keep a traditional calendar year for those of us that have children in different districts and school.

3/4/2014 4:55 PM View respondent's answers  Categorize as...  

I want a calendar with 3 week breaks for spring and fall, so we can do enriching things and to provide a nice break. Long summer breaks especially with not much offered for enriching camps, etc. in August are less than ideal.

3/4/2014 4:54 PM View respondent's answers  Categorize as...  

A schedule that is as similar to what the high school schedule is.

3/4/2014 4:48 PM View respondent's answers  Categorize as...  

Traditional or blend of two calendars would be our preference...again, as long as they are the same or close. Our children are 3 years apart with the oldest in 5th grade so this will be an issue for us for several years if not changed. We both work full-time and the challenges of juggling 2 schedules is demanding and frustrating.

3/4/2014 4:44 PM View respondent's answers  Categorize as...  

Sounds like a great idea to have a common calendar. Traditional is more in line with high school district. If have different start and end date to calendar (if a few days later or 1 week later), at least have the winter break and spring break be the same!

3/4/2014 3:57 PM View respondent's answers  Categorize as...  

Having a week off in October is highly desirable. I understand the high school district may not comply, but the two calendars do not have to match 100%. The break in October is the only reason why I like the idea of a blended calendar. Though they may be off a week in October, I would still like the break in October.

3/4/2014 3:27 PM View respondent's answers  Categorize as...
I believe that ending school in late May to align with the HS calendar is ridiculous and far too early in the year. The children would be back in school before their real summer ever begins!
3/4/2014 2:32 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

Year round school is a big advantage for taking a vacation. Also the kids will not get bored as in the summer and they can look forward to the smaller breaks.
3/4/2014 1:48 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

I am all for a blending of the two calendars that include a start date we can count on from year to year, a Fall/Winter and Spring/or Ski Week, as well as a summer that is longer than the 5 week year round summer and shorter than the 10+ week traditional school year. It will be impossible to please everyone, so I believe a blend between the two that considers the high school district's calendar is the best option.
3/4/2014 12:46 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

Traditional Year. Please do not remove the chance for our young students to have a summer vacation to build their memories, their learnings and time with family. My children at 7 years apart in age (oldest to youngest). Summer months are very valuable to our family (especially those that live so far away).
3/4/2014 12:35 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

I think ALL schools in the district need to be on the same calendar. I cannot fathom how they became different. It is hard enough to keep families together these days. Why a school district would make that harder is beyond my ability to comprehend. Don't really care which schedule you pick but please align all schools ASAP.
3/4/2014 12:34 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

TRADITIONAL
3/4/2014 11:24 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

I wouldn't mind a blend of the two calendars, but do feel that it is important to align with the High School District calendar to make it easier on families with children in both districts.
3/4/2014 11:04 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

Please do not do a year round calendar.
3/4/2014 10:57 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

I am just hoping for one calendar for the district so that I can manage.
3/4/2014 10:43 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

It is important to align the shorter breaks.
3/4/2014 10:24 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

It is nice to have all the same calendar for one district. I prefer a year round because it is hard for me to arrange a quite long vacation with very costly summer camp. If we go a year round, we can visit our relative, go ski or less spendind a vacation possibility. Having lond summer vacation makes me and kid lazy. Thank you very much for asking our opinion in the hard work way!
3/4/2014 10:04 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

1. It is better to keep all schools in the district on the same calendar, no matter traditional or year round or other type. 2. Hope summer break can be shortened. 3. Most families have more than one kids, align with high school calendar makes more sense.
3/4/2014 9:39 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as…
Since I have a child in the High School District, as well as one in SMFCSD we are unable to go on a family vacation during Spring break this school year. That is very upsetting to me. In fact, we are thinking of having the younger one miss a week of school so we can go together on a vacation. If a ski week could be added into the calendar for both Districts at the same time, that would alleviate the Spring Break dilemma.

3/4/2014 7:12 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I feel that with year-round calendars there is more retention from the students. And that is the most important part of education.

3/4/2014 6:39 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

The most important thing is to be aligned with the high schools. High school students are the ones who staff most of the local camps --- for example this year Safari Run's Spring Break Camp is offered only during the high schools’ break because the high school kids comprise the majority of the staff for camp -- therefore this camp is not an option this year for most (all?) SMFCSD families. I would think that having a common calendar among the SMFCSD elementary and middle schools is not important at all as long as there is alignment between the elementary and middle schools on each type of calendar (as it is now, where certain elementary and middle schools are paired up on the same type of calendar. Leaving two calendars preserves some degree of choice for parents who really prefer year round over traditional. But most I would think would want traditional so as to align with the high schools -- what a nightmare it would be to have elementary/middle school child on one calendar and a high school child on a different calendar.

3/3/2014 11:49 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Tradtitional please!!!!!!!

3/3/2014 10:44 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

A blend of the 2 calendars or the year round calendar would be nice IF and only IF the schedules of the breaks and starts are the same for all of the middle schools and ALL of the high schools that people from Foster City could go to: Hillsdale High, San Mateo High and Aragon. I will have different children in elementary, middle school and high school all at the same time in the near future and having 3 different calendars would make planning family time very difficult! I think that a shorter summer break would make it easier on the children's retention of what they learned during the school year and into the next year. Intermittent 3 week breaks would be great.

3/3/2014 10:30 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

High School has different dynamics....sports programs etc. Most young kids and middles school kids want to stay close to there parents and actually do activities with their parents until they reach high school.

3/3/2014 10:10 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I am a huge fan of the year-round calendar. Please consider making this calendar the common calendar for the District. Students are less inclined to go “stale” over a lengthy summer holiday and are recharged during the school year after Intersession breaks.

3/3/2014 9:44 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I would love for school to start after Labor Day. We spend summers in Tahoe and miss some of the best weather because of the school calendar. The end of August is also a nice lull between sports seasons and it would be nice to enjoy that period rather than rushing back for school.

3/3/2014 9:00 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

A blended calendar of 6 week summer, full week off for Thanksgiving, 20 day winter break, 2 week spring break would be best alignment to serve all needs I believe

3/3/2014 8:30 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

We do not have any children in high school. Therefore, following their calendar does not make any difference to us.

3/3/2014 8:08 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
A common calendar is most important to be because I will have one child at Bayside and one child at Highlands next year. Eventually when I have the middle school and high school combination, I would really like them all to align.

3/3/2014 7:49 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c

As stated earlier, for parents with kids in multiple districts, it is nice for breaks to coincide!

3/3/2014 7:45 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c

Year Round!

3/3/2014 7:35 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c

the blend of the two calendar is better.

3/3/2014 7:31 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c

I strongly prefer something closer to the year round calendar with options for breaks at different times of the year.

3/3/2014 5:55 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c

Please move to a year round calendar. That would be best for my family.

3/3/2014 5:33 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c

A common calendar would be nice-- at least overlapping for the fall/winter/spring breaks. But realistically, if the high school isn't going to go year-round, it would be nice to have shorter summers for the younger kids so they don't forget so much from the gap in instructional time.

3/3/2014 5:18 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c

Having High Schooler's it is hard to withdraw them from school, so please align the SMFC school calendar to SMUHSD to allow families to actually take family vacation without having to pull children from school and be penalized for wanting quality family time/memories.

3/3/2014 5:11 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c

A common calendar for the district would be great. I would love to see a blend of the two calendars. I think the traditional summer break is a little too long, but year round summer break is too short. A fall break would be a nice addition, but I don't think it needs to be longer than 1 week.

3/3/2014 5:07 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c

Over lapping the HS Spring break and Winter Breaks would be BIG. As well as making sure we have at least 8 weeks of over lapping summer. If the elementary had a few more breaks during the year that would be nice too.

3/3/2014 4:54 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c

a blend of two calendars. ideal for me would be to start when high school starts (mid August), 2 to 3 weeks in October, 2-3 weeks for Winter Break, and 1-2 weeks for Spring Break. A longer summer than year round is a must, but shorter than traditional.

3/3/2014 4:40 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c

I think ideally a blend. With 6 weeks summer vacation, and 2 week breaks in fall, winter and spring.

3/3/2014 4:39 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c

I prefer to have a calendar that matches the breaks for the High School due to extracurricular activities that my child has that follow the High School calendar. I also prefer to have a traditional calendar for vacation and/or summer camp reasons.

3/3/2014 4:34 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... c
I think aligning all the schools within the same district is most important, considering that families then won't have to juggle separate calendars. Life with kids is already hectic enough; separate calendars won't help.

Please keep in mind the needs of working parents and the fact that some families have other children (or parents, like me) who attend or work in schools outside of SMFCS.D. If we are completely away from the general "norm" of the area, there will be problems.

We need a traditional school calendar for all. When you choose a middle schools, the options are extremely limited due to the year round calendar.

Even though our kids are in the traditional calendar, we personally love the year-round calendar. The summer vacation is just way too long. From our personal opinion, our kids tend to regress. Thanks.

It would be nice to space things out a bit more. Maybe a week at thanksgiving, I like a bit more time in summer for longer activities, but week breaks scattered would help with family vacations.

The year round calendar with multiple week breaks throughout the year would cause a burden for my husband and I. We both work and instead of being able to put our child in a camp of our choosing, our options with be limited and we'd have to sacrifice vacation time alternating coverage for his care. For the traditional calendar, most employers are used to parents taking their vacation time with their children during the nicest weather days of the year, and camps are in full swing with multiple options.

I think it would be better for the kids to have a shorter summer vacation...2.5 months of vacations is too long and they tend to forget some of the concepts they have acquired but not used during the vacation period. One month of vacation should be enough and maybe adapt the other breaks accordingly. Thanks for asking our input!

It's easy to adjust for a few days at the start and end of a year. But many families plan vacations around the winter and spring breaks, so aligned schedules would be ideal.

Again, we just want the kids to be in school more often. We would prefer adding days to the calendar but understand that is not the purpose of this survey. Therefore, since we want my kids in school longer, more often, we would prefer a year round calendar, since the amount of time outside of school is sprinkled throughout the calendar and not all in one block of time.

We would strongly encourage implementation of a year round calendar for all schools in the SMFCS.D

I'm not sure if there will be similar questions as to what I like about YEAR AROUND calendar, so I'm just going to tell you what we know based on our older son completing K through 5th grade at Brewer Island. In our experience, YEAR AROUND calendar works really well. Having the school year broken down into 4 quarters instead of two halves is much more effective: just as the children start getting tired - they get a break; the breaks are not too long, so the kids do not completely forget the material. In the traditional calendar, the summer break is way too long and then, when the school starts, through the end of September all the time goes into refreshing of what was taught last year. Our family has a first hand experience with both school calendars and we would strongly support YEAR AROUND. However, we are also realistic and do not think this will actually happen. But if you just look at Brewer Island test
scores, maybe you will realize that it is no coincidence that they are consistently higher than the scores of the other Foster City schools'. Thank you for putting together this survey.

3/3/2014 12:49 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Blended Calendar! Offer a summer break of about 6-8 weeks. Provide a Fall Break of 1-2 weeks. Offer the day off before Thanksgiving due to the high absentee rate (as shown in the public forum)

3/3/2014 11:24 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

If all schools move towards the same calendar, we need to make sure there are enough camps available for the entire school population n in the district to attend. Currently the children are fewer to accommodate due to the nature of the different calendars.

3/3/2014 11:15 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Year round allows cheaper international travel to visit family

3/3/2014 10:43 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I believe the district is looking at going to a year round calendar as a way to satisfy overcrowding issues without being forthright in telling parents the "full story". I don't think making these changes to children already enrolled in school and used to their current calendar is going to be good for them and their overall learning. Children want and need a routine and to change that routine doesn't make any sense!

3/3/2014 10:36 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I prefer Traditional Calendar

3/3/2014 10:36 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I strongly prefer Year Round calendar, with start date after Labor Day.

3/3/2014 10:31 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

A blend of the calendar will not get us in alignment of the high school district calendar. It is prolonging and putting a band aid on the situation that will come later when children are again on two very DIFFERENT schedules. Please leave the school calendars alone. Parents have already accepted the calendars they are on based on the school attendance. There is no reason to change it for the rest of us.

3/3/2014 10:11 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The long summer break is an EQUITY issue. I would suggest determining the length of the summer vacation based on impact on learning retention. When I was volunteering for Reading Partners, there was data to show that if children do not read over the traditional long summer break, for example, that the first month of school can be spent relearning. According to Reading Partners data this has a disproportionate impact on the low income families (and therefore their classmate) when they return to school in the fall.

3/3/2014 9:55 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

With multiple children, we wanted to put each child in a different school, magnet and traditional, but because of calendar differences, this was not possible. If calendar was the same, I know of many families who would have tried to transfer to a magnet school. Summer is too long in traditional and year round is ideal for all grades, less review and slacking off in summer.

3/3/2014 9:07 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
Year Round Calendar Parent Comments

The year round calendar is better for foreign language learning, as the breaks are not as long, allowing better retention. Having a few moderate sized breaks throughout the year helps avoid burn-out for my child.  
3/17/2014 6:07 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Shorter breaks help students retain what they learned better.  
3/17/2014 3:04 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I have noticed how well my son has adapted to the year round calendar. It seems that as he gets a bit tired of school, a break is around the corner. During the breaks he enjoys his time and just before he gets to comfortable with the vacation, school it back in session. The summer break is not long enough to get bored or forget half of what was learned throughout the year. I love the year round calendar, and although it may be harder for parents, it truly is better for the children. That is what matters!  
3/17/2014 2:24 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

YR was fast tracked at Beresford, since an Abbott parent survey improperly mislead Abbott parents to think the HS district was going to a YR calendar and promoted Abbott adopting a YR calendar without parent forums or opportunity to evaluate pros/cons of YR schedule. Beresford simply scrambled to adopt YR schedule to keep feeder school in sync with Abbott's YR schedule. This is a shameful, unjust process, which should never be repeated. The only pro's to YR are the benefit to a single child family, allows for family travel time during winter break, and the schedule does allow for learning continuity in older aged children (2nd grade and up) as less time is spent reviewing past term's concepts prior to new subject matter. The YR con's far outweigh the pro's. (Spoken from a parent of several children who has had to endure the short comings of multiple misalignments between school schedules over the last nine years.) 1. The summers are too short! What started with a solid six-week summer break for a three year negotiated YR district calendar has drastically been reduced to barely a four-week three-day summer. 2. Summer camps are grossly misaligned and limited in variety to YR schedules. Most traditional camps, i.e., YMCA, Boy/Girl scout and sports camps, extend through the YR in-school dates, which prohibits a child's inclusion, exposure to variety, and sense of community cohesiveness. For example, the 2014 summer programs offered by the San Mateo City Rec. Dept offers 10 weeks of summer programs of which YR students have only 4 weeks in the middle to choose from (that's 40% opportunity). Furthermore, their choices are limited as greater than 50% of specialty/focused camp offerings are simply excluded from the four-week summer break offerings. This means that my child is excluded from camps that other children on traditional-like schedules can attend, camps like: story telling, book writing, Legos, animation, carpentry, knitting, chorus, musicals, theatre, soccer, fencing, baseball, script writing, Mad-science, pre-engineering, cheerleading, mini-hawk sports, lacrosse, skateboarding, and art classes, etc. For older children wishing to attend prestigious camps sponsored by universities like Stanford, they are simply prohibited due to direct conflict with YR in-school session. 3. YR after school childcare is limited to annex programs, which are segregated from other traditional-calendar children's opportunity. And, when YR children attend a City program, like the Beresford Kids Club (BKC), which aligns to the traditional calendar, the parents are left to fend for themselves to find childcare coverage when only YR is on break. 4. I have found that the three-week Fall and Spring breaks are about one week too long each to benefit both the child and the family. And, the overlap of other traditional schedules is null. For example, two of my college children on both a semester and quarter schedule have no Spring break overlap what so ever with my YR child's Spring break. This leads to paralysis of family dynamics/vacations. 5. The benefits of YR breaks are completely lost to the family when there is more than one child/teenager/parent on a different school schedule. Our family has not had a family summer vacation since 2009 due to conflicting YR and traditional calendar summer schedules. The Spring and Fall break family vacations are impossible when some are still in school. The opportunities are simply not available. In fact, the YR schedule is disruptive to family vacation time. 6. Sports. The YR schedule conflicts with athletic programs such as AYSO soccer, softball/baseball, and football. Families can't utilize Fall/Spring breaks for vacation trips when their children are involved in team sports. 7. YR PTA fundraising is extremely difficult within the community, which is closely aligned with the traditional calendar. 8. Outside educational and recreational programs commonly employ high school and college students who are bound by their traditional school schedules in their availability to work. This reduces the pool of qualified employees to teach during YR school
year breaks. 9. YR breaks can hinder and even cause regression in learning to the subsets of the learning-impaired and children younger than seven, who as a group need constant repetition in routines to foster well being and acquisition of fundamental concepts in learning. Pre-K, K and 1st graders do not benefit the same as older children in the YR breaks. This makes learning difficult and is stressful for all involved, the teachers, the parents, and especially the child. The only pro's to YR are it can benefit a single child family, allows for family travel time during winter break, and the schedule does allow for learning continuity in older aged children (2nd grade and up) as less time is spent reviewing past term's concepts prior to new subject matter. The YR con's far outweigh the pro's. 1. The summers are too short! What started with a solid six week summer break for a three year negotiated YR district calendar has drastically been reduced to barely a four week and three day summer. 2. Summer camps are grossly misaligned and limited in variety to YR schedules. Most traditional camps, i.e., YMCA, Boy/Girl scout and sports camps, extend through the YR in-school dates, which prohibits a child's inclusion, exposure to variety, and sense of community cohesiveness. For example, the 2014 summer programs offered by the San Mateo City Rec. Dept offers 10 weeks of summer programs of which YR students have only 4 weeks in the middle to choose from (that's 40% opportunity). Furthermore, their choices are limited as greater than 50% of specialty/focused camp offerings are simply excluded from the 4 week summer break offerings. This means that my child is excluded from camps that other children on traditional-like schedules can attend, camps like: story telling, book writing, legos, animation, carpentry, knitting, chorus, musicals, theatre, soccer, fencing, baseball, script writing, Mad-science, pre-engineering, cheerleading, mini-hawk sports, lacrosse, skateboarding, and art classes, etc. For older children wishing to attend prestigious camps sponsored by universities like Stanford, they are prohibited due to direct conflict with YR in-school session. 3. YR after school childcare is limited to annex programs, which are segregated from other traditional-calendar children's opportunity. And, when YR children attend a City program, like the Beresford Kids Club (BKC), which aligns to the traditional calendar, the parents are left to fend for themselves to find childcare coverage when only YR is on break. 4. I have found that the three week Fall and Spring breaks are about one week too long each to benefit both the child and the family. And, the overlap of other traditional schedules is null. For example, two of my college children on both a semester and quarter schedule have no Spring break overlap what so ever with my YR child's Spring break. This leads to paralysis of family dynamics/vacations. 5. The benefits of YR breaks are completely lost to the family when there is more than one child/teenager/parent on a different school schedule. Our family has not had a family summer vacation since 2009 due to conflicting YR and traditional calendar summer schedules. The Spring and Fall break family vacations are impossible when some are still in school. The opportunities are simply not available. In fact, the YR schedule is disruptive to family vacation time. 6. Sports. YR schedule conflicts with athletic programs such as AYSO soccer, softball/baseball, and football. Families can't utilize Fall/Spring breaks for vacation when their children are involved in team sports. 7. PTA fundraising is extremely difficult within the community, which is closely aligned with the traditional calendar. 8. Outside educational and recreational programs commonly employ high school and college students who are bound by their traditional school schedules in their availability to work. This reduces the pool of qualified employees to teach during YR school year breaks.

3/17/2014 1:25 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

We do not want to go to a traditional calendar. I think year round is better for the kids and the teachers.

3/17/2014 12:25 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

My kids and their teachers love the year round calendar as breaks come "just when you need them". However, I could see intercession dropping to 2 weeks instead of 3 and adding a few more weeks to the summer since so many camp sessions overlap into either June or August and year round only has July off.

3/17/2014 12:17 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

When the calendar was adopted, the survey that measured parent advocacy for the rear round schedule was worded to ask us "if Hillsdale HS went to year round, would we advocate going to year round" this was a biased leading question that was not actually supported by facts. I urge the board to go back to a sane calendar that lines up with SMUHSD, San Mateo rec dept.

3/17/2014 11:42 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
I think the shorter summer break is excellent. There is less time at the beginning of the school year to review and routines are not forgotten, but I think having it extended an extra week or two would be nice.

3/17/2014 9:15 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I understand that the year round calendar was created to allow family's children to help harvest crops in the field. This no longer applies. I believe more information is retained by my children with the year round calendar by not having the very long summer break of the traditional calendar.

3/17/2014 8:56 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

In general, I believe in a year-round calendar. If there is a change, the summer vacation should still be much shorter than 3 months--it's just too long to be away from learning, and can pose financial and work challenges. Having intersession breaks are great for parents' and children's states of mind. Perhaps the winter and summer breaks can be a little longer (a few days or a week?), with the fall, and perhaps spring, breaks a bit shorter. Please, please keep the summer vacation not longer than 1 1/2 months, perhaps. Thank you so much for your time!

3/17/2014 6:04 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Shorter summer breaks help retention of what kids learned

3/16/2014 9:44 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Children retain information better with shorter breaks

3/16/2014 9:37 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Needs to end.

3/16/2014 9:33 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Retention is an issue in the Mandarin program, so it is best that our breaks be shorter. Thanks for taking our feedback!

3/16/2014 8:32 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The year-around calendar is a truly wonderful schedule for my children. Both my wife and I work full-time, but we have never had any trouble finding camps during the intersession. The extended break during the spring and fall has allowed us to use those periods for family vacations and visits. Furthermore, I really believe that this schedule allows for the children to constantly stay engaged and in touch with their school without becoming exhausted by the school year. I am sympathetic to the parents that have children on different school calendar. If you have to choose between the two calendars for their sake, I urge you to choose the year-around calendar as this schedule is both compatible with learning and the demands of modern families.

3/16/2014 6:18 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

We do not have a problem with it!

3/16/2014 3:21 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
The year-round calendar makes a lot more sense for educating children. First, more frequent, longer breaks during the school year help to keep both the students and teachers refreshed and prevent the burnt out that comes from a longer periods of schooling without significant breaks. Second, a shorter summer break helps the students to retain more of what they learn; they do not have such a long stretch in which they are not doing formal school work. It is thus more efficient to keep a year round schedule, since there will be less time reviewing material that the students have forgotten over the long summer break. The primary consideration when deciding which schedule to adopt should be what is best for educating students. While the convenience of parents and other stakeholders is an important consideration, convenience should not be allowed to override the educational mission of the schools.

3/16/2014 10:22 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ө

We should make all schools including HS be on a year round calendar
3/16/2014 1:01 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ө

This works for a language based school since if the kids are away from the language too long they forget.
3/15/2014 8:35 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ө

I believe children stay fresher with breaks that occur more often. The stay interested in attending.
3/15/2014 8:32 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ө

School feels a lot more continuous and it is easy for the kids to manage their routine
3/15/2014 2:36 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ө

Shorter summer break is good for children's knowledge retention, requiring less time for brush-up. Too long of a break makes transition back to school harder for students. Shorter summer break is also very helpful for family to manage vacation and child care particularly for family with working parent(s). The 3-week breaks in spring and summer minimize students' burn-out from longer school semester; at the same time, family vacation can be easier to schedule when most of the destinations are not too crowded. The year-round calendar is an excellent balance between learning and charging energy to be ready to continue learning at a more efficient pace.
3/15/2014 11:45 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ө

It's great for preventing/reducing summer learning loss, which disproportionately affects lower-income kids, and allows for better retention of learnings over the year. This is particularly true for a dual language program.
3/15/2014 11:18 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ө

We really like the shorter summer and the fact that our kids don't spend the first month of the school year reviewing what they learned "last year". Other big benefits are not having to vacation with the rest of the country. I think it's also important for lower income children whose parents may not have the resources to put them in camp or keep them stimulated for 12 weeks straight. While we like the shorter summers, 4 weeks is a little too short. Something like 7 week summer with three 2-week intersessions would be ideal for us and I think a nice compromise between the two different calendars.
3/15/2014 9:21 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ө
I like the year round calendar because I feel the kids will be refreshed after the three weeks breaks. I can enjoy my children and spend real quality time with them. It is great to go while everyone is in school!
3/15/2014 3:43 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I believe the shorter summer vacation helps kids retain information from the previous school year. It is easier to plan for 3 week intersessions than an extended summer vacation. An extended summer vacation is more expensive for those who do not take family vacation at that time.
3/14/2014 11:02 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Love shorter breaks
3/14/2014 10:52 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

After having experienced both traditional and year round I prefer year round and I think any one who has experienced both should have more credibility. Someone that has experienced only traditional and likes it versus someone has experienced only year round and likes it lacks the perspective of having actually experienced both systems and understanding which system they view as beneficial for their child. In my opinion, year round wins.
3/14/2014 10:17 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

My children, I feel, would have difficulty concentrating the entire year without the breaks. The intersessions gives them time to rest up and catch up where they need help.
3/14/2014 9:37 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The year round calendar works best for our family. We find our child losing what she has learned by week 3 of an intersession. Keeping the breaks short allow her to refocus quickly. If switched to a traditional calendar, I would dread the Summer vacation as she would probably need a few weeks to relearn what she learned in the prior school year.
3/14/2014 9:12 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

We like the longer summer.
3/14/2014 8:43 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I wish Summer will be about 5 weeks. It is really hot when they go back to school, and Summer seems too short. Keeping vacations to 2 or 3 weeks has giving us the opportunity to take our kids to travels and camping trip that we wouldn't be able to provide during the high demand seasons like summer and winter.
3/14/2014 5:37 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I love the year round calendar. The fall intersession and spring intersession are excellent time for our family vacation: better weather, less crowded and less expensive comparing to travelling in summer. Because of that, we have been able to visit our relatives in China with pleasant experiences every year and my child's Chinese language always
improved dramatically after the visit. A lot of our friends who are on traditional calendar really envy us. The downside is that there are not many good camps during fall and spring intersessions.

3/14/2014 4:16 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

We love the year round calendar for our children and really hope to have it continue in the SMFCSD.

3/14/2014 4:09 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I like year round calendar school year (shorter summer break). And my answer to #7 is none.

3/14/2014 4:00 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

long stretches of class without a break are exhausting for both students and staff.

3/14/2014 3:55 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

We have gotten used to it. It makes more sense for our family and needs.

3/14/2014 2:27 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I love the consistency of year round. No major breaks. It makes complete sense.

3/14/2014 2:01 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Love the year round calendar!!!

3/14/2014 12:52 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

We love the year round calendar. The short summer break means that kids will retain more of their knowledge over the break, which means less work for the teachers to play "catch up/refresh" at the beginning of the year, which means more time spent learning new topics throughout the year. We also love the more frequent breaks that are spread throughout the year. It gives kids time to rest, and teachers time to plan the lessons for the next trimester. If we need to compromise with a blended calendar to lengthen the summer break, at least retain an October two-week break to allow enough time to recharge.

3/14/2014 12:48 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

The opportunity to choose this calendar is quite valuable and I appreciate that the school district offers options. I see no strong argument to move all of the schools to the same schedule that trumps the value of giving both alternatives.

3/14/2014 12:38 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

There is nothing I don't like about year-round. My kids retain more, get rested/re-freshed more often, and don't get bored as easily with our routine. If the District extends the summer break for our immersion schools, many kids will be adversely effected. If the break is lengthened, some sort of summer school option will be needed.

3/14/2014 12:20 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
Longer breaks during the year provide opportunities to rest or to get caught up with out being stressful. It also spreads family time throughout the year rather then in a fell swoop summer where kids tend to get bored.

3/14/2014 11:52 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I think the school district should adopt the year round school calendar but can be align with high school calendar. Year round school provide more flexibility and variaties to students.

3/14/2014 10:20 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

The year round schedule works well for us.

3/14/2014 10:08 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

My husband and I work at schools in different districts and would be very upset about a year round option.

3/14/2014 10:02 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

We like the Year Round calendar very much. It gives ~3 month "bursts" of school with a good 3-week breather in between. This works very well to balance work and rest in a good pretty steady rhythm throughout the year. The summer break is a bit too short though. A 7 week break would be ideal, but the typical 9+ week break is far too long and is particularly bad for students in language immersion programs (like Mandarin immersion at College Park). I would strongly encourage a district wide Year Round calendar that overlaps as much as possible with the High School calendar, and with a summer break that's around 7 weeks long. Thank you.

3/14/2014 9:33 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Year round is good for immersion language learning. That is what I like best about the year round option -- this point is not a choice in the survey but it should be. Also I understand generally it is better for learning. These are the key advantages of the year round schedule.

3/14/2014 9:16 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I am a strong believer in the year round program mainly because of greater continuity of learning and reduced need for remediation in the beginning of every school year. I also believe there is less burnout during the school year and less boredom during summer vacation.

3/14/2014 9:10 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

We should not have to change our schedules just because of the High schools. The children are much older, can handle and most likely prefer a long summer. Their goal is go get a summer job. Children of K-8 do not. The year round school is much better for my son. He will be bored to death with traditional school year. We love our our intersessions.

3/14/2014 9:01 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  
Since our child attends a language immersion school, having a shorter summer break allows her to pick the language back up pretty quickly. I think 5-6 weeks is long enough for a summer break. We also enjoy taking vacations in Oct when the weather is beautiful. We look forward to having that break between summer and winter vacation. I think it's too long of a stretch to go from summer to winter w/out any breaks.

3/14/2014 8:34 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The part we really like about the year-round calendar is that children don't go on a very long summer vacation and lose 50% of what they have learned. It is difficult and expensive to keep the education continuing for 2-3 summer months. Camps are starting to present programs during our breaks, so we are not too concerned. Furthermore if we decide to travel during the break time, the year-round calendar gives us an opportunity to travel at off-peak times, thus save time and money.

3/14/2014 8:23 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I like the calendar but am willing to give up Spring Break and shorten Fall to two weeks to have a longer summer that better aligns with peers and another Child we have in another school.

3/14/2014 8:00 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Huge fan of the year round calendar. The ability to travel during off times is wonderful, and I think the shorter summer break is probably good for the kids as well.

3/14/2014 4:03 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I currently prefer the year round calendar as is, but would be amenable to a two rather than three week fall intercession.

3/13/2014 11:21 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I know my child forgets less than I did as a kid over summer break. Having almost 3 months off never made sense to me even as a kid.

3/13/2014 10:52 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

There are no conflicts for us and the breaks are nice, especially when we try to plan family trips.

3/13/2014 10:51 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

We LOVE the year round program. It provides great flexibility and helps us to explore places when they are not so crowded.

3/13/2014 10:29 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Children are more focused with shorter summer break. Each 3 week intersessions also give us an opportunity to travel outside of the busy season.

3/13/2014 10:11 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
In a language immersion program, having shorter breaks helps the child keep the language up, especially if the language isn't spoken regularly at home. It is also more economical because we don't have to pay for camps for 2.5 months all together, it's more split up across the year. I also have a preschooler in the special ed program and I like the year round calendar calendar because it means my daughter would not be without therapy for 2.5 months. Extended periods of no therapy would possible mean regression for my daughter.

3/13/2014 10:07 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ☒

Both parents and child can have a restful short breaks throughout the year. It makes learning more continuous manner. I don't feel burn out and so does my child!

3/13/2014 10:03 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ☒

As a parent who volunteers extensively in school, I've found the Fall, Winter and Spring Breaks are WONDERFUL to reduce both student and parent "burnout." It is great to have a break to catch up on rest, have more family time, and travel "off season." Our main problem with the Year Round calendar is that school ends too late in June, and we miss out on opportunities that we could like to participate in if school ended two weeks earlier.

3/13/2014 9:58 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ☒

I think the year round schedule is terrific for my kids' retention of material and maintains their enthusiasm.

3/13/2014 9:29 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ☒

I am very pleased with the year round calendar. The year round calendar should not be eliminated. If it is, I will vote against all current school board members in the next election and I will consider moving to another district that has schools with year round calendars. The year round calendar is a modern innovation, so eliminating it would be tantamount to dialing back the clock by decades. (Yes, I really do feel that strongly about this issue.)

3/13/2014 9:23 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ☒

I feel like the short summer helps the students retain what they learned during the school year. Especially in a language immersion program, this is very important as some students have no exposure to the 2nd language other than at school. But I think this applies to other programs as well.

3/13/2014 9:05 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ☒

My children are in a mandarin immersion school and we don't speak mandarin at home. We feel it would be very difficult to support the mandarin over a longer summer break.

3/13/2014 8:55 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ☒

Love the year around calendar especially since our children and in the mandarin program which relies on practice practice practice and the traditional calendar would be detrimental to learning this language.

3/13/2014 8:43 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ☒

I love that our kids seem to have a break just when they're getting a bit burned out and that they're back in school just when they seem to forget what it's like to be in school.
Overall I think it's better for kids to have more frequent breaks and a shorter summer break. That said I wouldn't mind if breaks were two weeks instead of three and summer was a little longer.

Two aspects of the year round calendar are the most beneficial to the kids: (1) A shorter summer break means that the kids are less likely to forget what they learned over the summer break. (2) More frequent breaks throughout the year mean that the kids pace themselves better and less likely to burn out. As an additional bonus, we love having a break in the fall. It allows us to plan a family vacation during a non-peak (and less hot) period. That being said, the childcare choices/programs offered during intersessions is a little limited (but not completely absent). We have found a way to make it work for us. This may contradict my earlier comments a little, but if summer break were increased by a tad (say, 1 week, but only a week), it might also allow us to explore an additional summer camp choice for our kids.

With all of the three weeks off sessions and the long summer breaks, there shouldn't be so many teacher work days after Holidays; that makes it even less time that they are not in school learning.

I LOVE the way the breaks are spread out more evenly through the year. The Summer isn't too long, creating boredom or challenges with entertainment/child care, or forgetting learning. I LOVE being able to travel in October and April, off season, better weather and less expensive.

We love the intersession breaks throughout the year versus having a long summer.

My kids currently attend a year round school. While I like the that the children get breaks every few months. I do feel like 3 weeks is a bit too long.

With the three intercession breaks, my child doesn't have to wait 6 months before the next break. Having a break every quarter allows my child to feel more relaxed and feel less of a "school learning overload." I also feel strongly that any child would "forget" all that was learned in school if the breaks are too long, like the summer break the traditional schools have. This would, in turn, cause the teachers to have to spend more time than they already spend on reviewing in the beginning of the school year and thus, lose valuable time when they could jump right in and begin teaching new materials.

I like it a lot. My kids don't lose as much during the breaks and they enjoy school.
As my child has gotten older, the intersession camps have not been as appropriate for him as they were when he was in 1-3rd grades. Other options are limited. I do have step-children in a different district that are on traditional calendars so coordinating vacations has been a challenge as well, especially in the summer. I do like the shorter summer in some ways, there is less time to have to schedule other activities and my son is definitely not bored and he has had a good break.

3/13/2014 10:26 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Studies have shown that a year round calendar is more beneficial to the education of a child. Why would we take a step backwards in our children's educations by reverting to a school calendar that has been shown to provide less benefit to a child????

3/13/2014 10:19 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I believe my child retains better knowledge with the shorter summer break. It is call the brain drain for a reason.

3/13/2014 10:17 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I would love to have a bit of a longer Summer, while keeping the October Break and possibly shortening the Winter and Spring breaks.

3/13/2014 9:49 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Year round calendar is more conducive to learning since breaks are shorter and more spread out.

3/12/2014 10:28 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I think that it is beneficial for our children's minds to be learning all year round, especially since those who are learning another language, besides english, as a first language it is adamant that their minds be learning all year round.

3/12/2014 6:55 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

During the intersessions, traveling for family vacations is easier and less expensive.

3/12/2014 6:20 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I think year round gives the students more time to learn. It gives them a break when school can get long and frustrating. Having more breaks and a shorter summer gives them time to recharge and it also keeps their brains active for the next session.

3/12/2014 5:35 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

In an mandarin immersion program, it is hard enough to keep up with characters weekly, having a larger gap in the summer means there will be more time reviewing during the school year. My son already complains that the 1st part of the year was reviewing K.

3/12/2014 3:29 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  
I believe that the year round school schedule works really well for my kids. They welcome the 3 week intersession breaks and by the end of the second week they are ready to go back. I believe that the break both gives them a time to unwind from busy weekly routine and re-energize for studying again when they return to school.

3/12/2014 2:59 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Year round is great and balances out the full year for both children and parents...please keep!

3/12/2014 2:17 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

As a parent of 2 language immersion students in a language that neither parent speaks, I feel strongly that my children's education will suffer greatly from a long summer break. They will be significantly behind their classmates who have parents that speak Mandarin fluently. The calendar with a short summer was one of the key reasons I chose this program over others. Furthermore, I feel that long summers are detrimental to other non-language academic areas of learning as well.

3/12/2014 2:10 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

As a single parent, it it easier for me to find them care incrementally thank for a large summer break. I find the children like the quarterly breaks & keeps their head in the game, so to speak, to have a quarterly break then get back to school fresh.

3/12/2014 10:53 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

YEAR ROUND is very flexible for parents to plan travel for kid.

3/12/2014 10:33 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I have witnessed with 2/3 of my children on year round calendars that RETENTION for all subjects is better. The shorter summer break prevents loss of knowledge and saves both the teachers and students time for NEW LEARNING in the fall. Also, the frequent breaks throughout the year allow CATCH UP time and mental rest time for more effective learning. I vote that the entire school district move to the YEAR ROUND calendar-and my children agree.

3/12/2014 9:27 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I appreciate the lack of disruption that is caused by shorter breaks. Although there are challenges (I now teach in a private school on a traditional calendar), I enjoy the shorter summer that doesn’t feel like something to “get through.” The kids don’t get out of the school habit and they are always happy to return.

3/12/2014 7:39 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

There is definitely less burn out on the students when there is a break in the spring. My children also do not forget their lessons since they are only out for a short period of time throughout the year.

3/12/2014 7:39 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
We find that the shorter summer break has been great for keeping our child in touch with a more frequent routine of learning. We fear that a longer break will cause him to lose his habits of homework everyday and discipline about studying.

3/12/2014 3:49 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I understand the challenges of having 2 diff schedule within the same district. A blended schedule would work for us if the fall & spring intercession were kept & shorter summer break.

3/12/2014 1:35 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

It is easier to arrange a trip in a longer spring or fall break using Year Round calendar. In traditional calendar, the kids are prone to forget what they learned in the long summer break and will take longer time to warm up after the school day begin. I believe Year Round calendar is better.

3/12/2014 12:19 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I like the pacing (the 3 week intersessions provide a nice consistent break throughout the year), reduced summer learning loss (especially for a foreign language), better continuity, and schedule consistency. I also like the 3 week intersessions as doctor visits can be scheduled in the morning and there less competition for anything from vacation, entertainment, and recreational activities.

3/11/2014 11:44 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Shorter breaks between sessions provides better continuity of learning for students. Another benefit is that travel during intersessions are often off-peak, so there is financial savings for families.

3/11/2014 10:24 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

It's very frustrating that the schedule for Beresford Kids Club after school program at Beresford Community Center is based on the traditional calendar instead of the year round calendar. our kids attend the program but we're always scrambling for coverage in june and august.

3/11/2014 10:06 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

* Long breaks could be detrimental to our language program....it is too difficult to remember and too easy to forget a challenging language such as Mandarin. The majority of our students have no place to practice Mandarin outside of school. * Mandarin and our 50/50 schedule is also a challenge for teachers. During breaks, teachers meet together, planning the next units of study and refining the lessons from the previous year. Doing that work in smaller chunks is more effective and more meaningful for teachers. * Long stretches of class without a break are exhausting for both students and staff. Our current calendar doesn't push students and staff too long. As a family, we enjoy traveling together during fall breaks, when few other schools are off. However, ultimately, we will have children in high school and thus with two school calendars. So, we support efforts to bring calendars more closely aligned, even if not able to be perfectly matched to a year round calendar.

3/11/2014 9:31 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

My kids have been on two different calendars in the past, and will be again next year. There have been camps my kids could not participate in because of our year round calendar. As a teacher I have not been able to attend some professional development days for the same reason.

3/11/2014 7:39 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
I love the year round calendar school year. The shorter summer vacation leaves little time to forget what was taught the previous school year. Teachers don’t have to spend as much time reviewing material that was taught the previous school year. Small breaks throughout the year are more consistent with how life runs.

We have really enjoyed off-peak times to spend our Family vacations(Fall Intersessions).

Really like having the "extra" fall intercession and longer (than one week) spring intercession. Great opportunities for family travel at "off peak" times. Summer vacation is listed as 5 weeks, but really only 4 full weeks, which makes it really hard to schedule camps, down time and family vacations. Would be great to have at least one more week. College Park is a language immersion school - and we can not support the target language (Chinese) at home, so shorter breaks seem better for keeping kids from losing these learned (but not used much outside of school) language skills. Traditional 10 week summer break would be a a difficult obstacle in the path of learning.

The year round calendar does NOT work for families with 2 working parents outside of the home with no family nearby. Looking ahead for our family, I see that there are are no intersession camps available for middle school student at all. Currently, there are very few for elementary school students that go ALL DAY. As more Bay Area employers require workers to be present in the office, the professional families who are choosing the year-round schools like College Park will be squeezed out and unable to attend those schools. The few camps that are available begin at 9 a.m., which means that working parents are late for work every day -- no one can do that for 9 weeks of the year without getting fired. Similarly, the camps end at 3 pm. I have spent considerable effort over the past 4 years trying to get additional intersession camps established for the year-round schools. I have visited and emailed camp providers and local businesses that cater to children (Planet Granite, art studios, gymnastics, ballet, ice skating venues, etc.) to ask them to offer FULL day camps with early care AND after care. My success rate has been zero, with the exception of Scribble Me Happy, which still is 9 am to 3 pm. Our family uses up both parents' vacation times taking off staggered days to cover the intersessions and the 2 weeks of half days. We cannot hire high school or college student for child care since they are in school. I have tried care.com, sittercity, Town & Country nannies, word of mouth, mother’s Yahoo groups and Craigslist to try to piece together coverage. This is stressful for our children and very expensive. At this time we are faced with giving up on the Mandarin program that we love. We NEED a unified calendar since I hope that with all schools on one calendar there will be a better chance of getting school break camps set up. I will again hit the streets to get camps established on the new unified calendar, and hope to have more success going forward.

Pro's: Although this is our first year experiencing this type of calendar, and our child is only in Kindergarten, I appreciate how the breaks are broken up and seems as though it would create less burn out for teachers and children. I have also heard from parents of traditional calendar that the long summer breaks for a traditional calendar is too long. Even though finding camps could possibly pose to be an issue during intersessions, we've used the Annex, I like that not ALL children are on break the same time. Cons: We originally wanted to use the BKC as after school for a year-round schedule, but did not bode well with as they're not on the same calendar. Annex was are only choice. Would be nice to have more options to choose from when it comes to after school care. Overall we like the year round schedule. Thank you
Since the summer break is not only short, but last year started on a Wed and ended on a Wed, kids only had 3 weeks of Parks & Rec summer camps that they could attend. This was very limiting.

Love love love it!!!

Biggest challenge is that with so many breaks they get out of school routine.

I really don't like the year around calendar. It is really hard to find camps, childcare. I love the school, academics and the staff and that is the main reason we have stayed there. I hope the calendar can be changed a traditional calendar.

The BEST thing about year round calendar is that that the kids' brains keep what they learned the prior year better with the short summer vacation. Teachers don't have to reteach the prior grade when school starts. It is nice to take small breaks throughout the year than one super large break. Thanks....

I love the year round calendar. I have had children on both calendars at the same time and never had an issue with childcare, or programs that matched my needs. My oldest child is out of high school and this was never an issue for me, even as an employee. I found time that I could dedicate and volunteer during the breaks to help support the middle and high school years of my child. My oldest always stated that he wished that when he was in middle and high school that he would have been on year round, because he was always burned out with all the testing and work that he needed to do. He never got the breaks like he did in Elementary school.

This is the best calendar, it provides us breaks in every seasons to do something differently. Much better for younger kids than having a 2 months break in Summer.

I absolutely LOVE year round calendar & wish that the SMUHSD was the same. It gives my family the option to take vacations at different times of the year instead of only July/August.
I really like the breaks during the year for the kids that the year-round calendar provides. However, my experience has been that the 3rd week of those breaks is too long for both the parents and the kids and can be challenging because child care options are limited. Conversely, we have trouble fitting our summer plans into the month of July that we have off in the summer. My suggestion would be to take the 3rd week of the breaks away and tack those 3 weeks onto summer break.

3/11/2014 2:35 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

The fall and spring intersession breaks are particularly good as it allows a chance for family vacations/breaks when most other schools are not on holiday, thus being less crowded and allowing for greater availability and cheaper flights/hotels.

3/11/2014 2:34 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

The breaks throughout the year allow my children an adequate amount of time and interval that they continue to be engaged in school and what they are taught. The shorter summer break allows adequate time that my kids don't feel a big change or loose the rhythm of going to school.

3/11/2014 2:30 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Planning family vacations are easier and less expense than try to plan it in the summer with so many other people.

3/11/2014 2:27 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

The 3 week breaks give our students just enough rest to miss school and the short summer keep them ready to resume school without forgetting all that is important.

3/11/2014 1:35 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

The year round program is a win win for everyone. The districts can have more of a chance for larger maintence projects, teachers have intern breaks to prevent burn out, students have more of an opportunity for family time and families can pay less for childcare or even at least spread out camp payments through-out the year. To top it all off, families such as mine that can't afford to travel during the summer months are now given the opportunity to travel at less expensive times and less crowded. Anyone that is against a year round program hasn't been on the schedule. Summer could be extended by one maybe 2 weeks but after that it is just too long for the kids to do nothing!

3/11/2014 1:34 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

The year-round calendar is much healthier for the children (the long summer break is too long, more frequent and spread out breaks are better). The year round calendar is also better for the family as it facilitates having different types of family vacations together. We used to just put the kids in camp for the summer and do nothing the rest of the year. Now we plan for and really look forward to Spring and Fall breaks. They are great times to travel and we all benefit from the opportunity to explore the world together.

3/11/2014 9:00 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Love that my children won't forget what they learned in school during the summer, especially as they are learning a difficult, level 4 language, and do not get the language exposure at home. Love being able to take October vacations when places are less crowded, it's cheaper, and better weather. Winter break you can also go on vacations during the week that everyone else on traditional calendars have returned to school, like to go skiing, or to Disneyland during their Holiday celebration. Spring break - all 3 weeks tends to not be a good time to travel - more expensive,
public schools all tend to have the week before Easter off, and parochial schools all seem to have the week after Easter off. I'd prefer to have 2 weeks off that are not so close to Easter for vacation reasons but still in spring. An extra week break in summer would provide slightly more summer camp options too. Having attended traditional calendar schools my entire life, I often found it exhausting to not ever have a long enough break in such a long time during the school year. The 2 weeks at Christmas and 1 week at Easter never felt enough for relief from school stresses, and the summer break always seemed too long and “mindless.” About 3 weeks seem to be a perfect amount of break. Also, teachers have to spend too much time reviewing material at the beginning of the school year in traditional calendar schools. I have seen a few advertisements for intercession break camps in the area.

The YEAR ROUND calendar works BEST for students as it allows them to work well for a short period of time and then have a long enough break to recharge but not so long that they get bored and forget what had just been previously learned. Traditional school year is taxing on all students but especially the young. It forces them to be in school for too many weeks and kids get burnt out and teachers have a much more difficult time managing the class. Likewise, the breaks are too long and kids not only get bored but they also forget everything they had learned. Furthermore, most families who travel during the breaks do so for 2-3 weeks at most. With the year round program they still have the opportunity to take a nice and long family vacation. In San Mateo County there are plenty of summer camps during the intersession breaks and if the whole school district changed over to a year round calendar many more businesses would offer intersession camps.

I believe that it is important to keep the year round calendar because going too long without a break is just exhausting for children. Having 3 months vacation in the summer sounds great......but usually after a few weeks children get bored especially if the parents don't have the means for extra curricular activities like summer camp/etc. Then when school starts again, teachers have to waste even more time reviewing everything the kids forgot over the long summer. If you want to keep scores high, stay with the year round school. When kids get a break every couple months, it continually replenishes their energy to work better in school.

The year round calendar is ideal for children retaining what they've learned. Both my child and I love everything about the year round calendar.

I love the year round schedule - it works for our family, our teachers, and our kids best of all. It is VERY important for them to learn spanish consistently and the only way is to have more breaks but no extremely long break (such as summer) We want to stay as close to the year round schedule.

The best calendar. Easy on everyone!

Kids do not forget all their Spanish over a long summer break
I actually love the year round schedule completely. I think it is *especially* important for information retention, this is extremely important at Fiesta Gardens in language acquisition. I also believe this type of schedule SIGNIFICANTLY decreases staff and student burn-out.

3/10/2014 3:56 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

The year-round calendar has been wonderful for our family. The primary benefit of shorter summers is that they help the kids return to school in the "fall" much better prepared, because they've forgotten a lot less than they would on a 3-month summer break. The longer midyear breaks also provide good relief and variety for our kids. The shorter summers are also a benefit for parents, because they simplify the challenge of "what to do" and make it possible for us not to spend a fortune on summer camps. Also, the long fall break is an ideal time to take vacations: the weather is still good, but the rates (and crowds) are much smaller. Finally, we've never had much of a challenge arranging camps for the children during fall and spring intersessions. We LOVE the year-round schedule.

3/10/2014 3:53 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

Year round is the best. My kids stay focused and my husband and I get to spend lots more quality time with them since they have numerous "short" breaks...

3/10/2014 2:30 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

The year round calendar has been a great support to my child learning a second language. Even after a 4 week break he struggled to bring his Spanish back quickly. I worry that a long break during summer will really cause him to struggle at school.

3/10/2014 2:22 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

Intersessions and summer breaks are long and frequent enough for a child to retain what he or she has learned while they are well rested to continue their education. It helps to reduce the burn out effect often seen in children attending a traditional school year. Most of us do not rely on child labor for harvesting anymore!!!

3/10/2014 12:18 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

Our family has LOVED the year-round calendar, providing opportunities to travel "off season", plus academically it is a more balanced approach. I would recommend that the year-round calendar change to 2-week intersessions, and provide a longer Summer break. The district calendar traditionally has provided 4-full weeks during the Summer and 2-half weeks - this set up shrinks the Summer even more and is troublesome for Summer Camps. Spring Intercession has been a challenge for MANY families because there was no alignment with the high school district & private schools in the area. Next year (2014-15) will be the first year our family will have 1 child in high school & 1 child in middle school - so juggling a schedule that is closer to the SMUHS district calendar would be beneficial to our family.

3/10/2014 11:18 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

I love the year round calendar. I appreciate that there is less learning loss over summer. I am fortunate to have great after-school care that specializes in our school and provides services during intersession. With the long spring intersession, I have also been able to take advantage of the SF Zoo spring camp, which follows the SFUSD calendar. The 3 week long spring intersession offers enough "wiggle room" that we have always found at least 1 week of overlap between our calendar and SFUSD's. Three week winter intersession is also great because we can hit the snow when everyone else is back to school. :) But the bummer thing about summer is that it starts and ends mid-week, and so really only leaves 4 weeks for programmed activities.

3/10/2014 9:59 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
For us- two, full-time working parents the year round school calendar is far better model. It's easier for us to nativage through and having a reduced summer creates less stress with regards to schedules and finances. Camps can be very expensive for 2 children. We also appreciate the fall intercession, as we can vacation on an "off" schedule. We also believe that the year round calendar is better for our children - they get a much needed break every quarter and a reduced summer helps with regards to retention and keeping the kids in a school mind-set. Having said this, we think a hybrid calendar could also work - possibly extending the summer a bit and pushing the first day of school in to August. Cutting 1-2 intercessions from 3 to 2 weeks is also an option. I would recommend keeping the winter intercession at 3 weeks.

I really enjoy the year round schedule, however feel that the summer is NOT long enough (4 full weeks with a few extra days on either end), and 3 week breaks are too long. My preference would be for the breaks to be 2 weeks each, and summer 7 weeks. As my child will be at Hillsdale soon, I'd also like to see the breaks line up with the SMUHSD calendar.

I am glad the parent community is finally being considered an important part of this decision. It has been the most difficult and frustrating policy to have Laurel Elementary, Abbott Middle School and Hillsdale High School - all within 2 blocks of one another- on different calendars. That decision was made by the district and the administration of Abbott with no regard for how it would impact the majority of the families that attend - those that live in that neighborhood. I like the year round calendar and think it would be great if the district had all schools on one similar calendar. However the Spring and Fall and Summer breaks are too long. It would be better to have only 2 weeks off for Spring and Fall and add those two weeks to the Summer. If all schools were on the same calendar there might be more camps and programs offered so that working parents had a place to send kids, especially important for elementary age students.

My kids really respond well to having the breaks split up like year round calendar does. Shorter summer helps with education retention also.

Study shows that children learn better with year round calendar.

I love the year round calendar. Being in an immersion school any longer breaks will be detrimental to my child's foreign language skills. My child also gets overwhelmed near the end of each class session and longer class session will cause a behavior problem with my child.

The year round school means my kids keep learning every day (except for July) and don't suffer from the "brain drain" that occurs with students on the traditional calendar. I believe this is a superior offering and the school district as a whole should move to year round, not lessen the standards of the schools that are doing it right.
The shorter summer break and longer breaks during the year seem to keep my children more focused and excited about school. And it gives us as a family more opportunities to spend more time together, vacation together, etc.

There is significant research indicating how much knowledge is lost during summer break and how much reteaching of previously learned material is required. Moving away from a year round calendar is a step backwards not forward.

We love year-round calendar. Please consider keeping some form of fall and/or winter breaks.

I love the year round calendar because of the shorter breaks. My second grader does really well with shorter breaks and seems to transition back into school smoothly. If we switched to the tradition calendar, I would be concerned about: burn out, behavior issues, retention (especially Chinese), and in general, I'm worried about how the total change would effect him and our entire family.

1. kids are more engaged in learning, year round provide continuity. 2. shorter vacation ensure that kids will not forget what they study, and their learning cadence will be expedited. putting kids first - its clear to see the advantages of year round schedule per above. in addition year round schedule also provide added benefits for vacation time 3. extra saving and choice for vacation activities since it allow off season scheduling.

I like the year round calendar because the Summer Vacation is less and there are more breaks in between. It helps the kid to decompress after couple months of school and allowed the teachers to be refresh. Less Summer Vacation, kids less likely to forget what they have learned and also, more likely to get back to routine. To long of a Summer Break, it is difficult for them to get back to routine.

School doesn’t becomes monotonous for kids. After every two months they get holidays!!

The year round calendar is great for the kids. They really need the extended break every few months. Additionally, the shorter summer means that they have less time to forget, and that they need less academic refresh time when they start up the new school year. Being able to vacation in the "off season" is great for families. There are fewer crowds at amusement parks and other popular family destinations and it's less expensive to travel during October and April. We LOVE the year round calendar.
The summer is too short; the spring and winter intersessions are too long and are challenging for child care. The fact that the summer is too short was MOST evident when our daughter graduated from 5th grade and had only a handful of weeks to transition to middle school. The long winter break - followed by a 4-day weekend in January and a 4-day weekend in February, is especially challenging. The fall intersession took a while to get used to, but now we have embraced the fall as a great time to travel. We take little or no time off in the summer, and take advantage of the fall weather and low air fares!

3/8/2014 4:41 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

I firmly believe that the year round calendar is better for children. Seeing how much they are asked to learn in school (and after school), more and shorter intercessions give them the opportunity to "catch their breath". My daughter is in school from 8:15am to 2:45pm. After that there is homework and after school learning (KUMON etc.), also on weekends. That makes for a 8+ hour day. Many adults don't work that much. She is looking forward to these breaks, the more the better. I grew up in Germany and went to school and university there. The school calendar there is a year round calendar with a 6 weeks summer break. And honestly who needs a 3 months summer break ? If I am lucky, I get 4 weeks of vacation in the US. That fits in the year round calendar. Thank you Karl-Heinz Kuchenreuther

3/8/2014 10:06 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

My son goes to Fiesta Gardens and is in 1st grade. I feel it is extremely important for the development of language that he is on a year round calendar. A long summer would mean he would lose more knowledge and when learning a language this is just so important to have the consistency. I feel this is unique to those students in an immersion program. This would create an added cost for parents to have to enroll kids in a Spanish program over the summer just in order to preserve their language skills. The best way to learn language is to be "immersed" in it. If they have 2 1/2 months off, how does that language get preserved without an added cost to the parents? In addition to the above, having the 3-week Fall and Winter breaks allow for families to go on vacation during an "off-peak" season. A data point to consider: Studies have found that disadvantaged students lose about 27 percent more of their learning gains in the summer months than their peers. By being in school the same number of days, but with shorter breaks, these students are able to keep their minds on a learning track that may not otherwise be fostered at home in the off-months. I would also like the Board of Trustees and Teachers Association to do research as to how the year round calendar benefits language immersion.

3/8/2014 7:55 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

The fall intersession helps kid relax before being burn out. Meanwhile, a short summer means kid gets back to school before forgetting all knowledge grasped the year before.

3/7/2014 10:20 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

I really enjoy the year around calendar. I think the children keep a lot of what they learn with a shorter break.

3/7/2014 4:41 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

I feel the year round schedule is beneficial to my children. They do not have a long summer in which to forget all that they've learned over the previous school year. They are also able to take family vacations throughout the year rather than just during summer. Shorter breaks means that I do not have to pay for camps and tutors to keep my children occupied over the long summer break. I do not believe that grade schools should align schedules with the high schools because their breaks seem to revolve around the football schedule, and schedules should not be based on sports activities. School is about academics and many studies have proven that children retain much more of what they've learned when they are enrolled in a year round calendar.

3/7/2014 3:42 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α
Shorter summer vacation makes student academically consistent. Student skills atrophy during the long break and are not as prepared for the next year of school.

There is nothing I dislike. The year round schedule is the only one we want for our son. We did not know we'd like it so much before he started in Kinder at Beresford. We get why people who have not had this type of calendar would be apprehensive, but now that we have experienced it, we would never want the latter. There's no way we could have our son home for months for any time during the year and cannot afford day cares or camps.

The year-round calendar is EXTREMELY helpful to those families that cannot pay for three straight months of childcare. Breaking the year up into separate sessions helps to spread the childcare costs out throughout the year and brings welcome breaks for the kids and parents alike. My child is always refreshed and anxious to get back to learning and socializing with their teachers and peers. PLEASE do not eliminate this option!!!

I like the Year Round calendar, because the kids have a easier time to keep up with what they learned after one month vacation. It takes much longer for the kids to get back to regular school schedule after three months of summer vacation.

If you are going to change anything the SM Union High School District should change to year round schedule. It is proven fact that kids forget a lot more during the 3mnth summer break of traditional calendar year than the shorter 5wk summer break for year round. Secondly I find it much easier to keep my kids active and engaged over a shorter summer break than a 3 month break as well as child care is a lot easier to deal with for the shorter breaks. If the districts align to a traditional year calendar its a safe bet my kids will become home schooled, taking money from the districts pocket based on the attendance/$$ per student at school each day. As well as we will recruit as many willing parents as possible to do the same to form a nice home school group.

We love that the traditional schools don't have the same long intercessions that we do, as it makes day trips and vacations less crowded.

If we are serious about our bilingual programs, we need to keep year round alive. Language retention demands continuity. The long summer break would be incredibly detrimental. Very few of our kids have access to the foreign language they are learning outside of school. Also student behavior both at and outside of school is greatly improved through more frequent breaks because the short rest refresh the children's minds. The long summer break is also a financial strain for many families that cannot afford summer camps for 10+ weeks straight. Finding cheaper options is easier in the off-peak months and alternative help (family members, etc.) during the shorter breaks. This is a major concern to our low-income families.
We find the year round calendar to be particularly beneficial for College Park because of the Mandarin immersion. Having a short summer break means children forget less, and this fact is even more true when one is learning a difficult new language. Other benefits include: * Fall intersession means less expensive travel both domestically and internationally since we are not traveling when every other school is on break * Less challenging to find camps and enrichment programs for 4 weeks in the summer than for 3 months in the traditional calendar

3/6/2014 10:10 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as...

Year round is an excellent schedule not only for planning vacations but also it gives the kids a break to rest a little, but not too long during the summer that they forget everything they learned.

3/6/2014 9:28 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as...

More schools should adopt the year-round calendar schedule.

3/6/2014 9:13 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as...

I along with many families find the year round calendar very family friendly. We are able to space out the time off work to really spend great quality time with our children throughout the year. In a traditional schedule, we would have to worry about childcare for the extended summer break rather than planning our quality time together that is balanced out throughout the school year in a year round schedule. Not too many employers support extended time off but many do support pockets of time off that work great with a year round calendar. Plus our kids miss school already with the short summer. The long summer will only make it harder to retain the information and get back to the school program.

3/6/2014 8:37 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as...

We like the year round calendar.

3/6/2014 6:49 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as...

I think 3 month summer breaks make it hard to get back into the swing of things at school. I like the current schedule.

3/6/2014 5:24 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as...

Its difficult to enroll her in camps or after school programs because of the year round calendar. Also having so many days off I between the year tends to make her forget what she has learned. I struggle to get her back into a school rythem or schedule since she has 3 weeks of not being in school.

3/6/2014 5:13 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as...

Although it is challenging at times to provide activities/childcare during the longer breaks, I find that the shorter summer break allows them time to "take a break" and have fun without losing too much of what they learned. I like that the year round calendar is a lot closer to what they might expect if they decide to attend college. I like the idea of making all schools onto a similar calendar, I hope that if the year round calendar is the one decided upon, that it is also including high schools.

3/6/2014 2:40 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as...
- the 3-weeks intercessions (esp. the fall) allow the family to travel on a non-peak travel period which saves a lot of money (esp. airfare) - the short summer vacation allow child to retain the knowledge learned just before summer break better

3/6/2014 1:11 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Our family has no complaints about the year round calendar. This works best for our daughter. We love everything about the year round school. There isn't one thing that we dislike about having this schedule. Our daughter deals best with the year round school. She has ADHD and having longer periods of being in school she will need to be in special ed. Being able to have intersessions between school time she does great. She performs to her grade level.

3/6/2014 12:55 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Brewer Island is not our closest school and I gave up the ability to walk to Foster City Elementary and have to drive each day specifically for the year round calendar. The reason is because of the regular breaks. This is of benefit for the children and teachers by having regular breaks which keeps them fresh and focused on their work. I like that there is not a long summer break where you have the potential for loss of retention of school work and that you don't have to keep them amused for a long period of time. With a long summer break you have to look at putting kids in summer camps, which can be a huge financial burden especially with more than one child. With vacations that are spread out throughout the year you can spread out the costs so that the cost is distributed throughout the year and not concentrated in summer when a family is likely to be paying for a family vacation as well. Also for families that are travelling to visit families overseas there are opportunities to travel at other times other than the summer vacation because 3 weeks is an ideal vacation time when you are traveling long distances. Also having the ability to take family vacations at other times outside of the summer is beneficial and therefore reduces the need for students to take time off school. Summer travel can be more expensive but for our family is not ideal as we have a daughter that suffers from severe eczema and heat and humidity exacerbate her symptoms so for our family we prefer to take our family vacations primarily in Fall and Spring or winter which is currently too short for the year rounders. If all the schools in the district are on more year round calendar then Fall and Spring camps will be created to fill this need.

3/6/2014 11:54 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Year-round is great for continued learning. I wish all districts would adopt it.

3/6/2014 11:43 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I think a whole district calendar is a great idea. I also think that a modified year round would be the best solution. One week in Oct, 3 weeks in December, and one in the spring, which would still give the needed breaks as well as add 4 weeks into the summer break which is currently too short for the year rounders.

3/6/2014 11:34 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I feel that its great that the kids get a break, so they don't burn out week after week it gives them a short term goal and the summer is shorter so they don't lose all the info and routines of the school year! there are a TON of different camp to chose from

3/6/2014 11:33 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

1) Shorter Summer a) My daughter loves to learn and social with her friends. Traditional Calendar is too long of a break for us. Camps are too expensive to have throughout the summer. The year round calendar with 4-5 weeks off of summer is plenty for us. 2) Fall, Winter, Spring Breaks a) Give children and parents a break from school where they can relax from homework and school work. A break for children and parents to relax and regroup and refresh
themselves before school begin. b) My daughter and I used those break time to visit museums and places. It’s relaxing because places are not crowded and we get to have quality time and learning time with the staffs at the museums and places. It’s been a benefit to my daughter and me when it comes to learning and exploring. c) Good for traveling and visiting family at discount price

3/6/2014 10:46 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  "

My son will be going to a traditional middle-school this coming fall and I don't look forward to having both children on different calendars! So I can't mark that box yet, but I probably would next year. :-)

3/6/2014 10:37 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  "

As a parent with two children in two different school sessions MS & HS, it is extremley challenging to plan family vacation time when both children are off school. Now as a working parent, with a demanding job and not a stay home mom with time on my hands to babysit my child during all the breaks, our only summer vacation time is wk 2&3 in July- ridiculous flexibility. The schools need to be in sync or at least make a concerted effort to be closer. Don't even get me started on the ridiculous lack of camps during the intersessions-I was assured by the principal of abbott that there are camp choices out there during intersessions. She was obviously talking off the cuff. I'd like her to find more than two choices for any child for the 3 sessions- perhaps she was intending to start a camp herself? For the record the year round schedule does nothing positive for my child, he has always excelled in school, is advanced in school, - not participating in GATE, and the short summer vacation is a disappointment in his life-it takes away a childhood joy.

3/6/2014 9:42 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  "

I absolutely love the year round calendar because I feel that the three 3-week breaks and the short summer break are really good for my daughter. She attended preschool at Fiesta Gardens and is currently in Kindergarten at FG. By having the 3-week breaks throughout the year, she doesn’t get burnt out in school and she's nice and refreshed when she returns. I feel she better retains what she's learning in school with this schedule. In addition, I like to be able to take family vacations during the 3-week breaks when most other kids are in school. Childcare/camps are not problematic for us -- we've always been able to find childcare for my daughter during the 3-week breaks.

3/6/2014 8:58 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  "

I have two children attending Brewer Island. One will be attending Bowditch next year and I have a third child that has not started yet. The difficulty of juggling multiple calendars is horrendous. I believe a year round schedule for all schools is the most beneficial. The long summer break is unnecessary and small breaks throughout the year foster a better learning environment. As a public servant I can tell you that a year around schedule keeps children more focused. Thank you

3/6/2014 8:53 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  "

I like it!

3/6/2014 8:26 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  "

We weren't sure about the year round calendar until our kids attended GH. They don't have to relearn any info from previous school year due to a shorter summer break. My kids already get board during the 5 week summer break and even during some of the 3 week breaks. We get out and do things during breaks, but they enjoy being with friends and having a schedule. We also enjoy traveling in October. The weather is wonderful in the bay area and we get to enjoy it.

3/6/2014 12:24 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  "
I believe the Year Round calendar is better for our children as there is less summer learning loss. This is advantageous to both teachers and students as students retain their learning and teachers do not need to re-teach skills. This leads a better use of teaching time for both students and teachers. I also like the October breaks for the students where they can decompress at the right time.

3/5/2014 10:36 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Though my children do not need remediation during the intersessions, I believe that time is critically important for our neediest children. Having additional support and instruction during October and December before they fall too far behind is a great opportunity to catch them up.

3/5/2014 10:36 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

We currently enjoy the ability to travel during off season. We also enjoy the shortened summer. It feels like it's just enough.

3/5/2014 10:34 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

We love the year-round calendar. It is like "we are in the break again!".

3/5/2014 9:11 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The year round calendar has very little going for it. The kids are always going into or out of a break, so there are weeks lost over the year because "we can't have homework since we've got break next week" or "we can't have homework since we just got back from break". I really can't say anything positive about the year round calendar. It does not make sense to have more than one calendar in the district.

3/5/2014 9:02 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Year round is a must for language immersion schools. A traditional summer and immersion schools don't mix! The children will lose too much over the summer.

3/5/2014 7:25 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

We love the year round calendar! My boys work very hard through the year and it is nice for them to have breaks through the year. We wish the summer was a little longer. Maybe little longer summer and three 2 week intersessions would be ideal!

3/5/2014 3:46 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I feel this calendar is more beneficial to the children because they don't deal with the big gap of a summer vacation.

3/5/2014 3:02 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Our family likes the Year Round Schedule. There is nothing we dislike about it.

3/5/2014 2:26 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
This the most helpful with spreading out the breaks and not having to pay large amounts of money for daycare/afterschool care at one time. You are not limited to taking a vacation in the summer when everyone else does.

My child is with special education. It makes more sense if he does not have to spend almost 3 months without schooling. Evenly distributed intersession is essential for his academic success without the risk of regression.

The fall intersession is the one that most people site as the benefit of year round calendar, but my daughter played volleyball and so there were always several games during fall intersession. One player missed 5 games due to vacation. Too many other activities in my girls lives go on during these long breaks that it really doesn't feel like a break the way summer break does.

I like having the year round calendar. I think having a shorter break in the summer helps prevent summer learning loss. I think it is especially important to have the shorter break at Fiesta Gardens due to the Spanish aspect. We don't speak Spanish in the home, so to have my daughter stop speaking Spanish for 3 months would really cause her to lose a lot of ground if it changed to a traditional calendar.

From an immersion education point of view (and this is why we chose College Park), this is by far the better option

My child retains information better, and learns more because the teacher don't have to devote three months of review for the kids to know their concepts, like in traditional calendar schools. Also, the maximum days off school is between 3 to 4 weeks at a time, unlike 9 to 10 weeks in traditional calendar. Financially, it is beneficial too, traveling during three weeks of intersession breaks is cheaper, because my family does not pay peak airline ticket prices, better hotel rates, less crowded tourist destinations, shorter lines at the theme parks, which leads to more family vacations. I had my child at traditional school last year, but I moved to this district, so that we can take advantage of the year round school benefits. Please continue with year round school, because it is best for our kids.

Summer break too short disallow Summer Enrichment Programs for Kids. This is very unfortunately, since not only US, but many nations around the world are providing different cultural exploration opportunities and discovery to kids during Summer.

The YEAR ROUND calendar breaks up the very high cost of child care that is necessary during school breaks. The childcare is always available through the Annex, but its costly. The YEAR ROUND calendar keeps our kids on a routine, and allows them to retain all they have learned over the short breaks, as opposed to forgetting it all over
It also keeps teachers from having to "review" everything for the first few weeks of a new year to catch everyone up.

I love the year round schedule. I like having shorter summers. Even though there seems to be little data out there saying shorter summers don't have an effect on student learning, I feel it does. I feel the students lose what they've learned over a long summer and must spend more time at the beginning of the year relearning what is lost. I also like having less weeks at a time needing to find child care. My husband and I work full time. Having to find 10 weeks (or whatever the traditional summer break is) is much harder than finding care for 3 weeks here and there. It's also easier financially. Paying for 10 weeks in one shot is hard on our bank accounts, but with 3 weeks (or five for summer) the payment is less at a time.

A Duke University study even suggested kids attending year-round schools are at a slight advantage, because they don't forget what they learned during the long summer break. Schools in fast-growing areas transition to year-round schedules as a way to "ease overcrowding". When that occurs, kids are placed on multi-tracks, and alternate tracking in and out of the school, a process that keeps the buildings in constant use.

I believe that kids learn and retain the information better when they have mini breaks as opposed to a 3 month summer. Kids have a tougher time recalling the skills they had acquired since they have been away longer. Just like adults, kids need a little break to function better but too long of a break, although fun, makes it that much harder to return to the routine. I understand that the District wants to have one calendar but changing what had been working for year round kids doesn't seem to be the answer. The District is already changing the Montessori program and uplifting the kids to a site that is still unknown. Now you want to change the calendar too? It's not always about convenience but about what is going to benefit the children academically.

The year round schedule is better for students. The shorter breaks enhance retention of lessons learned from previous semesters. The intersessions and summer breaks provide enough rest time between semesters.

We really like the year round calendar--the intersession breaks and short summers. I think it gives our children a nice break during the school year to prevent burnout and also it works well with their Mandarin Language as too long of breaks really disrupts the continuity. We are not Mandarin speakers at home so it would be very difficult for us to reinforce the Mandarin Language over a long summer break. It seems there are more options these days for camps during the intersession breaks as well.

Vacations are not why I choose to have my children attend YR schedule. I really like that they are never IN or OUT of school too long. With 3 kids they all prove to have different learning styles. This calendar works for them. I have one ready for high school and am dreading the long months and short breaks.
Over all, I love the year round calendar. If anything had to change, a blended calendar would be ideal. Intersessions could be two weeks long and make summer vacation 6 weeks long.
3/5/2014 8:49 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Although I really like school beginning early, ideally, it would start more towards the middle of August, and not in July or the very beginning of August. The reason I do like the early start is that my child has the chance to get into the routine of school and homework, before she has to start incorporating the many after-school activities in which she participates. Although it doesn't affect me personally, I marked that I dislike the different calendars between this district and the high school district. I did so, because in about 5 years or so, it will affect me personally. I was made aware of this by attending a forum, so thank you for holding those.
3/5/2014 6:56 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

none of the "Least" options on #7 are true for my family, and many are not accurate. There are several camp/program opportunities during intersessions. summer vacation is a reasonable length, otherwise it gets to be too long.
3/4/2014 10:11 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Intercession breaks are useful for students to catch up with their lag behind skills. I used breaks to teach my kids phonic skills when they were in K and have them practice writing by writing a daily journal.
3/4/2014 10:10 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

In re: to Q6, it's not that we like that the Fall Intercession is 3 weeks, it's that we like that there is a Fall Intercession. Having a 4-5 week summer is too short. 6-8 weeks off during summer would be ideal. With regards to finding childcare over the intercessions, 2-weeks is doable, 3-weeks is challenging and expensive.
3/4/2014 10:02 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

We are new to the district and previously we were on the traditional calendar. So far we are enjoying the year round calendar and would like it to continue. I think breaking up the year helps my kids learn more effectively, and we can plan trips to visit family year round instead of just in the summer.
3/4/2014 9:52 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Please work with the high schools to have them go on the year round schedule as well.
3/4/2014 9:35 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

year round calendar is the best, it provide continue learning with short breaks, it give better plan of other activities and vacation.
3/4/2014 9:00 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
Although I dislike how short the summer vacation is (because it makes it difficult to coordinate visits with family on the east coast who have very different school calendars to which they're tied), I do appreciate that the shorter summer break seems to make it easier for my children to retain information between school years.

With a language as difficult to teach and learn as Mandarin, it is imperative that learning not be interrupted by extended school breaks. It's too easy to forget what's been so challenging to learn and retain. If you're going to offer this magnet program, you must provide what supports student success. Should you plan on giving students UNLIMITED FREE TUTORING during the breaks in a traditional calendar (i.e., the endless summer), then I would be ok with that calendar. If you're not giving us that, then you can't change our calendar in good conscience. To do so would be setting our children up to fail -- and wasting everyone's time by trying to teach them the language in the first place. Very bad idea to change from our year round calendar. Don't do it.

I love the year round calendar. I definitely wish there were more camps/activities available for my daughter during the intersessions, because childcare can be challenging, but we love taking vacation during off seasons and she retains a lot more information over the summer.

Below are my comments about the Year Round calendar: 1. Shorter summer break is great; however 5 weeks is too short (if families are planning 1 more summer vacation with kids traveling multiple locations) and the traditional 10 weeks is too long (kids tend to forget what they've learned). 7 - 8 weeks would be ideal (a balance between vacations and summer camps in a 3/4 or 4/3 combo) 2. I love the 3 weeks' winter break because it allows families to travel out of the country for vacation > 1 week and still had time to enjoy X'mas holiday whether the vacation is before or after the vacation. It also allows time to recover from jet lag. 2 weeks would be too short to achieve both. 3. I think the Fall and Spring's 3 weeks' Inter session is too long. Families generally opt for 1 week's vacation during intersession breaks due to limited vacation time available from their employers and have to put their child in intersession camps for the other 2 weeks because they cannot afford more time off from their employer. Besides, there's quite a bit of public holidays throughout the scholastic year except for months March, April, August, and October.

Long breaks are very detrimental for second language and language immersion students specifically but all students in general. Only those children who have access to continued education programs in the summer retain the language skills developed in the prior year. Those without the resources to summer school will forget what they've learned over a three month break.

I have had children on both schedules. I prefer the year round but do find the summer break a bit too short. Don't want it as long as the traditional year though.

Long breaks (over four weeks) could be detrimental to the Mandarin immersion program. It is too difficult to remember and too easy to forget. Many students have no place to practice Mandarin outside of school. I cannot imagine my children being out of school for 12 weeks during the summer - we would have to find Mandarin immersion camps to keep up their Mandarin skills. The school district needs to commit to this program 100% and ensure that
everything is being done for the program to succeed - otherwise, do not offer it. Long breaks are harder on students - they fall out of the school routine which can lead to student discipline and behavior issues. Conversely, long stretches of class without a break are exhausting for both students, staff and even parents. Having intersession breaks allows students to explore other interests throughout the year - travel and intersession camps. October is a great time to travel - fewer crowds, cheaper airfares, etc... We came from a school system on a traditional calendar and I had my concerns about going on a Year Round calendar, especially with two working parents in the household and then need for child care. It's been fantastic - I've been very pleased! We've been able to spend time with family in the Midwest and we've also found some great intersession camps which have allowed my children to explore other interests.

If everyone looks at this issue around which provides children with the best opportunity to learn the most information, the best way, and the most efficiently, then the decision is easy! Year round is best!! Everyone will admit to forgetting a lot over the long summer breaks of traditional calendars. Perhaps a little tweaking could be done to optimize the year round schedule though and to appease the opponents.

Our family enjoys the short summer breaks. It's just enough time to get a breather, travel, and explore before the next school year begins. Being in the Mandarin immersion program (and not being a Mandarin speaking family) on a year round calender makes sense - too much time away from school would surely result in loss of children's Mandarin language skills they had worked so hard to acquire during the school year. Typically, less review is required at the beginning of the school year and the kids seem to easily transition back into school "mode." There are many benefits to the year round calendar. Flexiblity is key in this matter and I wouldn't mind if some of the breaks were moved to coincide with other schools in the district, but I would like to maintain the short summers - it really is crucial to a child's success in the immersion school program. If I had to nit pick the year round calendar, I would say the middle of the school calendar is a bit heavy on the holidays. Could we move a couple of days "off" to the month of May? I know testing typically occurs during this time - just not clear if it would make sense to give the kids a short reprieve during this time of year.

Short summer break is the best for students to retain their knowledge and not get lazy.

I would love the year-round summer break to be one or two weeks longer, but not more than that so the kids aren't completely out of rhythm of going to school.

My home school is Foster City Elementary and I specifically transferred to Brewer Island for the year round schedule. The entire family loves it and I hate to see it go. I understand this is not a vote and just a survey but if we had a choice, we would keep the year round schedule at Brewer. What we like about the year round schedule is the timing of breaks. Just when my son starts getting restless at school, he has a break, which is neither too long nor too short. When he starts getting bored from break, it's time to go back to school. The family especially loves the fall break since most kids are in school and it's the best time to travel for much less than during summer or spring break. We also think that regular summer break is way too long and the kids are very rusty when they return to school.
Our family loves the year round calendar. We have observed many benefits and no drawbacks. Keeping a year round calendar with breaks that OVERLAP, rather than align completely with the high school calendar is the best option. That way, families with children in elementary/middle and high school can still vacation together while making sure that the elementary/middle students get the many benefits of year round calendar at a critical time. Shorter breaks help increase learning through better behavior (kids don't have to get back in school mode), better retention and less review. The breaks prevent burnout, which also helps with learning and behavior. As a family where both parents work, the year round calendar is extremely helpful. There are plenty of child care/enrichment options during all breaks, which often coincide with holidays when it is possible to take at least some time off. Spacing the breaks allows more time as a family and lessens the financial impact of paying for child care during breaks. It is much easier to pay for 2-3 weeks (up to 5 for summer) for year round rather than 10-11 weeks all at once for traditional schools. The current summer break is long enough to provide an extended, restful vacation without the kids forgetting everything they learned the previous school year. It is also nice to be able to travel during off-peak times. I strongly urge you to consider the year round calendar for all SMFCSD schools. I like the calendar as-is, but it could be modified to overlap with high school breaks that will lessen the impact on families with students at different schools (and we will be one of those families in a few short years). A year round schedule also provides more efficient use of school facilities and more flexibility to address overcrowding, and could work at the high school level as well. (Just a thought - why not see if HS district will consider year round?) Year round schedules are widely accepted and utilized in countries that consistently perform at the highest levels in education. Thank you very much for your time in considering this important issue.

3/4/2014 9:59 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  α

My child loves the year round calendar. Just when she is feeling burned out and sick of school she has another break. And then is ready and refreshed to start again. The summer break is just long enough for her to start getting bored and want to go back to school and not too long to forget what she has learned. She is in the GATE program but also taking Mandarin and doesn't get to use it in the summer. I like the breaks for her and breaking up the summer trying to find affordable and fun child care. It is one of the main reasons I chose to send her to Bayside Middle School for the GATE program there. We are looking forward to the year round shedule. We wish there was a year round high school to choose from.

3/4/2014 9:39 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  α

Don't like it, there on vacation When there are no programs

3/4/2014 9:38 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  α

Year round schedule provides our kids continuous learning. Growing up in a traditional school calendar year, I find it that going back to school after a long summer break, having to review what we learned the previous year the first 2-3 months of school.

3/4/2014 8:48 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  α

The breaks are great refreshers. Vacations are less expensive during off peaks. Shorter summer vacation avoids brain lag. Keeps the student energized throughout the year.

3/4/2014 8:09 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  α

In my opinion, the biggest advantage of the year round calendar is that the kids have an opportunity to maintain their learning habits throughout the year without the extended interruption that occurs during the 3-month summer vacation.

3/4/2014 7:37 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  α
I think year round is especially important for learning 2nd language; especially when the family does not speak the 2nd language at home. A long summer might result in loss of material that has been covered.

3/4/2014 12:07 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The year round calendar is great! And we like it a lot. Please keep it!

3/4/2014 12:07 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I like year round calendar because vacations are divided in whole year and kids are not bored with long summer vacation. we can plan short vacation trips instead if just waiting for summer vacation.

3/3/2014 10:42 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Personal feel is that the year round calendar is much better than the traditional coz unlike the traditional calendar, the chunk of summer vacation is spread thru out the calendar year. Making it easy not to look out for many summer camps, kids don’t find it hard to get back to routine, after holidays. They are on track. Also we manage to get the non peak holidays.

3/3/2014 10:33 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

After being a part of a Traditional Calendar for my older children for 7+ years, we really like the Year Round Calendar for my younger children. We believe that it allows the child to have “breaks” to mentally and physically refresh during the 3 week intercession. We have also used this time to catch up or review areas that they may be struggling in before heading back to school. The subject matter is fresh in their memory bank allowing for continued teaching when needed. We also see that the summers are not so long and think that this helps with retaining information from the previous grade to the next grade level. The overall attitude with my three children who are currently in a year-round calendar is positive all year long as oppose to being worn out from not having breaks. If there are any changes to be made District wide, we certainly hope that the Year Round Calendar takes precedence.

3/3/2014 10:31 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Usually after two months I can see my children are exhausted from homework since they have to two homework both in English and Chinese. As parents, we too, feel very exhausted monitoring their homework, assessment, etc.

3/3/2014 10:28 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The year round calendar is excellent for learning languages - not lost over the long summer. Prevents burn out from students and teachers.

3/3/2014 10:27 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

As parents of children attempting to master a very difficult second language (Mandarin) which we do not speak at home, the short summer is *critical* to language retention between school years. If the immersion program went to a traditional calendar, we would have no choice but to put our kids into some sort of Mandarin summer school, to avoid them forgetting everything they have learned. We find that language practice needs to be near-daily, year-round. We have had no problem finding camps and programs during any of the intersession breaks.

3/3/2014 10:22 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
Being in the Mandarin immersion program or any language immersion program requires frequency and repetition. This is even more important for the students in a non-Mandarin speaking household. The YEAR ROUND calendar is crucial to the students that come from non-Mandarin speaking households. The breaks are just enough to rest but, not enough time to lose all the knowledge acquired. My concern is that if there were a three month break, the retention of this knowledge is drastically reduced and teachers will spend more time in reviewing past material instead of building upon what was learned previously. Under the current YEAR ROUND calendar, my child is able to continue learning almost seamlessly from break to break, which has helped in his language acquisition. The goals of the program are achieved in this situation. I strongly feel that the Mandarin immersion program will severely be affected by a change to a traditional calendar. Mandarin is not an easy language to learn and retain especially with such a long absence from it.

3/3/2014 9:38 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

I have settled for year-round because I love having Spanish immersion. But I would LOVE to have a traditional calendar so my family and I can go to Mexico for longer to visit our family and offer my kids even more opportunity to progress in their Spanish skills.

3/3/2014 9:38 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

The October break is terrific. The weather is great, there are low prices on airfare and hotels, and best of all no crowds at popular destinations (unlike the holidays or spring break). Please, no matter what we do as a district - PLEASE KEEP A FALL BREAK!

3/3/2014 9:23 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

As an employee of a department where more senior co-workers have higher priority in scheduling vacations, I am able to take my family vacations at a time with less demand. I never request spring break or summer when I am already unlikely to get time off during those times. Also, the kids enjoy the evenly spaced breaks between learning, especially because they are in the Mandarin immersion program and we are not native to the language. The 5-week summer is just enough time to focus on some specialty camps instead of just going to camps for daycare.

3/3/2014 9:22 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

The year round calendar also gives breaks so kids aren’t burnt out from school. The shorter summer also keeps kids from forgetting and their minds sharper.

3/3/2014 9:13 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

The year round calendar facilitates retention of Mandarin (since we do not speak at home) as well as other academic subjects. We really appreciate being able to travel on off-peak times.

3/3/2014 9:08 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

For our family, there are no disadvantages to the Year Round calendar. We like everything about it and do not have problems finding child care during intersessions or finding camps and community programs during intersessions. We prefer the shorter summer break and like the fall, winter, and spring intersessions. We initially had our doubts about the Year Round calendar when we first enrolled our child at College Park, but very quickly realized that this was a better option for us than the traditional calendar.

3/3/2014 8:57 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α
Year round if much more preferred, as there are a lot more pros than cons to it.
3/3/2014 8:53 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

I love year round calendar!
3/3/2014 8:53 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

Since the children are in school all year, I feel they retain what they learn much better. I believe that to really learn a language, one must use it constantly. It also makes planning vacations easier.
3/3/2014 8:45 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

This is working for our family for the past eight Years and we want this to be in Place.
3/3/2014 8:45 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

Our family like the year round schedule better.
3/3/2014 8:26 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

The camps during inter session are not as interesting and fun like summer outdoor camps.
3/3/2014 7:57 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

We love the year round calendar system. Three-week intersessions provide a nice break in a timely fashion throughout the school year. They are long enough to provide needed recharging and not too long so that they forget everything they have learned thus far. My children are always excited to go back to school after the intersessions. There is usually a number of camps that my children can attend during the intersessions, though the variety is far less than what's available during the summer. However, I do not feel that this is a big loss. I feel that the year round calendar is the most optimal way for students' learning and that everyone should be on this system. That would be progress. Getting rid of year round calendar from our school would be a big loss.
3/3/2014 7:30 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

We really like the year-round calendar. When we recommend College park to other family, year-round calendar is definitely a plus highlight to be mentioned. 1. Shorter intermissions make an easier transition back to the school time. 2. 3-week breaks in and fall are perfect for family vacation around the world, no needs to fight with the summer crowd and the hot weather. For working parents, summer time is even hard to get off work due to the popular vacation time. 3. Spring break is great for family ski trips. 4. Both College park and continued immersion at Bay side middle school are on the year-round calendar. We'd love to keep them as the way it is. 5. The break camp options at San Mateo is sufficient for our needs.
3/3/2014 6:48 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

As a substitute teacher with the district and hopefully full-time contracted teacher next school year, I worry that I will have a different calendar than my child. One of the perks of teaching and being a parent is sharing the "breaks" time off of school together. I only have a few school choices if the calendar stays as it is. I would like one unified calendar
throughout the district. I also enjoy the fall intersession, but would give that up to have a unified calendar in our district.

Year Round calendar has special relevance to the language immersion programs. I strongly favor the year-round schedule.

I strongly believe in the Year Round calendar for our students learning, especially for those learning a second language. With a Year Round calendar, there is less time spent reviewing what they learned in the previous grade and rather are able to continue and build upon a good foundation. With a longer summer break, or intercession break, learning can easily be forgotten. Also with the shorter breaks in the Year Round calendar, it comes at very opportune times. Just when the kids are starting to feel burnt out, they get a small break. I think this helps in providing them with a fervor to return to school and continue to forge ahead.

I LOVE the year round calendar.

The main problem with the year round calendar is that not all of the schools are on it! This will be the NINTH summer that has been negatively impacted for my family because of the various calendars we've had to endure between Laurel, Abbott, and Hillsdale. The second biggest problem is that there is no sense of urgency, because the school year just keeps going on and on. The main benefit is that most of the teachers seem to like it, so they are less stressed out, or don't burn out as quickly.

Shorter summer can help children not to forget school material as easily, as this is an important aspect especially for a Mandarin immersion school since Mandarin does not exist in a day to day life.

Year round calendar is great because it gives more break to students and thereby helps in releasing the pressure in a better way than traditional calendar.

Biggest concern is loss of skills during a long summer break.

Many friends who are on traditional calendar who would like the year round. This allows them to go on vacation with their kids without taking their kids out of school. Also, a shorter summer allows for better learning for the children.
I think the year round calendar provides a better learning environment for children as the summers are shorter and there are less larger "idle gaps" between learning sessions.

3/3/2014 4:33 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

Year round calendar is a wonderful calendar. Our children are given intersession homework as well as a short summer homework packet. After each intersession, they are always more than ready to go back to school and entirely engaged. They don't have to spend time once they are back reviewing what they learned. By the time families & children are feeling "burnt out", there is a great intersession rest and recovery for all. Since we are in the mandarin immersion program, it is very critical to language learning & exposure since English is our only language at home. It works amazingly into our schedule and into the planning of vacations. There are absolutely no objections to this calendar from our family. Please do not change!

3/3/2014 4:28 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

I honestly don't like the year round calendar because, there is too much vacation.

3/3/2014 4:09 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

We love to take vacations off season and the children get to rest the right amount.

3/3/2014 3:46 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

We have found that the shorter summer vacations (but longer fall, winter and spring breaks) enhances memory retention, especially language. Our son goes to College Park and if the breaks were longer it would be easier to forget what he had learned.

3/3/2014 3:46 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

It's easier for the children to go through school without burn out and loose interest of school. It also give opportunity for us to plan appointments with doctors, dentists, and others better without having to take them out of school since there are three weeks of intersesesion break each season.

3/3/2014 3:35 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

1. Long breaks (over four weeks) could be detrimental to the language program 2. Long breaks are harder on students and can lead to student discipline and behavior issues.

3/3/2014 2:58 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

As a family in the Mandarin immersion program without any other Chinese exposure, we don't think a longer break in the summer would benefit the Chinese learning process.

3/3/2014 2:34 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α
I believe the year round calendar is best as there is less time in the summer to forget all the good study habits and get out of the normal routine. However, the fact that it is out of sync with all other districts (and I have one child outside the district) I would love for it to be traditional calendar so we can take family vacations together.

3/3/2014 2:27 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

There are NO aspects of the Year Round calendar that I do not like. I wish I had attended a school that had this schedule in the 70s. For Spanish Immersion students this is especially important and beneficial as it keeps the time away from the curriculum to a minimum. Please take this into consideration as you view changes. Thank you!

3/3/2014 2:23 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

Two concerns. (1) The studies that show how 3-month summer vacations cause children to forget more and that part of the following school year is wasted re-learning materials; (2) It's actually more difficult to plan summer activities for 3 months, rather than at 3-week intervals at a time.

3/3/2014 2:08 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

Love the year round! Growing up, we did not have this option of year round school and frankly I was weary of it in the beginning, only because I had not experienced it in the past. But, since my son has enrolled in a year round program, my family loves it! The three week intersessions are great for family vacations away or at home and the 5-week Summer vacation feels right as the Summer is not too long wherein a student may loose momentum in their learning. I vote for the YEAR ROUND calendar for all schools.

3/3/2014 1:45 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

Year Round program offers a great academic benefit. I can see my daughter was able to get back quickly into routine after a short summer. During the school year we are more relaxed with longer breaks in between. I strongly hope the district will not change the year round program. We inter-transferred our daughter to Abbott Middle School solely for their year round program!

3/3/2014 1:25 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

I find the year round calendar more aligned to what, for years have worked for many parents and students in the UK. I would like to see something like 3 weeks off for the first two trimesters (e.g. 1 week for autumn, 2 weeks for winter; 1 week for ski, 2 weeks for spring) and 5 weeks for the summer. For many working parents, it is difficult to make ends meet with the increasing cost of camps for 12 weeks should the traditional calendar gets adopted. For many parents, being able to "work from home" is a better "sell" with their employers for a week at a time as opposed to the 12 weeks in the summer. I have 3 kids - and I am not sure how I will manage with the longer vacations.

3/3/2014 1:23 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

We love it and believe it is critical for a language immersion program. Our children have a well-balanced education throughout the year. We see fewer instances of student/teacher/parent volunteer burnout than we would on a traditional Calendar. The return to the school after a shorter summer seems to go much more smoothly, especially for children who have difficulties with transitions. Five years ago - before experiencing it - I was opposed to year-round calendars because I love summer break however now I am a complete convert. I think it is the best option for optimal learning and student well-being to have breaks throughout the year, instead of one long one in the summer.

3/3/2014 12:53 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α
This is our first year in the SMFCSD, we have one daughter in kindergarten and a daughter who will be starting in 2016. We LOVE the year round calendar. The annex provides camps during the breaks, it gives families opportunities to travel at off peak season and the kids dont have a long summer break to forget everything. Please dont take it away!

3/3/2014 12:25 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ⚛️

Having our son attend Beresford Elementary (year round calendar) has been perfect for families with 2 working parents. We've been able to juggle work schedules with greater ease. As for transitioning from one year to the next, having a shorter break has improved student retention and get back into academic mode more quickly.

3/3/2014 12:06 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ⚛️

Its a wonderful balance for stress as the breaks come up just in time and keeps the kids engaged with school while allowing them to retain the memory of their lessons.

3/3/2014 11:47 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ⚛️

I LOVE year-round school for my son. It offers the teachers and students time to re-charge their batteries right when they need it!

3/3/2014 11:47 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ⚛️

I love the year round calendar. My kids retain a lot more of their studies during their shorter summer vacation and the teachers do not have to spend as much time reviewing the subjects when school resumes. The intercessions provide great opportunities for the kids to take a break, but if they are falling behind on some subjects, it is also a great time for them to catch up and focus on those areas so that when they return to school, they are ready to resume learning new materials and do not feel they are playing catch up for the remainder of the school year. For the first few weeks of school, they can focus on getting back into studies and schedules without having to take on all their enrichment/sports activities at the same time, which can be overwhelming. The intercessions also provide opportunities to schedule doctor's appts, eye exams, dental appts, etc without them being an interruption during regular school sessions.

3/3/2014 11:21 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ⚛️

We love the continuous learning experience! Our work school schedule is so much easier with year round too. Please keep this as a benefit of the San Mateo Foster City Education experience!!!!

3/3/2014 11:17 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ⚛️

I am most interested in what results in the best learning outcomes for our children. Convenience for scheduling family vacations and length of intersessions are nice, but of secondary concern. What we like most about the YEAR ROUND calendar is the better continuity of instruction, less learning loss and review time, and better pacing with more frequent breaks to consolidate and refresh.

3/3/2014 11:08 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ⚛️

I really like the year round calendar due to the shorter summer break vacation, keeping my child from retaining more information learned throughout the school year. I also like the fall intersession break, which is when we take our family vacations. Having more the year round calendar also makes it easier to schedule doctor and dentist appointments throughout the year, not during school time.

3/3/2014 11:08 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ⚛️
I don't have any issues with this calendar. I actually like the way the breaks are set up.

My kids attended traditional calendar before. I very much like the YEAR Round calendar as it gives kids breaks more frequently from their busy studies, and the summer break is a good length that kids enjoy the summer but not too long to forget everything.

We like the year round calendar: kids stay out of school for shorter time (especially in summer) during breaks--they forget less. It is easier to go to theme parks during off-peak season (like fall) to avoid crowd Spring session is a bit difficult--hard to find good quality camps.

Our highest priority is to avoid a summer break exceeding 4 weeks, due to concerns about foreign language retention. We are flexible about how the other breaks are during the year, provided they are at reasonable intervals.

If the highschool calendar and the elementary and middle school calendars could have similar holidays it would make it much easier for families with different grade level children to have quality family vacations.

My family and I would prefer a blended calendar. The alignment priority is larger than aligning the elementary schedules within the district. The greater priority is alignment within the community. This includes private schools, high schools, summer and break time camps, community colleges, state universities and local holidays (like Columbus/Indigenous people's day). If the elementary schedule starts and ends +/- one week of the high school's schedule on either end, then we could be more flexible with family vacations. Furthermore, a three-week winter break to overlap both the high school and college winter breaks would allow for greater flexibility in scheduling family travel during the toughest travel season. Spring break should be two weeks long with Easter as the midpoint. This way there will surely be overlap with HS and college schedules. District negotiated calendars should be adopted by December for the following school year AND three or even four year calendar projections would greatly facilitate family planning in vacation and travel arrangements. The forum presented the data that there is a higher rate of absenteeism on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving break possibly due to the misalignment with the high school's vacation days. I feel this one day difference is not a priority day for vacation, and most working parents are not given this day off, so I would prefer to keep this day as a school day, maybe a minimum day to allow for early out-of-town travel plans. Although starting a school year on a Wednesday can be an easy transition period, I would prefer a Monday start to allow for whole week summer camp/childcare completion. Starting with a minimum day or even a minimum day week could be as effective of a transition. (Remember the learning disabled and young students need repetition integrated slowly.) Lastly, if ever there is another districtwide issue to be introduced/discussed by forum, than there must be equal representation at each school site. Beresford is a small school, but I feel the Beresford community was overlooked and even suppressed in its inclusion on this calendar matter.
I want them to be year round calendar
3/17/2014 9:33 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

A blend of the traditional and year round calendars would be excellent with intersessions lasting two weeks and the summer break slightly longer.
3/17/2014 9:19 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

My family loves the 3 week fall and spring breaks and don't miss the long summer vacations.
3/17/2014 9:05 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Again, in general, I strongly believe in a year-round calendar, in which the summer vacation (or any vacation) is No longer than 6 weeks. Besides the child care, financial, and work challenges for families and parents, students do better when school is year-round. I suppose my choices prior to this one refer to a "blend"; yet, I still believe close to year round is the best choice. Currently, my children are only in elementary; but, in the future, I can see how having different calendars could be more than a hassle. I think parents, children, and the community could benefit from a common calendar. Thank you so much!
3/17/2014 6:13 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Year round calendar offers most effective learning for kids
3/16/2014 9:50 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Traditional much more preferred
3/16/2014 9:35 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Retention is an issue with the Mandarin Immersion program, so it would be best not to have breaks that are too long. Thank you!
3/16/2014 8:36 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The year-round calendar is the best option from an educational standpoint, and that should be the primary consideration. The school district should make its decision based on which option is best for educating students (not on convenience, tradition, sports schedules, or other factors). If the best option is a year-round schedule -- and it does make the most sense for ensuring that students learn and retain what they learn -- then the entire school district should adopt that format.
3/16/2014 10:26 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Prefer year round calendar at all schools including high schools
3/16/2014 1:06 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
We really want to see a blended and mostly aligned calendar. We believe a later start than year round, with a fall break of some kind and an earlier end than year round would be ideal. We propose the following schedule: starting in mid-to-late August, a two week fall intercession in October, a three week winter break, a two week spring break, ending in late May or early June. As close alignment with the High schools as possible focusing on aligning winter and spring breaks and either the beginning or end of the year is ideal.

3/15/2014 11:32 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Language based schools need to be year around so the kids don't forget too much of the language they are learning

3/15/2014 8:40 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

While is nice to have a matching calendar the age group of children in highschool vs children in elementary school is so significant it really doesn't represent a problem for me if they don't match

3/15/2014 2:39 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Having all schools (from elementary to high school level) in the same geographic area on a single calendar would be helpful particularly for family with children attending different schools. We vote for year-round calendar for the reasons mentioned in this survey. Thank you for gathering feedback from stakeholders on this important topic.

3/15/2014 11:54 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Our vote is for a balance between the two - 7 week summer and three 2-week intersession breaks (fall, winter, spring).

3/15/2014 9:28 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Having a Fall break gives us a chance to relax a little. We went to Abbott middle school from a traditional elementary school. This year we were able to afford a vacation for the first time because of low rates in Fall! Also, we did not have to pay for 10 weeks of summer camps this year.

3/15/2014 9:20 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I think it is important to align the break schedules with the high schools so families can spend quality time as a family!

3/15/2014 3:49 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Year round calendar

3/14/2014 10:56 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I like the 3 week intersession breaks that the year round calendar provides, but I can understand the need for overlap with schools that are on the traditional calendar, especially when a parent has a children on both systems. The winter break already overlaps by two weeks, so I don't see any changes there. The spring break could be adjusted so there is overlap, but we still maintain our 3 week intersession break. The fall break has no overlap and it's my favorite of the 3 intersession breaks.

3/14/2014 10:27 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
We would prefer our current year round calendar. Only change I would consider is to match middle school and high school start times. Our ultimate preference is not to make 20 schools' worth of families alter their schedules to fit the districts needs. Families are already set in their ways and having to recommit their schedules should really be considered.
3/14/2014 9:19 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

We would STRONGLY prefer either the traditional, or blended calendar. We are opposed to the year round calendar - particularly the very short summer. Too short for the kids to have a true break and summer. Thank you!
3/14/2014 8:47 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Having a blend so that high school, middle, and elementary have some commonality.
3/14/2014 5:44 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I wish for a blend of the two calendars. The fall intersession is most valuable for our family and I hope the blend calendar can keep it. The current summer break for year round calendar is a little too short and I hope it can be longer so that my child can take more interesting summer camps. The ideal calendar for my family would be like: school starts at beginning of August, 3 weeks fall break in October, 2 weeks winter break, 1 to 2 weeks of spring break, school ends at the end of May.
3/14/2014 4:42 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I would like to keep the year round calendar. Because our kids will have a shorter summer break. Thank you.
3/14/2014 4:07 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I like the year round calendar best, at worst, I would prefer a blend over the traditional calendar. Summer break on the traditional calendar is too long. And it is nice to have the extra family time during the breaks spread throughout the year on the year-round calendar.
3/14/2014 2:31 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

YEAR ROUND!!!
3/14/2014 2:02 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Again, I think the Year-Round Calendar is a terrific concept, both for the kids' knowledge retention and their stamina (i.e. more breaks to allow them to recharge), which will make it ultimately easier on the teachers academically and disciplinary-wise. I would prefer to keep that Year-Round Calendar for my kids' school if at all possible. That being said, if some compromise needs to be reached regarding the desire to (1) at least partially align with the High School District calendar, and/or (2) to allow some teachers to teach more summer school if they desire, I'd like to suggest the following: The current Year-Round calendar has 3 weeks of Fall Break, 3 weeks of Winter Break, 3 Weeks of Spring Break, and roughly 5 weeks of Summer Break (plus misc. teacher training professional days often bookended around MLK Day, Presidents Day, or Veterans Day). My proposed "Blended" calendar would be: 2 weeks of Fall Break 2 weeks of Winter Break - this would align with the High School calendar 2 weeks of Spring Break - 1 of those weeks can align with the High School calendar's Spring Break, which is currently in late March / early April 8 weeks of
Summer Break - thus we would take 1 week from each of the other breaks and add them to Summer Break. This Blended calendar would: (1) Retain enough breaks in the schedule to reduce stress / burnout on the kids. (2) Keep the summer break to just under 2 months, which is not optimal for student knowledge retention, but still much better than having a 3 month summer break. (3) With 8 weeks of summer, provide teachers enough flexibility to teach some summer school. As far as where in the Summer Break to place those additional three weeks, I'd place them in June, and try to keep the first day of the school year in late July/early August. The rationale for this is: (1) If Spring Break is moved earlier to align closer with the High School calendar, the end-of-Spring session should be moved earlier as well (to keep the length of that session the same). That would imply an earlier start to Summer Break. This would also be more in alignment with the High School calendar as well. (2) August is typically the hottest month of the year to vacation anywhere in the Northern Hemisphere. It's better to have the kids already in school at this point, and save some break time for the more temperate Fall session. Again, I 100% fully support the Year Round calendar we currently have, but if we absolutely have to move toward a common calendar for the entire district, this is the Blended calendar I could support.

3/14/2014 2:00 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

If learning is our priority, the year-round calendar should be kept. ESPECIALLY FOR IMMERSION PROGRAMS! But if we have to cut costs, I'm open to a blended calendar as long as the longest break is no longer than 4-6 weeks. Please support the immersion programs.

3/14/2014 12:30 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I would vote for one year-round calendar to not be complete with other school districts for the camps, vacation time and other schedules. It's more flexible.

3/14/2014 11:44 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Our family prefers a blend of the two calendars that aligns with the High School Calendar. Thank you very much for working on this.

3/14/2014 10:54 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I currently like the year round schedule...it allows families to take a longer vacation during off season. A blended calendar would work too as long as there is still at least 2 weeks to take time off during the fall/spring time. 3 weeks is nice as it helps to visit family out of the area.

3/14/2014 10:12 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Maximal overlap of Winter break and at least one of Fall or Spring Break is most important.

3/14/2014 9:36 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The most important thing to me about the schedule is supporting the language learning in the immersion program. Having said that a 5 weeks summer vacation is really short.

3/14/2014 9:18 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

If we need to blend the calendar, I would prefer a shorter spring and winter breaks and use those weeks for a bit longer summer. I would prefer we leave the October break alone.

3/14/2014 9:05 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
I think having a blend of the two calendars seem fair. I strongly feel that the current traditional calendar's summer break is too long. 5-6 weeks for a summer break is adequate. Again, please consider the language immersion schools. Thank you!
3/14/2014 8:40 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

For families with kids of different ages the alignment is very important, but it is also important to ensure that we don't sacrifice children's summer learning opportunity just to coordinate calendars. Younger kids lose a lot of what they have learned during long summer vacations. Our high-school kids also could use the additional training that a year-round calendar can offer so they are better prepared for the college.
3/14/2014 8:29 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I get the advantages of having consistent calendars across the district, but if we make that that transition I strongly, strongly encourage a decision to go to the year round calendar, which I think is much better for families.
3/14/2014 4:07 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I prefer the year round calendar as it is, but if there were to be changes, I'd opt for no longer than 6 weeks summer vacation.
3/13/2014 11:27 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Am happy with year round schedule and would like to see SMFCSD maintain year round for all schools.
3/13/2014 10:55 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

We like the year round program.
3/13/2014 10:33 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Year round preferred.
3/13/2014 10:12 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

BLEND! Please have breaks spread throughout the year (Fall, Winter, Spring) so that we can have the most energy to teach and learn throughout the school year. Then, to align somewhat more closely with the High School calendar and the copious opportunities that abound during summer, please end the school year by mid-June. Thank you kindly. Good luck with your challenging task at hand!
3/13/2014 10:10 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I did not have experience with a year round calendar prior to my girls attending College Park. I was skeptical initially but have found it works great for them and for me. It's also nice having vacation opportunities outside of the busy traditional school breaks.
3/13/2014 9:36 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
The most important aspects of the calendar to me are the fall and spring breaks. A common calendar is not important to me at this time, but will be in four more years. When creating a common calendar, I strongly oppose elimination of the fall and spring breaks that are features of the year round calendar. (If eliminated, I will leave this district!) As a compromise, I suggest a 2-week break in October, a 2-week break in the winter, and a 2-week break in the spring. Then, the length of the summer break can be whatever length necessary to make the school year 180 days long. If this proposed calendar aligns well with that of the high school district, that would be ideal. If it does not, but at least gets all of the SMFCSD schools on a common calendar and is acceptable to the parents and teachers, that would be a good outcome.

It is important that the breaks (including summer break) or short.

I support the year round calendar the most. If a blended calendar could work for all that would be fairest to all? I may be supportive of that.

Prefer either year round or blend

This seems awfully focused on convenience of vacation breaks; I personally appreciate the consideration of which schedules seem to work better to support our kids learning. I do feel like the regular 3-week breaks during the school year help to keep our kids in the rhythm of year-round learning.

The blend sounds appealing. The breaks are lovely but two weeks for inter sessions would provide a slightly longer summer which would be nice too

Above all else, keep the summer break relatively short. It keeps the kids' knowledge retention high, and makes the time spent in school more effective. We've had 5 weeks of summer break in the past during the Year-Round calendar. You should not increase it to more than 6 weeks. Also, keep the more frequent, longer (i.e. 2 weeks or more) breaks throughout the year. It allows the kids to recharge their batteries and hit the ground running when they get back from the break. Definitely keep the Fall Break. If you have to pare anything down, pare 1 week away from either Winter or Spring break. I'd prefer Spring since it's common for families to take multiple weeks off during the holidays, and paring Winter Break from 3 to 2 weeks may reduce travel flexibility.

Even though I have only one child (so I don't have challenges coordinating multiple children's calendars), I understand the value of trying to better align the calendars for Staff/Teacher purposes, so I'd suggest some changes in both calendars, aligning them whenever possible but not creating just one calendar for both. Reduce the Winter
Break in the Year Round to 2 weeks, create a 2 (or 1) week Fall Intersession for high school and lengthen their Spring Break to 2 weeks. :-)  
3/13/2014 7:53 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ↙

Fall break is really enjoyed and prefer to vacation in the fall rather than summer. I love the year round lifestyle!  
3/13/2014 6:20 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ↙

August: Start of school beginning or mid month Sept: school October: school November: 1 week off for Thanksgiving December: 2 weeks off for winter break January: school February: 1 week off for President's Day/week (as they do in Santa Clara County Schools) March: school April: 2 weeks off for spring break May: school June: Last day of school mid June?  
3/13/2014 3:01 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ↙

I like the idea of having 2 weeks in fall, winter, and spring with a longer summer. However, the next choice would be to line up with high school calendar  
3/13/2014 2:30 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ↙

The traditional calendar was invented when children had to work on the farm in the summer. It is not at all appropriate to modern life. I am 100% in favor of the year round calendar and strongly believe that it should be extended to high schools as well.  
3/13/2014 12:11 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ↙

I prefer the blend of the two calendars which applies advantages from both such as not too long summer breaks (at most 7 weeks) and 2 weeks breaks of winter and spring breaks. I believe these gives enough breaks for both students and stuffs as well as family to spend some quality time.  
3/13/2014 11:53 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ↙

I think a blend of the calendars would work. Maybe a summer break that is a little shorter than the traditional but longer than year-round. Having 3 breaks - fall, winter and spring has been difficult for scheduling with other districts schedules and difficult in finding care during those off break times. I'd like to see those as 1-2 week breaks at the most.  
3/13/2014 10:30 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ↙

Studies have shown that a child benefits more from a year round calendar. Instead of making our children on an already year round calendar take a step back in their educational development, why not put the high school on a year round calendar? Then, they too will benefit. Why jeopardize the education of our kids by taking away from them something that provides an educational benefit? Why not, instead, give that same benefit to all the students in our system? We are already falling behind most of the rest of the world in education. A year round system puts us very so slightly closer to those we are falling behind. Why in the world would we take that away? If healthy meal alternatives were only available to lower grade students, would we be voting on taking that away so all students are given the same unhealthy meal choices? No, we'd be finding a way to bring those same healthy meals to all the students. So why don't we do the same with a school calendar that has been proven to enhance a youth's educational experience? It just does not make sense to do otherwise.  
3/13/2014 10:25 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... ↙
I would rather see a blend of the two calendars, with a longer summer than the current year round schedule and a shorter Spring Break. Would love to keep the October Break, but it does not need to be as long.
3/13/2014 9:55 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I prefer having the option of both calendars as it is right now.
3/12/2014 10:34 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

A blend of the two calendars is our preference.
3/12/2014 6:40 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The long summer break is difficult for parents finding care and activities, and for children as a long break breaks them out of their routine from the prior year.
3/12/2014 5:40 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I think it is important to have a common calendar for the sanity of families with children in different schools so that they can plan vacations and time off together without someone missing school.
3/12/2014 3:07 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

It seems that many parent concerns could be resolved by aligning the winter & spring breaks with the high school schedule and between both year round & traditional school calendars. This would allow certain schools such as magnet language programs to remain on the year round calendar. Magnet & GATE programs are all voluntary programs, so families can decide whether they can work with the year-round calendar before committing to attend those schools.
3/12/2014 2:20 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

One of the main reasons we love the year round schedule is that the breaks do not coincide with everyone else in other cities, state, etc. We can go on vacation and it's not that crowded. We hope a year round schedule or a "modified" year round schedule is continued within the SMFC District. Thank you.
3/12/2014 1:51 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

In my opinion, the Year Round calendar is a better choice for the school since we can arrange our vacation during the Fall or Spring Break, so we don't have to running into over-crowded people at attraction sites.
3/12/2014 1:25 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I would prefer to continue on year round calendar.
3/12/2014 12:04 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
Current Year Round calendar works just fine and it is very flexible compared to traditional. Please keep it.
3/12/2014 10:37 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  c

A shorter summer break is key to maintaining academic progress from the previous year. It is particularly important for my child who attends a language immersion school. I do not want to be on a traditional calendar. If there must be one common calendar, then I would prefer a blend of the two calendars!!!
3/12/2014 10:15 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  c

Refer to studies: "New York State Board of Regents concluded that disadvantaged students lose 27% more learning over summer months than their peers." "One longitudinal study of 6 elementary schools, 3 on traditional calendars and 3 on year round schedules, discovered positive effects of year round education. It found that, in most cases, the sample of students in the year-round schools posted overall test-score INCREASES that were higher than those of their traditionally schooled counterparts." -Kneese, 2000. Please see my previous comment. Better for retention in all subjects to have short summer and frequent mental breaks throughout the year.
3/12/2014 9:40 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  c

it should be year round calendars for all schools. Haven't the studies shown that year round is the best for a child's education...there shouldn't be any debate about best education vs convenience for parents and teachers.
3/12/2014 3:52 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  c

Having a blended schedule will be a nice compromise for all. With the blended schedule keeping fall & spring intercession at 3 wks then winter intercession at 3 weeks, a shorter summer break. It doesn't matter to us when start & end dates will be. I believe most families in year round schedule enjoy the fall & winter breaks for traveling. The concerns families have primarily are due to siblings in different schedules. By having a blended schedule it will satisfy what families under year round schedule likes & also satisfy families under the 2 different schedule. I don't think families with just traditional schedule kids are too concern about a change. In regards to lack of child care during intercession, I believe there are many programs available but the cost are high. Maybe resources can be redirected to funding for some of there programs so it is affordable for families.
3/12/2014 1:58 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  c

I wish we have the year round calendar.
3/12/2014 12:20 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  c

I like the three 3-week intersession breaks as they are. This provide a multitude of options. You take an international flight and enjoy a long vacation during any of these breaks. I really like the fall break, which does not overlap with the other school calendars. Two of the three weeks of the winter intercession overlap with the other calendars and I'm perfectly fine with that provided that we still have that extra 3rd week. I'm find adjusting the 3 weeks in the Spring so there's overlap, but I still want a 3 week intercession in the spring.
3/11/2014 11:58 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  c

A blend of the two calendars would be ideal so that families would not have to juggle so many different schedules, especially those families with more than two kids. Is there a way to compare how a cohort of kids on traditional calendars performed on the STAR tests versus those on year round calendars? The most important objective in
looking at these calendars is to provide our kids the best possible environment to learn and reach their greatest potential.

3/11/2014 10:38 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I prefer a year round or a blend  
3/11/2014 10:13 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

A blend of the two calendars seem to be the most beneficial. I think it would be important to end the school year in mid June.

3/11/2014 7:46 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I think a blend of the two would be ideal. I feel school should start in the fall(September) and have a three week fall, a two week winter and a two week spring intersession with a six week summer vacation.

3/11/2014 4:46 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Making sure the summer break is not too long because of the language immersion support needed in our school and others like it. We would be happy with something of a “blend” between traditional and year round, but we have become converts of the year round schedule of more short breaks. It seems to keep students from getting burned out and gives families more opportunities for travel rather than at peak times for other vacationing schools. Would like to make sure the district works to provide child care - camps & enrichment and also works with community organizations and city rec departments to provide enough opportunities to support working families. Thanks for providing forums to discuss these topics!

3/11/2014 4:06 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

The SMFC district overall is a bit overwhelming with ALL children being on break. I like the overlap/blend of calendar.. Not only are the length of summer vacation and start date important, but the space between the Winter and Spring break too. I fear the teachers and children will burn out without the vacation/intersessions not being spaced out properly.

3/11/2014 3:55 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

We need a unified calendar to enable working parents to set up childcare during the school breaks. Currently, with only some of the schools on the year round calendar this does NOT work for families with 2 working parents outside of the home with no family nearby. Looking ahead for our family, I see that there are are no intersession camps available for middle school student at all. Currently, there are very few for elementary school students that go ALL DAY. As more Bay Area employers require workers to be present in the office, the professional families who are choosing the year-round schools like College Park will be squeezed out and unable to attend those schools for lack of intersession care. The few camps that are available begin at 9 a.m., which means that working parents are late for work every day -- no one can do that for 9 weeks of the year without getting fired. Similarly, the camps end at 3 pm. I have spent considerable effort over the past 4 years trying to get additional intersession camps established for the year-round schools. I have visited and emailed camp providers and local businesses that cater to children (Planet Granite, art studios, gymnastics, ballet, ice skating venues, etc.) to ask them to offer FULL day camps with early care AND after care. My success rate has been zero, with the exception of Scribble Me Happy, which still is 9 am to 3 pm. Our family uses up both parents' vacation times taking off staggered days to cover the intersessions and the 2 weeks of half days. We cannot hire high school or college student for child care since they are in school. I have tried care.com, sittercity, Town & Country nannies, word of mouth, mother's Yahoo groups and Craigslist to try to piece together coverage. This is stressful for our children and very expensive. At this time we are faced with giving up on
the Mandarin program that we love. We NEED a unified calendar since I hope that with all schools on one calendar there will be a better chance of getting school break camps set up. I will again hit the streets to get camps established on the new unified calendar, and hope to have more success going forward! A blended calendar with 2-week breaks would be phenomenal!

3/11/2014 3:52 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

I think it would be best for our community to have one calendar as most parents have children in different schools. My biggest concern would be the long summers. Thank you.

3/11/2014 2:54 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

I find that trying to align the calendar to the High School should not be a top priority. High Schools align their calendars with colleges and universities because of the semester line ups and preparing them with finals. I think the focus should be a common district calendar only. Leave the high school out since, they do their own things because of sports and other events. I find it unfair to align the district to it, because then you don't value the parental choice of calendars and school that the district has provided.

3/11/2014 2:44 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

It would be great if the calendars were similar, preferably Year Round, as I have 2 kids in both districts.

3/11/2014 2:42 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

I think having a common calendar is useful (even preferable), however more important to me is the length of break in the fall and spring, and it would be nice if the summer vacation started a little earlier in mid-June. So first choice would be a common calendar that gives these elements, however I'd prefer the year-round schedule over a common traditional calendar if that choice had to be made.

3/11/2014 2:41 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

I prefer a blend of the two calendars. The traditional summer is way too long. The breaks, especially October, give families a chance to vacation in off season and provide nice breaks for the kids, but I would suggest these breaks are 2 weeks rather than 3 weeks long.

3/11/2014 2:40 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

blend

3/11/2014 2:37 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

It turns out that there isn’t a choice of keeping the year round calendar in your survey with the questions you’ve asked. Maybe it wasn’t clear to me. It would also be beneficial to understand why there were two calendars in the first place and was it not accomplishing what it was intended to do.

3/11/2014 2:36 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

I belive in a common calendar. I know at first parents maybe against a year round program, but I know all parents will come to enjoy some kind of a year round calendar. Summer cant be longer then 6 maybe 7 weeks. The transitions for
the kids is too difficult after. The time spent on review isn't worth the extra weeks. A longer summer also would take away from those intercessions that would give both staff and students time to relax to support an enriched learning experience.

3/11/2014 1:48 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Blend of two calendars would be great! I really like the year round but soon will have a child in traditional and one in year round so having either year round all the way or a blended that was the same throught out all levels of school. I feel the shorter summer is great for retention of learning!!

3/11/2014 10:40 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Would most prefer to keep the year round calendar. Besides choosing College Park for the Mandarin immersion program, our second reason is the year round calendar. If that is absolutely not possible, a blended calendar would be second choice. I would expect that most families would send their kids to the same elementary schools, but can see a problem if parents chose different calendar schools for middle school, though glad that the stem academy has the same year round calendar for the continuation of the Mandarin immersion program.

3/11/2014 4:52 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I think all schools should be on the year round calendar.
3/10/2014 11:07 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Keeping the year round calendar is essential for students learning a second language. The shorter breaks help them retain the second language, especially during the summer.
3/10/2014 9:30 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I think it would be a big mistake to have EVERY school on the same schedule. It would stress our cities economy in ways we are not even imagining - we would have boost up everything! We want to keep our year round calendar and do not want to have it go away anytime soon. This is incredibly important for our teachers and students to avoid burnout and to increase productivity during school time
3/10/2014 7:25 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I do not feel that it is important to have a common calendar. I think it would severly impact the services provided during that time - especially with overcrowding with Annex, YMCA programs, etc. It would be more beneficial for those families with multiple school placements to have overlap whenever possible in their school schedules.
3/10/2014 4:04 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

If the district were to standardize on a single calendar, I think it should be the Year Round calendar, for a variety of reasons: educational benefits primarily, but also economic and logistical benefits for the parents -- which is an especially large concern for parents who don't have a lot of money. "Alignment" is a complicated word, but what matters for families is this: Make the Year Round calendar overlap enough with the traditional calendar so that it's possible to plan vacations with the whole family. For our family, that's most important on the summer and winter holidays. They don't have to start or end at the exact same time, they just need to have a significant overlap (4 weeks in the summer, 1.5 or 2 weeks in the winter) so that we can plan easily.
3/10/2014 3:59 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
Year round is the best. My kids stay focused and my husband and I get to spend lots more quality time with them since they have numerous "short" breaks. 3/10/2014 2:31 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The alignment of calendars is of no importance to us. Our focus is on what is best for the children in each individual school. Shorter and more frequent breaks works best when learning a second language. 3/10/2014 2:26 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I would rather have the San Mateo High School District schedule to be altered or blended to be more like a year round schedule. That means having at least two weeks of fall, winter and spring break. 3/10/2014 12:39 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Please modify the year-round calendar, as stated in my previous comments. 3/10/2014 11:24 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Year Round is better, especially my child will be going to College Park (Mandarin Immersion). It's also nice to be on vacation when most of the schools are not on break yet. 3/10/2014 11:02 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I would like to retain a fall and a spring break of at least 2 weeks. 3/10/2014 10:06 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Please see previous comments. 3/10/2014 8:15 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I think it is extremely important to have the calendars overlap in the summer and spring break between the high school and elementary schools. I also think that a longer summer is important. 4 weeks is just not long enough of a break. 3/10/2014 7:42 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Year round, with shorter spring and fall breaks, and CONSISTENT across the district and close as possible to the SMUHSD calendar 3/10/2014 7:31 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Year round please!!! And all uniforms for middle schools also!! 3/10/2014 12:23 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
I vote for a Year Round calendar.
3/9/2014 11:12 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Year round calendar or blend with multiple short breaks and no breaks longer than 4 weeks for immersion schools.
3/9/2014 10:41 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I chose the school my kids are in because it is year round. Research shows this is a superior calendar system, particularly for the underprivileged who get no educational opportunities in a long break. Why doesn't SMFC school district raise its standards, rather than lower them? All kids benefit from consistent, ongoing education, NOT from summer brain drain. Clearly, I am FOR the year round calendar.
3/9/2014 10:05 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I don't have an issue with two separate calendars and I would advocate that a unified calendar be based on the Year Round calendar.
3/9/2014 9:51 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Please maintain the year round schedule; if it can't be kept, please keep the fall & winter breaks at 2 and 3 weeks, respectively.
3/9/2014 8:14 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I would like to stick with year round calendar, second would be a blended of the two calendars if things had to change.
3/9/2014 12:21 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I can either go Year Round or Blended but NOT TRADITIONAL because of the Long Summer Break and Less Break in Between.
3/9/2014 10:14 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I personally feel year round is the best
3/8/2014 11:29 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

We love the long break in October. The Winter break could be shortened. The kids really need a break in the spring as well, but April is best. March is too early. Additionally, the mid-week starts and stops of the school year presents child care challenges. Either week pay for a full week of camp and only attend 2-3 days or the parents need to take time off work to care for the kids. A Monday start to the school year, and a Friday end are ideal.
3/8/2014 7:30 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
Overall, a longer summer (increased by 3 weeks) and having each intersession shortened by one week so that each intersession is only 2 weeks long, would be optimal.

4 EVENLY spaced intercessions throughout school year (summer, fall, winter, spring). Summer break of REASONABLE length (e.g. 6 weeks)

If there ends up being a blend of the two calendars, a shorter summer would likely be the best compromise with no more than an 8-week summer break. A longer fall break is also great so that families can take vacations while the weather is still warm and it's off-season so costs are lower.

If only 1 calendar exists, all kids are off school at the same time. The camp/day care resources might become too scared. So a common calendar might not be a good idea from the community perspective.

In the past we've been told that the high school calendar cannot go year round because of football. That to me is absolutely unacceptable. School schedules should not be based on extracurricular activities at all. Academics should be the priority at all times! Children retain much more of what they've learned when they do not have long summer breaks. The only way that the high school district and the grade school district should have a common calendar is if all of them went to the year round schedule. Otherwise, I think the grade schools should keep their own separate schedules.

Year round calendar is much more easy for family with two working parents. The longer summer break is, the more parents have to struggle on changing working schedule to adapt schedule for different camps.

Year-round is most beneficial for families wanting to spread out childcare costs. Please consider this carefully!

Current calendar for year round school is fine just the way it is. If it aint broke then don't fix it.

The calendar does not need to match completely with the high school calendar, but has to be aligned enough to allow families with children in multiple schools to be able to have some family time together. That said, we love the year round schedule, and would be happy to have a new calendar for the district that preserves the intercessions and the slightly shorter summer break.
1) Traditional SMFCSD and high-school calendars could be very easily aligned (identical break durations, just different start/end dates) 2) Keeping the summer break short and compensating for that with a fall break is critical to language continuity at year-round bilingual schools 3) Winter break could easily be reduced to 2 weeks for year-round to align with the other system, compensated by an earlier last day of instruction 4) Spring breaks for traditional and year-round could be made into 2 weeks and align start date with high-school calendar. At the same time, we would align the last day of instruction for the two (4 days earlier for year round and 4 days later for traditional)

3/6/2014 10:32 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

We feel that while a change in calendar for most other schools in the SMFCSD may be desired, College Park and Garden Fiesta should remain on year-round calendar because: * Long summer break is detrimental particularly to learning a new language, and both schools are immersion schools * We chose to apply to and attend these immersion schools and so the year round calendar is not thrust upon us - we chose it. And we should not be forced to change the year round calendar just to conform to other schools because parents at other schools are complaining about their calendars - parents at other schools did not choose to attend those schools and therefore had no choice about the calendar.

3/6/2014 10:18 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

In the beginning i was not to sure about the year round school, but once we saw how well it works it is the best schedule.

3/6/2014 9:33 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I support year round but definitely not the traditional long summer calendar. That is just way too much time off and most families are not off for that long of a period so kids end up being shuffled off to see who can watch them, daycare, grandparents, neighbors etc. We should promote family time and traditional does not do this for the masses

3/6/2014 8:41 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

At least two weeks during the fall, winter, and spring break are very beneficial to the flow of the school year and a real reprieve for the students between “quarters” especially in the elementary school years.

3/6/2014 6:58 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The year round calendar has been an absolute life saver for us. In our family both parents work 60+ hours a week. The shorter more frequent breaks are far more manageable for us in regards to affording child care. Our daughter also thrives under the year round program. She retains so much more knowledge when she doesn't have the extended summer break. If it's an absolute must that the calendar be merged we would prefer a hybrid vs traditional.

3/6/2014 1:09 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I don't wish to go on a traditional calendar and would prefer to keep the current year round calendar. However, in consideration of having the benefits of a district wide calendar that helps parents with children attending different grade schools e.g. one at elementary and one at a middle school, and provides better co-ordination of vacation camps, I would propose the following calendar: Start in early August 2 weeks Fall break in October (early/mid Oct) 2 weeks Winter Break (over Xmas and start back in early Jan) 1 week for ski week (combined with President's Day weekend in mid Feb) - reduces absences from school as skiing conditions are generally not good over the winter break 2 weeks Spring Break (mid/late April) 6 and a half to 7 week Summer vacation (starting approx. 1 or 2 weeks
into June) - if days are required for parent / teacher conferences/staff days etc then drop the summer holidays to 6 weeks in total. Another District wide improvement to the calendar would be 2 whole days allocated for parent / teacher conferences per year rather than 10 days of half days, which is harder to manage for childcare and is more disruptive for teachers for managing their workload.

3/6/2014 12:31 PM View respondent's answers  Categorize as...  α

Blend would be best!
3/6/2014 11:37 AM View respondent's answers  Categorize as...  α

I think a blend of the two calendars would be my preference.
3/6/2014 11:10 AM View respondent's answers  Categorize as...  α

Thank you District Staffs for hosting the workshops for the one calendar! It’s been useful and informative. Thanks for your time and energy in supporting the schools, principals & teachers, staffs, students, and their families. Unlike myself, most families have multiple children. It’s important to them to have the schedule to line up to their children in high school, middle school, and elementary school. Also, it’s important for some families like myself to have more than a week of fall/winter/spring break to travel places to visit family in hot locations like Florida for us (Ideally is at least 2 weeks). Summer time is too hot to go to those high temperature locations. We find Year Round School to be the best fit for us. For our family, shorter summer is very important to us because camps and child cares are too costly to have in a long duration of time. Also, we are Mandarin language school, it’s hard to find source in mandarin for a long duration of time. We want our kids to keep doing well with the language program. I find my daughter perform better during school year and perform less well when coming back from intersession break. So we believe in shorter break is better for learning and retaining the Mandarin language. We find Year Round School to be the best fit for us. Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to write and give feed back to you. Thank you so much for your support and time. We very appreciated.
3/6/2014 11:08 AM View respondent's answers  Categorize as...  α

I would hope that the summer vacation is around 6 weeks, when school actually starts or ends wouldn't matter to me. And I would hope to keep the intersession breaks! It is great to have the breathers throughout the school year.
3/6/2014 10:43 AM View respondent's answers  Categorize as...  α

Traditional
3/6/2014 9:44 AM View respondent's answers  Categorize as...  α

I absolutely love the year-round calendar. I hope we can keep it. I really, really, really do not want to move to a traditional calendar. I suppose a compromise of a blended calendar would suffice but my preference is to keep the year-round calendar.
3/6/2014 9:04 AM View respondent's answers  Categorize as...  α

I cannot stress enough the importance of having all the schools on the same calendar. Personally and professionally, I believe a year round calendar is most beneficial to parents, students and the community.
3/6/2014 8:58 AM View respondent's answers  Categorize as...  α
To have kids go to a traditional calendar only to align with the High School District would be horrible. I think my kids will retain more info and have their breaks at appropriate intervals on the year round calendar. I think my kids will be better prepared for high school on this current track. Note: I have 3 kids. For 3 years I will have, 1 kid at George Hall, 1 kid at Abbott, and 1 kid at Hillsdale. I still want to keep the year round calendar.

3/6/2014 12:35 AM View respondent’s answers Categorize as...

Though one calendar would be ideal, it may necessary to find compromise by maintaining TWO calendars but making them closer together (for at least a 2 year trial period). This might be necessary to avoid major disappointment and anger from either group.

3/5/2014 10:42 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I like the system where a family can choose a school knowing which calendar it follows. One of the factors in choosing our current school is the lure of the year round calendar

3/5/2014 10:40 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

What's the point to have a single calendar in the SMFC district? It's a waste of time. We enjoy the year round calendar we have now.

3/5/2014 9:17 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I mostly think the district should have only one calendar. Considering the schools with each calendar are almost half and half now, the city is not prepared for the year round calendar (which has been around for almost "20 years") and there is nothing for middle schoolers to do during the Fall and Spring breaks. Aligning with the HS makes the most sense, but mostly just being consistent within the district.

3/5/2014 9:07 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Traditional calendar is a bad idea. Please don't make everybody go with that. Being able to take vacations at off times is great! Having a shorter summer so kids aren't as bored and don't lose too much knowledge is also great!

3/5/2014 7:27 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

We love the year round calendar. It would be great if school started mid to late Aug, have three 2 week intersessions (fall, winter and spring) and end sometime mid June. My boys work hard in school and the breaks throughout the year help. I think on a traditional calendar summers are too long.

3/5/2014 3:55 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I prefer that the lower grades not have the same calendar as the highschool. It is perfect they way it is now no need for change.

3/5/2014 2:24 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
A blend of the two calendars would best fit into different educational needs for all children without leaving behind those children with special needs. This is why I like this district.

Family time is very important and having children on multiple calendars presents a lot of challenges to vacations together, homework schedules being aligned and the ebb and flow of the school year. I think it will help provide more cohesiveness to our community to get the calendars better aligned across K-12.

While I think there are +s and -s for each option, the year-round calendar works much better for a child in a language immersion program.

Shorter summer vacations: max 4 weeks, the other three intersessions, can vary with fall having 2 weeks, winter 3 weeks, and spring 4 weeks. A hybrid can work as long as the days off school do not exceed more than four weeks at a time. Kids get bored, and have to relearn the concepts, thus wasting precious school time when the new school year begins.

I think the Traditional Calendar is more aligned with no only School System in US, but around the world. At least we need to blend the Year Round Calendar with the Traditional Calendar to give kids more exploration time in Summer aligned with other School Districts.

Year Round calendar is beneficial for the students, parents and community. Thirteen weeks of summer break is too long. Camps are becoming unaffordable at $400/wk. As parents, we would rather have our children in school learning and socializing with their peers, than them hanging out at friends' houses watching tv and playing computer games.

Please consider keeping the YEAR ROUND format. I previously mentioned the HUGE cost of childcare accrued when i have to pay for the entire summer. The year round calendar breaks that up. I think it is better for the kids to stay on a routine, to have shorter breaks to retain the info they have learned.

There a many advantages of having a year round calendar. One article @ http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/choosing-schools-programs/pros-and-cons-year-round-schools stated that school "in fast-growing areas transition to year-round schedules as a way to ease overcrowding." Hmm... isn't SMFCS is that situation???
I believe that kids learn and retain the information better when they have mini breaks as opposed to a 3 month summer. Kids have a tougher time recalling the skills they had acquired since they have been away longer. Just like adults, kids need a little break to function better but too long of a break, although fun, makes it that much harder to return to the routine. I understand that the District wants to have one calendar but changing what had been working for year round kids doesn't seem to be the answer. The District is already changing the Montessori program and uplifting the kids to a site that is still unknown. Now you want to change the calendar too? It's not always about convenience but about what is going to benefit the children academically.

If you were to change the calendar for the district, it would be nice to stick with the year round calendar. It's been working out great for our kids. They really enjoy the intersession breaks and it really gives them a chance to recharge and take a break but not long enough were they forget about what they had learned at school especially important with the language immersion schools. Yes, it can be a little challenging during the intersession with both parents working but I think that if more schools were on year round schedule, I am sure there would be more intersession camps that would crop up since there would be a demand for this. Having the intersession breaks, would be no different as to what a family would do for the Summer with a traditional calendar - scheduling 10 weeks of camps for their kids but on the year round it would just be spread out throughout the year versus all in the summer.

We are a YR family. Our experience is reduced stress and burnout from frequent breaks. This is my priority!

A year round calendar would be my first choice and a blended calendar second.

I strongly support a blended calendar, as I do not want a Traditional calendar. My family has thoroughly enjoyed being on a year-round calendar. My only wish for the year-round calendar has been that the summer was 1-2 weeks longer but not more than that. My ideal calendar would have these components: 3 intersession breaks 3-week Winter break at least a 2-week Fall break Summer break would be a maximum of 7-8 weeks. Summer end would be sometime in early- to mid-August (closer to the latter) Winter and Spring breaks to have some overlap with high school district.

Having intersessions are important for family’s to have vacation time, kids to have a chance to regroup, focus on a specific area for improvement. Shorter summers help keep school patterns in mind and learning loss down. keeping breaks aligned with high school district would be helpful for many multikid families. Current year round schedule works really well for kids and education.

We would recommend a blended calendar. But alignment with the High School calendar is not our highest priority. With our kids in the year round calendar, we enjoy the Fall intercession but find the three week intercessions are too long and the Summer is too short. A blend that results in a 7-8 week Summer and three 2 week (Fall, Winter, Spring) intercessions would be ideal.
I would like to keep the year-round calendar. My second choice would be a blended calendar where the summer break is a little longer than YR, but the fall, winter and spring breaks are longer than the traditional calendar.
3/4/2014 9:58 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

I prefer the Year Round calendar for my child.
3/4/2014 9:04 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

Unless you are offering cookie cutter programs at all schools, as opposed to magnet programs, then a common calendar makes absolutely no sense. The district and district families have all invested in these magnet programs, some of which work best with a year round schooling. I can't speak to whether the other schools would be similarly successful academically if they, too, were on year round. I just know ours works and must not change.
3/4/2014 3:58 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

Keep the Year Round calendar...
3/4/2014 3:54 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

I prefer a blend of the two calendars. Please refer to my comments for previous questions.
3/4/2014 2:54 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

Year Round is the best option for all students. Summer vacation should be kept as short as possible to retain information learned from the prior year. While many parents with children spanning high school and middle/elementary may prefer matching vacations, the district's highest priority should be on the academic success of the students rather than the convenience of parents.
3/4/2014 2:20 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

We moved from another state so that our children could go to College Park Elementary and take advantage of the Mandarin Immersion program. My highest priority is keeping the summer vacation to a minimum so that all of the hard work we do during the school year is not lost with an extended summer break. If we can blend with the traditional calendar in some manner by adjusting the other break times (fall, winter, spring) and/or adjusting the start/ending school dates - I am all for it - just keep us off of a long summer break. The school district has a wonderful program at College Park that continues to grow and improve each year - to throw in a drastic calendar change would be rough on the staff and students. With the special curriculum at College Park, perhaps it is the one school in the district that should remain 'as is' - if parents want to send their children to College Park, then they need to understand the calendar and make accommodations for that - it may not follow the other schools. The staff may have to be creative on their yearly training opportunities.
3/4/2014 12:39 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

I think a common calendar for the district is a good idea but only if it falls in line with the year-round calendar (generally-some modification is ok) because I believe this is the best option for children's learning and if it's not even an option I'd rather have two separate choices of calendars. I also do not feel that we should adjust our calendar so it aligns with the high school calendar just for the sake of being the same as them, I think we must put the priority first.
on what is best for children and if it's possible to align it a little bit with the high school calendar then that's fine but if not, that should not be the deciding factor! The traditional calendar is a relic from the past; it was developed because of farming, and it has no bearing whatsoever on our modern day society and culture. There's no reason for children to have a summer break of two and half months—they get bored, they lose a lot of the knowledge that they had, they forget how to learn even and there's a large adjustment when they come back to school. Having several smaller breaks throughout the school year is much better for their health and their learning abilities, not to mention for parents sanity as well!! Summer break for 2 Months Is Way too much time to have to figure out what to do with a kid all at once.

3/4/2014 11:51 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

A blend of the calendars would be fine. If we have to move a week of vacation somewhere, I would not mind moving it to the summer; however, I don't think a summer over 5 1/2 weeks makes sense for the immersion programs.

3/4/2014 11:41 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

I am a huge proponent of the year-round calendar. In particular, I love the 3-week fall/winter/spring breaks for incorporating other more creative extracurricular pursuits and travel for the kids—and have not personally found it a struggle to find good, affordable camps, whether through the district or through private providers. As good as it is for the kids to have significant breather through the year, I find the year-round calendar forces me to do the same in my work world, which makes for a healthier family overall! Love that the kids don't lose any learning over the summer and "back to school" just isn't a big deal. Summer doesn't feel any different than any of the other breaks so there's no moping around lamenting the end of summer. Super easy. Having said all of that, once my kids are in different schools (elementary and middle school) four years from now, being on the same calendar (ANY calendar) would be better than having only one of my kids on the year-round calendar.

3/4/2014 11:07 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

The most important aspect to me is to keep the summers short like the year round calendar follows now. I really believe it helps students retain their knowledge.

3/4/2014 11:06 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

We prefer the year round schedule. If there has to be a hybrid calendar, then we would like the fall break to be at least 2-3 weeks since that is the best time to travel, cost-wise and weather-wise. I would rather sacrifice a shorter spring and summer break in order to have a longer fall break.

3/4/2014 10:35 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

I would prefer to have a year round calendar, and would have little to no objection if is necessary to modify or blend it to OVERLAP with the high school calendar, but I think complete alignment is unnecessary and damaging because it deprives SMFCSD students and families of the benefits of a year round schedule. (See previous comments for No. 8.) Why not have the HS district consider switching to year round to align with SMFCSD? The number of breaks still provide time and opportunity for extracurriculars and enrichment activities at all levels, including HS. Than you for your time and consideration.

3/4/2014 9:59 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... 

I do think all schools in the district should be on the same calendar. The Year Round Calendar has proven to be more effective, in my opinion. The Traditional Calendar is too old-fashioned for today's working families. 

3/4/2014 9:44 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
Year Round for all schools!
3/4/2014 9:43 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

Please keep year round system. Most family use either system so I do not see the point of alignment.
3/4/2014 7:42 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

I would prefer all schools (elem, middle, & high) to follow the same Year Round Calendar. I wish not NOT follow the Traditional Calendar.
3/4/2014 12:13 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

We want to keep the year around calendar.
3/4/2014 12:11 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

We do not see a need to align school calendars. In fact, it is nice to not have an onslaught of teens & children all off at the same time gathering in the malls and streets, thus avoiding trouble between them. We have embraced individual time with each of our children when their schedules do not align, seeing this as an opportunity to have quality time together. As stated before, we definitely believe that the Year Round calendar is more agreeable from an academic perspective. Too much information is lost during a long summer break with the Traditional Calendar. Since there has been an increase in schools on the Year Round calendar, there seems to be well supported programs and camps during the 3 week intercession breaks. This approach is better balanced than pushing your child from one camp to the next program to fill an entire summer on the Traditional calendar, which is extremely exhausting for the child. The Year Round calendar keeps things fresh for the student while they are in school learning and when they are on a quick break. The traditional calendar seems to drag on both while in school and during a long summer break.
3/3/2014 10:48 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

Prefer year round calendar
3/3/2014 10:36 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

If you can find a blend that works, I would prefer that. I do believe it is helpful to have all siblings on the same schedule, but I also really prefer the year round schedule.
3/3/2014 10:34 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

Year Round
3/3/2014 10:33 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

We understand that the high school calendar will probably always have a long summer, which is needed for students to hold down jobs, get internships, etc. However we strongly feel that the language immersion programs need a year-
round calendar, and that indeed all elementary-age students could benefit from this calendar. We hope the district will adopt a year-round or blended calendar with a short summer, rather than a traditional calendar.

3/3/2014 10:28 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

Different schools have different needs. Language programs would severely be impacted by a change from Year Round calendar to the Traditional calendar. Not knowing what might impact schools on the Traditional calendar, it is hard to comment from that aspect. Is it possible for all schools to move to YEAR ROUND calendar? It would make sense that the goal of educating today's youth in a seamless learning environment, where there is less need for review and more content learned would be in the student's best interest and the best interest for our future.

3/3/2014 10:12 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

Please change fiesta gardens to traditional calendar

3/3/2014 9:40 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

The fall break in the year-round calendar is terrific. October is a wonderful time to travel - nice weather, cheaper flights and hotels, and best of all no crowds! Please, no matter what the district decides to do, KEEP A FALL BREAK! Also, we believe our children, who attend a language immersion program, benefit from a short summer break. We do not speak the language at home so immersion at school is critical. We believe a four-week summer break is best for our children.

3/3/2014 9:31 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

We like to take vacations off cycle so prefer breaks off the 'traditional'. Vacations are great learning opportunities for kids.

3/3/2014 9:19 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

We want to keep the year round calendar. We would like to see the breaks that the high school does have overlap with the breaks in the year round schedule.

3/3/2014 9:12 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

I feel people of any age learn better when they continually study what they are learning. A long summer vacation increases the chance of losing much of what has been learned during the school year.

3/3/2014 9:01 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

If the District must have a single calendar, I would strongly prefer the Year Round calendar.

3/3/2014 9:00 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

the traditional calendar has too long of a break for summer. can the district provide optional summer school programs for reading, music, etc. at a premium price?

3/3/2014 7:06 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α
We'd love to keep the year-round calendar at College Park and Bayside middle school as most of current families are likely to stay for the immersion program. In fact, most of high school kids are quite independent and no need to plan short camp during the breaks while K-8 kids still needs a lot of attention and family planning during breaks. family vacation and break arrangement are totally different from those with K-5 kids. This difference make it unnecessary to align K-8 with high school. For this, I vote no necessary align K-8 with high school, and as we love year-round calendar, either all k-8 use year-round or a blend.

3/3/2014 7:01 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I would like to see a blend of the two calendars with at least a 2 week fall intersession

3/3/2014 6:39 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

a blend of the two calendars

3/3/2014 6:30 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Strongly prefer Year Round calendar

3/3/2014 6:21 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I truly believe in the Year Round calendar. After growing up in the Traditional Calendar and then experiencing the Quarter System in college, I felt that the learning was much more effective. Less time was wasted reviewing and we were able to get a break at just the right time! I hope that we can remain with this schedule, especially with my children learning Mandarin. It is such a difficult language and more time is essential. This is amazing for us. The kids have just enough time on the intersession breaks to get recharged and ready to tackle the work again.

3/3/2014 5:54 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I prefer to stay year round. Better for the kids learning mandarin in school so they don't forget during the summer. Intersessions give parents time to help struggling kids catch up or review classwork so they don't get further behind. Breaks will help teachers plan and prep for lessons since we are moving to common core. Whole week of Thanksgiving would be great. As much over lap with HS if possible during breaks but start and end dates don't matter as much.

3/3/2014 5:31 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

A common calendar would have prompted me to vote "yes" on the latest bond measure. I'm thrilled that it's finally being addressed, but it's too late for my family. But if you want to reduce absences, you must ALIGN THE CALENDARS. Pulling the younger kids out of school is often the only solution to the calendar chaos, such as the upcoming spring break fiasco. (Not one of the the three weeks lines up with the High School. But that's no surprise.) Thank you for finally listening to the families in this district.

3/3/2014 5:38 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I would like all schools to have a year round calendar

3/3/2014 5:44 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I prefer to stay year round. Better for the kids learning mandarin in school so they don't forget during the summer. Intersessions give parents time to help struggling kids catch up or review classwork so they don't get further behind. Breaks will help teachers plan and prep for lessons since we are moving to common core. Whole week of Thanksgiving would be great. As much over lap with HS if possible during breaks but start and end dates don't matter as much.

3/3/2014 5:31 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
Every school has different needs and I truly believe that for a Mandarin Immersion school, Year Round calendar works the best and benefits the students the most academically. I am just as sure that YR calendar will work well with the students in non-immersion schools - the benefits are the same. If however we cannot have a common calendar for the District, I’m sure we can come up with a solution where both calendars match some of the vacation days somehow to make it easier for the parents who have children in different schools.

3/3/2014 5:27 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as... α

A blend would be a good balance. Key is having a break during October and a shorter summer break (4-6 weeks maximum)

3/3/2014 4:51 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as... α

I am very pleased with having as short as possible a summer break and 3 three week breaks spread out throughout the year. I do see the importance of the dates being aligned w/ the HSDist calendar as it will affect me in about 5-6 years from now, but my priority is that the timeframe of the breaks remain the same and spread throughout the year as it is currently.

3/3/2014 4:40 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as... α

I am not in favor of blending the calendar

3/3/2014 4:35 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as... α

I would prefer the traditional because it has more opinions for summer events but, in the year round they are off when there are no programs offer

3/3/2014 4:14 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as... α

The year round calendar is wonderful and we would like the district to keep it if possible. The shorter summer helps with remembering the mandarin from session to session. Thank you

3/3/2014 3:50 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as... α

Having been a student in a traditional calendar and having a child on a year round calendar, I prefer going on a year round calendar. Second preference would be a blended calendar with a fall break.

3/3/2014 3:50 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as... α

Long summer break has proven detrimental academically and behaviorally for the students. Most foreign countries adopted a more spread out school calendar because of these issues. We should follow their foot step and employ the Year Round calendar for our schools.

3/3/2014 3:15 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as... α

Having children of different ages, I would like everyone to be on the same calendar.

3/3/2014 2:35 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as... α
As a parent of a student at Fiesta Gardens I feel the year round calendar does the best job of addressing the unique aspects of the program. Keeping a child "immersed" on a consistent bases with shorter breaks / time away works well with not having to play catch up and allowing the student to ALWAYS be learning. The traditional school calendar can wait for when they are in a traditional school. FGIS is not and should not be viewed as such.

3/3/2014 2:29 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

For Length of summer vacation, it is my Highest Priority that it not be TOO LONG. So my response, "Lowest Priority", is in context that we have a long summer vacation. In fact, my priority is the exact opposite - I DON'T want a summer vacation that's too long.

3/3/2014 2:11 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

A common calendar just makes sense. I strongly encourage the YEAR ROUND calendar but am open to a BLEND of the two calendars. It makes sense to have a common calendar, most importantly, for the students so that they have consistency in their school schedules over the course of their learning and for the staff of the school district, so that they can concentrate on providing our students with a great education and not spending time thinking about what school is on what schedule.

3/3/2014 1:52 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

year round program works so well for my daughter. as stated before, I can only see an academic benefit with the year round program. might as well make all schools on the year round schedule.

3/3/2014 1:30 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

i would prefer a year round calendar, with 5 weeks of summer break, 3 weeks for the first 2 trimester.

3/3/2014 1:29 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

I'd like to see a 5-6 week summer and a 2-week spring break. The 3-weeks in October and the 3-week winter break are WONDERFUL. This allows for a "ski week" (the last week of the winter break). I'd much rather have the October intercession than a Thanksgiving week off since that's the most difficult week of the year to travel.

3/3/2014 12:59 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

Year round calendar is working really well for us. Fall break could be shorter (2 weeks?) because thanksgiving comes right after it. Long spring break is good for people observing the holiday of passover.

3/3/2014 12:26 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α

Having a common calendar is a convenience for families with more than one child. The real decision should be made based on data suggesting if a year round calendar creates an environment where children learn better than a traditional calendar. The other factor should be heavily based on how teachers view the calendar. If teachers are happy and not burnt out, we can retain better teacher for the long haul.

3/3/2014 12:14 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as... α
I like the year round but would be happy for a combination calendar it it would make it easier to combine with the high school schedule
3/3/2014 11:52 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I would love to retain the year round calendar. I have seen so many benefits that outweigh the negatives. Having a blend of the two might be fine if it reduces operation costs on the district so that money can be put to greater use, but I would totally object to have the traditional calendar throughout the entire districts. Kids forget a lot during summer, both students and teachers get exhausted during the long stretches of school without any breaks, students with problems in certain subjects never get a chance to catch up during the school year, and the parents are forever battling high travel costs during the summer. The long summers are financially draining for working parents who need to put their kids in camps during the summer. I don't see any benefits of it.
3/3/2014 11:30 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

We prefer that the year round calendar remains the same. We feel that any kind of blending would compromise the current structure. Why do the high schools and the elementary and junior high schools have to be the same schedule?
3/3/2014 11:21 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Length of summer vacation should be NO MORE than six weeks long. We love fall break. It's nice to have a third week of winter vacation to relax after the craziness of the holidays. A 2-3 week spring break would be nice.
3/3/2014 11:13 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I do believer the year round calendar has benefited my child's learning and retention of information, especially with being in the mandarin immersion program at College Park. Having too long of a summer would really hinder that.
3/3/2014 11:07 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

I prefer the Year Round calendar.
3/3/2014 9:59 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Year Round calendar is better for me
3/3/2014 9:58 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

We like the year round calendar. It will be great if the whole district shift to this calendar.
3/3/2014 9:53 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
Spanish Survey Parent Comments
Me gusta el calendario como esta hasta ahora. Nunca entendido que camliolar nada. "Asi como esta" esta perfecto. Gracias
3/24/2014 11:04 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

My esposo y yo estamos muy a gusto con el ciclo escolar de todo el ano por que sentimos que mis hijas necesitan estar constantemente en la escuela. Ellas aprovechan mas estando ocupadas con tareas o con vaciones cortas ya que no se olvidan de lo aprendido. Ademas nuestros trabajos no nos permiten tener 3 meses de vaciones y no tenemos los medios economicos para pagar cuidado infantil o campamentos. De esta manera ellas no se sienten estresadas de estar en un ambiente extrano. Mi esposo y yo trabajamos de cierta manera que uno de los dos siempre esta disponible para cuidarlas. Con vacaciones cortas nos permite pasar tiempo valioso con nuestras hijas y economicamente podemos viajar a parques recreativos que podemos pagar sin estresarnos de que no podamos disfrutar. Ademas nuestros trabajos nos permiten tener cortar vacaciones que estan coordinadas con los periodos de vacaciones de las ninas. La escuela en que estan nuestras hijas la hemos escogido por el calendario de todo el ano, nos hemos comprometido y aceptados las reglas. Considerando que estan aprendiendo un Nuevo idioma (Chinese) y el uso de uniforme es una conveniencia muy grande. Como padres inmigrantes y aprendiendo Ingles es IMPORTANTE que nuestras hijas se mantenga en la escuela para que tengan un future diferente. Consideramos que estamos haciendo lo mayor por ellas y necesitamos que nos apoyen de esta manera. Se que es dificil para el distrito escolar tener entrenamientos para maestros a un mismo tiempo y que quizas los gasto economicos del distrito son altos para coordinar diferente calendarios escolares. Considero que visto desde este punto de vista el distrito escolar ha estado haciendo muy buen trabajo. Muchas gracias. Muchas gracias por darnos la oportunidad de expresar nuestros comentarios.
3/11/2014 10:15 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Me encantaria que el calendario de todo el año quedara para todas las escuelas, porque venificia el aprendizaje de los ya que tienen descansos cortos y no olvidan lo que están aprendiendo y por experiencia me parece una excelente opcion.
3/3/2014 9:48 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

No me gusta el calendario de todo el año por que hay menos campamentos para estos niños, es mas dificil encontrar variedad de campamentos amedida que los niños van creciendo.
3/3/2014 4:38 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Classified/Administrative Comments:
Having a break each season, whether it be 1 to 3 week, gives opportunities for both students and staff to plan family time as well as medical/personal appointments without taking time away from school/work. It also enables a mental break which helps instill enthusiasm and excitement, lending to a more positive learning environment for everyone.
3/15/2014 5:45 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

A break in October is rejuvenating. To eliminate this break completely would be difficult for year round students and staff.
3/14/2014 7:48 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...  

Despite the fact that there isn't any supporting evidence around a year round calendar, there are pluses to having students and staff have shorter "on time" (less burn out, feeling of rejuvenation after the 3 week break).
3/14/2014 5:06 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
As an administrator the summer is very short, however, would rather have a shorter summer and take a week from one of the intersessions than have a traditional calendar summer. The shorter summer seemed great for the students, back and ready to learn very quickly. Year round has a great flow.

3/14/2014 3:47 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

Let's omit year round, sane, makes sense for all.

3/14/2014 3:11 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

I believe that the year round calendar is beneficial to students, families and staff. The year round calendar helps with burn out and there is less "catch-up time" to make up at the beginning of the school year.

3/14/2014 2:23 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

I like the October break and would like two weeks in December and one or two for spring break and an extra two in the summer. At this time, administrators only get 2 weeks and this is a challenge for collaboration, professional development and planning.

3/14/2014 1:36 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

I really do like having the schools closed during times that are not traditional. Vacation opportunities during this time are better, good weather and less crowded.

3/14/2014 7:35 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

I like very much how evenly spread out are the breaks. The Summer doesn't feel too long, the Fall and Spring intersessions provide a great opportunity to travel during low season. The Intersessions are also a welcomed break for what would be a long school year. There's no burn out. There's also better information retention.

3/13/2014 7:58 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

Having a shorter summer break is helpful for financial reasons when scheduling and paying for summer camps for the kids. Cost of camps is spread throughout the year, rather than having 8-10 weeks to pay for at one time when you are on a traditional calendar schedule.

3/12/2014 10:10 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

I like the part of the year round gives you more breaks. I feel it would reduce staff calling in sick. Our jobs can get very stressful so a week or 2 off more often is great!

3/11/2014 2:39 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

There are always take a break after couple of weeks learning. I think this is really good for students and teachers.

3/10/2014 9:05 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

Year Round Calendar Intersession and summer school intervention offerings for students during intersessions are beneficial. The main purpose of the calendar should be to promote student achievement and family support for their children's learning. I hope this will be kept in mind as a blended calendar is considered.

3/10/2014 6:40 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

I would love to have a fall and spring intersession, but shorter than three weeks.

3/10/2014 8:27 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as…

I believe this calendar is respectful of how children learn and it gives both families and schools regular times to refresh and regroup. Our family was year round for 12 years and my children thrived on this rhythm.

3/10/2014 8:06 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as…
It would be excellent if we could have a three week winter/spring break and a seven week summer. All schools on the same calendar.

3/9/2014 12:29 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The inability to have a consistent flow through the year. Often my staff is on different calendars and we are always working around the calendar.

3/9/2014 11:52 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I think it might be beneficial to have a shorter summer for students so more information is retained.

3/7/2014 11:06 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

As a parent--summer is too short, camps are sparse and expensive and not as good quality during intersessions.

3/7/2014 10:59 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Per question number 6- answer is none.

3/7/2014 10:13 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The year round calendar allows our family to have a more balanced lifestyle. For instance, we can strategically plan family vacations throughout the year, often times during "off-peak" travel season (less crowded and less costly). The intensity of holiday activities is followed by a healthy "quiet" time before getting back to school. Further, our kids engage in their education (academic and social) with more consistency which promotes an improved routine. I believe there will be various child care challenges for families no matter what calendar is followed. If there becomes a more coordinated school calendar, I would expect that camps and community programs would make adjustments in content availability in order for their continued success. It would be advisable to reach out to local program vendors well in advance so they may coordinate and support their family clients.

3/6/2014 1:18 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Long breaks deadly for language programs. Our Latino families need driving time for winter break AND to return after Posadas' Jan 4th. They don't typically fly.

3/6/2014 10:52 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

My children are on different calendars but I prefer Year-Round. The only issue is mid-week start/end days. Parents have to pay full week for 2-3 days of camp/child care.

3/6/2014 8:20 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The fall and spring intersessions are too long.

3/4/2014 6:41 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Preferred over Traditional Calendar.

3/4/2014 4:16 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I LOVE the year round calendar but I would like to modify it so that the summer vacation is 2 weeks longer and so that spring break coincides with the high school's spring break. Taking a week off of any of the intersessions in order to make a slightly longer summer break is fine.

3/3/2014 7:12 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Research shows that academically, year round calendars insignificantly improve the performance of Caucasian children and lower socio-economic, but not statistically significant. Also, in terms of retention, the most significant academic regression begins after two weeks. I would suggest that a "modified" year round calendar would look like having several two week breaks spread throughout the year.

3/3/2014 1:52 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I like the intersessions but would prefer they be no more than 2 weeks at a time resulting in a longer summer.
Traditional Calendar Comments

Spanish Survey Parent Comments
Me gusta el calendario como esta hasta ahora. Nunca entendido que camlolar nada. "Asi como esta" esta perfecto. Gracias
3/24/2014 11:04 AM [View respondent's answers] [Categorize as...]

My esposo y yo estamos muy a gusto con el ciclo escolar de todo el ano por que sentimos que mis hijas necesita
estar constantemente en la escuela. Ellas aprovechan mas estando ocupadas con tareas o con vaciones cortas ya
que no se olvidan de lo aprendido. Ademas nuestros trabajos no nos permiten tener 3 meses de vacaciones y no
tenemos los medios economicos para pagar cuidado infantil o campamentos. De esta manera ellas no se sienten
estresadas de estar en un ambiente extrano. Mi esposo y yo trabajamos de cierta manera que uno de los dos
siempre esta disponible para cuidarlas. Con vaciones cortas nos permite pasar tiempo valuble con nuestras hijas
y economicamente podemos viajar a parques recreativos que podemos pagar sin estresarnos de que no podamos
enplacer. Ademas nuestros trabajos nos permiten tener cortar vacaciones que estan coordinadas con los periodos de
vacaciones de las ninas. La escuela en que estan nuestras hijas la hemos escogido por el calendario de todo el ano,
nos hemos comprometido y aceptados las reglas. Considerando que estan aprendiendo un Nuevo idioma (Chinese)
y el uso de uniforme es una conveniencia muy grande. Como padres inmigrantes y aprendiendo Ingles es
IMPORTANTE que nuestras hijas se mantenga en la escuela para que tengan un future diferente. Consideramos
que estamos haciendo lo major por ellas y necesitamos que nos apoyen de esta manera. Se que es dificil para el
distrito escolar tener entrenamientos para maestros a un mismo tiempo y que quizas los gasto economicos del distrito
son altos para coordinar diferentes calendarios escolares. Considero que visto desde este punto de vista el distrito
escolar ha estados hacienda muy buen trabajo. Muchas gracias. Muchas gracias por darnos la oportunidad de
expresar nuestros comentarios.
3/11/2014 10:15 PM [View respondent's answers] [Categorize as...]

Me gusta el calendario de todo el ano porque hay tres intercesiones durante el ano escolar que nos permiten
descansar y regresar renovadas a trabajar.
3/6/2014 12:54 PM [View respondent's answers] [Categorize as...]

Me encantaría que el calendario de todo el año quedara para todas las escuelas, porque venificia el aprendizaje de
los ya que tienen descansos cortos y no olvidan lo que están aprendiendo y por experiencia me parece una
excelente opción.
3/3/2014 9:48 PM [View respondent's answers] [Categorize as...]

No me gusta el calendario de todo el año por que hay menos campamentos para estos niños, es mas dificil
encontrar variedad de campamentos acomidaque los niños van creciendo.
3/3/2014 4:38 PM [View respondent's answers] [Categorize as...]

Spanish Survey Parent Comments
Es mi primer ano que mis ninos estudian aqui y sugiero que el distrito maneje la situacion de la mejor manera para el
bienestar de los ninos. Por favor una ves mas que el distrito lo desida.
3/24/2014 11:08 AM [View respondent's answers] [Categorize as...]

Pues you estoy mas Agusto con el calenario tradicional. Este calendao me gust buenas bacaciones and buenas dias
de escuela. Pue la verdad mis ninos estan en la misma escuela y como les digo el calendario tradicional me gusta.
3/24/2014 11:00 AM [View respondent's answers] [Categorize as...]

Yo pienso q esta bien lo q el distrito desida
lo que mas me gusta del calendario es que le da la oportunidad a mi hija de viajar a mi país para perfeccionar su español y que puede practicar mas deportes, y estoy muy feliz con el calendario tradicional ... GRACIAS!!!

3/11/2014 3:15 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as...

A mi no me gustaría que me cambiara el calendario a todo el año porque se me hace muy difícil encontrar cuidado para mis hijos en esas semanas que dan libre, el calendario tradicional a mi me queda perfecto porque tengo un hijo en secundaria y podemos tomar vacaciones toda la familia junta. Y TAMBIEN EN LAS VACACIONES DE VERANO ELLOS PUEDEN COMPARTIR MAS.

3/4/2014 1:33 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as...

Para mi es perfecto. El redondo no me gusta. No se que haría con mis hijas en sus vacaciones intermedias cada tres o cuatro meses. Me encantan las vacaciones de verano largas pues podemos viajar y hacer muchas actividades.

3/12/2014 6:55 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as...

Para mi el calendario tradicional esta muy bien porque es al que estoy acostumbrada pero si es necesario un cambio yo pienso que esta bien siempre y cuando las vacaciones de verano no se vean recortadas porque en esas fechas hay varios deportes que los niños pueden hacer y salir de vacaciones porque hay mas tiempo.

3/12/2014 6:40 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as...

Spanish Survey Parent Comments

Me beneficia este calendario, porque podemos disfrutar de vacaciones más largas, hay programas de actividades y deportes durante el verano... Como por ejemplo clases de natación que en mi caso yo inscribo a mis dos hijos en esa clase y sólo es durante el verano. Mejor posibilidad de disfrutar un viaje al país de origen, más posibilidad de buscar una niñera por 10 semanas.

3/12/2014 9:44 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as...

Estoy de acuerdo con la decision que el distrito asigne

3/10/2014 8:43 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as...

Tienen demasiadas vacaciones en el verano y los niños se aburren, aun estando en algun programa.

3/12/2014 9:58 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as...

Classified/Administrative Comments:

I would like to have an additional day for Thanksgiving.

3/17/2014 7:24 AM View respondent’s answers Categorize as...

Long breaks are deadly for language intensive programs. Long school sessions are deadly for behavior.

3/14/2014 2:38 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as...

Summer feels too long. Travel can only be done at peak season. Bored children in the Summer, burned out children during school.

3/13/2014 8:00 PM View respondent’s answers Categorize as...
I like the Start n End dates but definitely need a extra week off more often. It would relieve some stressful days.

3/11/2014 2:43 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Summer vacation is too long

3/10/2014 9:06 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

It is very nice to have a fall and spring intersession that "break up" the year a bit, and keep the summer from being too long. It is FAR too hard to have two different starts. Even if we all started at the same time and ended differently, that would help.

3/10/2014 8:28 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

If the Traditional and Year Round Calendars are the same as the High School Calendar there could be even more times when awards nights, open houses, graduations, etc are on the same day/night. This is so challenging for families with more than one child.

3/10/2014 8:10 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

It would be nice to have spring break set always at the same time rather than to coincide with when Easter is. Just a thought

3/9/2014 3:31 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

We are all very used to two breaks so that is fine. A seven week summer would be better.

3/9/2014 12:31 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

The summer is very long, but a break in October, February and April could make a smoother year.

3/9/2014 11:55 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Summer is too long. 2 weeks for spring break would be great (or have one week in February the way many districts do it)

3/7/2014 11:00 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Per question number 8- None.

3/7/2014 10:14 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

A 4 week winter break would be great. Full week for Thanksgiving would be great.

3/6/2014 10:54 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Intercession breaks are very short. Summer is too long. Kids have a difficult time refocusing for school and spend too much class time on review of previous material rather than expanded learning.

3/6/2014 8:23 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Currently the traditional calendar is only two weeks different from the high school calendar (they start two weeks before us and we end two weeks after them). I would like to see SMFC try to continue this schedule or match the high school schedule.

3/4/2014 6:44 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Teacher burnout is more substantial on a Traditional calendar. However, it does make easier to maintain facilities (or to do site enhancements) when a longer break (summer) is afforded.

3/3/2014 1:53 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I would LOVE to see a blending of the two calendars with an 8 week summer break. Preferably, begin school mid-August, have 2 weeks off in October, 2 weeks off in December/Jan, 2 weeks off in Mar/April, end school mid-end of June. Perfect!
Para mi en lo personal cualquier cambio esta muy bien siempre y cuando no se afecte la educación de los niños
3/11/2014 3:21 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as… £

Estoy de acuerdo con la decisiones que tomen gracias
3/10/2014 8:51 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as… £

Para mi familia y mi persona deceamos que se quede el calendario tradicional.
3/7/2014 10:07 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as… £

Seria mucho mejor, asi se puede planear las actividades familiares al mismo tiempo. GRACIAS
3/4/2014 8:20 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as… £

Yo prefieron el tradicional. Tal vez solo reacomodar las vacaciones para que en verano sean un poco menos y dar dos en primavera y tres en invierno. Asi en verano pasa menos tiempo entre un ciclo y otro y los niños no olvidan todo lo aprendido.
3/4/2014 1:40 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as… £

Me parece una idea excelente, mis dos hijos estarían en el mismo calendario y no tendría preocupaciones y estrés por los diferentes horarios y fechas de las escuelas. Estoy completamente de acuerdo con la decisión de hacer sólo un calendario. Gracias!!
3/3/2014 10:00 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as… £

Siempre mis hijos eran de diferentes edades y fue muy triste para mi siempre tener que escoger a la pequeña por que tenian diferente horario; asi que como madre me parece muy importante que TODAS las escuelas: primaria y secundaria tengan EL MISMO horario para TODAS las vacaciones ya sea una semana o seis, y para todo el tiempo. Gracias

Spanish Survey Parent Comments
Disulpas por no responder a todas las preguntas es falta de dias lo hare mejor en otra occasion
3/24/2014 11:10 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as… £

Yo me quedo con el calendario tradicional gracias.
3/24/2014 11:02 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as… £

Definitivamente me beneficia a mi, mi familia y a mis hijos el calendario tradicional... Si se hiciera una mezcla de ambos podría ser agregar un dia más de vacaciones para el Dia de Accion de Gracias y quizá una semana únicamente en el otoño.
3/12/2014 9:53 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as… £

AMI ME BENEFICIA EL CALENDARIO TRADICIONAL POR QUE BIAJAMOS PARA MI PAIZ!! Y POR MI TRABAJO POR QUE NO ES FACIL ENCONTRAR QUIEN ME CUIDE AMI HIJA POR DOS O TRES CEMANAS! PIDO PRIORIDAD! GRACIAS!!
3/12/2014 7:13 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as… £

Para mi cualquier calendario esta bien.
3/12/2014 7:00 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as… £
Classes and Administrators’ Comments

3/14/2014 5:09 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

blend of two calendars would be fine.

3/14/2014 3:54 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Six or seven week summer with school starting mid-August; two-week October intersession; three-week winter intersession; two-week spring intersession.

3/14/2014 3:33 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I strongly support having ONE common calendar for students.

3/14/2014 2:29 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I would like to see a blend of the two calendars, coordinated with the HS district somewhat when possible and maintain a fall break or trimester break. It would be great to have three two week breaks fall, winter and spring and then a few extra weeks in the summer.

3/14/2014 1:40 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I understand the advantage of one calendar of having to only do everything once a year, but that once will be much more intense and maybe a shorter time to do it all. I still would much rather have one calendar. Coordinating everything (notices, menus, mailing, etc.) would be much easier. Summer “break” for the District office will be much more difficult with less time to get the schools ready to open all at once and needs to be considered.

3/14/2014 7:42 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I believe the Year Round calendar has many advantages, and I suggest the High School adopts it, or adept its calendar to better align with it.

3/13/2014 8:05 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

My highest priority is to have one calendar for all schools.

3/12/2014 4:16 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I would like a blend

3/11/2014 2:59 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I think keep two different calendar will be good for teachers or parents to choice whatever they like.

3/10/2014 9:14 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I am in favor of a blended calendar that preserves fall and spring intersessions for student intervention support. It makes sense to align dates where possible with the high school calendar.

3/10/2014 7:03 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
I think aligning with the high school makes the most sense. If the summer were a little shorter than traditional, and we could add a week in the fall and make a 2 week spring break, it would balance out nicely. Year round summer is too short, and traditional is too long.

3/10/2014 9:08 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

It would be interesting to know if the high school district is making any efforts to align with their elementary feeders.

3/10/2014 8:30 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Knowing that you will never please all the people all the time...I prefer to go more toward the year-round calendar. Having the exact same calendar for High School, Middle School and Elementary School will create a whole new set of problems for scheduling events.

3/10/2014 8:14 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

A blend of the two calendars would be excellent. Making sure all school are on the same calendar is definitely a priority.

3/9/2014 12:35 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I prefer closer to Traditional Calendar because my husband works on a Traditional Calendar in another district

3/7/2014 11:55 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

As a parent of young kids in the district, I am concerned about the future of having my family on two different calendars. As a district office administrator--we waste valuable resources having two calendars. Scheduling much-needed professional development takes an enormous amount of time, effort, and money in order to support teachers on both calendars. Trying to place students at schools to accommodate for special ed, magnet, proximity, etc is daunting and often ineffective as we sometimes have to put families on different calendars. Please take this into consideration. Our staff is unnecessarily overworked. As a former YR principal--The "summer break" of 7 days is never good. You end up having to work anyway. In addition, financial books don't open for the new year until you are already a few weeks into your school year. The district office is primarily on TC-mode, which is fine, except that valuable members of the District team (M&O, etc) are often on summer vacation while YR schools are trying to open school. YR principals receive the direction of the year during our first meetings back, but by that time we have already been in session for a few weeks. Thank you for allowing district staff to give input. Two calendars is a huge burden and I honestly believe we can do a better job supporting our schools if we are all aligned on one calendar.

3/7/2014 11:06 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I would prefer one calendar for the whole district with a blend of the two calendars.

3/7/2014 11:01 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

Year round school calendar is just fine the way it is. No changes should be considered or are necessary.

3/7/2014 10:15 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I favor year round for so many reasons.

3/6/2014 8:45 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

To my work, it doesn't matter so much what the calendar looks like but that it is a common calendar. Our department works extra hard to support two calendars with professional development and two assessment windows.

3/6/2014 7:21 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

I support year-round learning with fall, winter and spring intersessions. I would accept a shortened winter break but DO NOT support summer longer than 6 weeks.

3/6/2014 8:27 AM View respondent's answers Categorize as...
Traditional Calendar is a remnant from the agricultural times. It is irrelevant in this day and age. However, pacing teacher and students with well designed breaks that coincide with the end of grading periods (finals) or units of study (end of project) would be much more conducive to learning.

3/3/2014 1:55 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...

See previous response, I would prefer a blended calendar with three, 2-week breaks, school starts mid-August and ends mid-June. Thank you for taking the time to ask our opinion. Having 2 calendars has been a professional and personal hardship for as long as I have worked at the District.

3/3/2014 12:02 PM View respondent's answers Categorize as...