

24-25 Late Start Calendar

FAQ

Why do we need additional professional development?

While Pleasant Hill R-3 is doing okay on our state assessments, we have room for much improvement. Our students need to be doing better than average on these tests. The state's assessments have been going through a realignment phase and are close to being finished. DESE is talking about aligning accreditation with assessment scores. Also, legislators are already citing state assessment scores for reasons to increase vouchers and pull funds away from schools. This additional time is needed to help our teachers receive additional support.

Why do we need two hours?

Vertical alignment is a major piece to the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) model. With our unique structure of 5 buildings and a range of start times, the two hour late start allows protected time for teachers across the district to work collaboratively for one hour and forty minutes and allow for safe travel time back to their respective buildings to receive students. Also, there is a need for 2 hours of protected professional development (PD) time with the variety of expectations in which we ask our teachers to support all students. The list provided is an example and not exhaustive: curriculum and instruction, assessment and data collection, positive behavior supports, students with special needs, etc.

School Start Times

Building	Operating Hours	2 Hour Late Start Hours	3 Hour Early Dismissal Hours
PS	8:30-3:40	10:30	12:40
ES	8:20-3:30	10:20	12:30
IS	8:12-3:22	10:12	12:22
MS	7:35-2:45	9:35	11:45
HS	7:30-2:38	9:30	11:38

How are we addressing the loss of instructional minutes?

PHR3 values the instructional time spent with students. While other districts recently moved to a calendar that provides the minimal minutes of instruction required by the state, PHR3 maintains a calendar that meets the recommended number of instructional minutes for students. The number of instructional minutes is not significantly reduced with the late start calendar for 24-25. The weekly late starts will allow teachers to dive deeper into planning for instructional needs to support all learners without having to be pulled out of the classroom during the school day. The quality of education will improve with minimal loss of instructional time for students.

Why did the district choose Mondays over other days of the week?

The district selected Mondays to provide consistency in meeting weekly with a minimal number of affected days for students missing instruction as most holidays fall on Mondays. When considering Fridays, it was decided it would be more likely for students to miss a whole day of school more often if families planned to start weekends early. Late start Mondays provides a structure of consistent instruction across the week without interruption in the middle or at the end. It also provides an ease of transition. Starting late on Mondays allows for a smoother transition from the weekend to the school week, giving students a bit of extra time to adjust.

Additionally, some learners a late start in the middle of the week makes it challenging to succeed due to the midweek interruption in routine.

Why did the district choose weekly late starts versus monthly full-day releases?

The district selected weekly late starts over monthly full day releases for several reasons. With weekly PD sessions, staff members have more frequent opportunities to apply newly acquired skills and knowledge in their classroom, leading to a more immediate and meaningful impact on student learning. It also allows for consistency in instruction by providing educators with regular opportunities for PD, students benefit from teachers who are continuously improving their skills and staying up to date with best practices. This consistency in instruction can lead to enhanced learning outcomes. Professional development sessions can focus on strategies for differentiating instruction to meet the diverse needs of students. Teachers can learn how to adapt their teaching methods to accommodate various learning styles, abilities, and interests, resulting in more personalized learning experiences for students. Teachers will learn how to create a supportive and inclusive classroom environment, teach self regulation skills, and foster positive relationships among students, which can lead to improved wellbeing and academic success. Compared to infrequent full-day PD sessions, weekly late starts result in less disruption to the regular school schedule. This minimizes the impact on students' learning routines and ensures that instructional time is maximized. There is ample research that secondary students need more sleep. This gives our students a couple of additional hours of sleep coming off of a weekend. We also know that professional development is better received earlier in the day instead of later in the day especially after teaching classes. Lastly, due to coaching, we would lose some of our staff who would need to leave in the afternoons for away games and contests.

What can families do with secondary school children?

The district will survey the community to determine the degree of need for childcare for middle school and freshmen students. A complete plan will be developed to support these students.

Daycare Pricing for Monday Late Starts

A discounted rate will be provided for families not employed by the Pleasant Hill R3 School District needing daycare for the late start Mondays. For 2024-2025, daycare pricing for Monday late start mornings will be \$5.00 for the first child and \$4.00 for each additional child. If families are distressed with this amount, they can contact the school district and we'll find ways to help them. Additional information about daycare will be shared at a later date.

