

TRIMESTER SCHEDULE FOR GRADES K-6

DESTINATION

ACADEMICS : ARTS : ATHLETICS

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TRIMESTER SCHEDULE

The West Bend School District is changing to a trimester schedule for kindergarten through sixth grades, starting with the 2016 -2017 school year.

Trimester Scheduling Questions:

- What is a trimester?
- How can trimesters be used to improve students learning?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of trimesters?
- What are some of the implementation considerations?

Trimester schedules divide the school year into three parts vs. the traditional four quarters. Many school districts have implemented trimesters to provide flexibility in their schedule.

In a trimester model, the grading period is longer which provides greater opportunities for teachers to use engaging instructional practices. Trimesters allow for earlier intervention and re-teaching for students who need additional support. While each grading period may be different, the instructional minutes in the individual classes are not reduced.

Advantages:

As with any school model, there are both advantages and disadvantages. Some of the recognized advantages are:

- Students are given a longer time frame to demonstrate knowledge prior to an assessment period.
- Students are given an opportunity to receive intervention prior to a grading period.

There are also identified disadvantages including:

- The challenge of changing from the current system— resistance to change.
- Families with children at the different levels may be on different grading schedules.

TRIMESTER 1: September 1, 2016 - November 22, 2016

(Grades in SKYWARD Family Access Nov. 30)

TRIMESTER 2: November 28, 2016 - March 2, 2017

(Grades in SKYWARD Family Access—Mar. 9)

TRIMESTER 3: March 6, 2017 - June 7, 2017

(Grades in SKYWARD Family Access—Jun. 7)

WBSD Professional Development Days

(NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)

October 20 & 21 January 23 November 23 March 3

Thanksgiving Break: November 24-25
Winter Break: Dec. 23—January 2
Spring Break: March 25—April 2
Easter Break: April 14 and April 17

<u>Last Day of School:</u> June 7

How would a trimester schedule affect parents?

- Students' grades will be reported more accurately because they will reflect 12 weeks of knowledge verses only nine weeks.
- Conferences will be held before the grading period in order to gain parental insight into interventions.

Implementation considerations:

When choosing to adopt a trimester system, the West Bend School District considered several recommendations from the *Breaking Ranks*:

- That curriculum offer essential knowledge that makes connections to real life;
- That instructional strategies actively engage students in their learning;
- That caring relationships between students and adults characterize the school;
- And that the use of time and organizations be utilized to best meet students needs.

All research from: Williamson, Ronald. (Feb. 2011) *Research Brief: Trimester Schedule* Retrieved from http://www.educationpartnerships.org

Please contact your building principal with any questions or concerns

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