

Balanced School Year at Madison Elementary School

Facts for Our Families

Madison School District offers a Balanced School Year (BSY) option for students enrolled in Madison Elementary School. Now in its second year, the program is gaining momentum and the number of families choosing this “year round” calendar is growing. Students attend school the same number of days as Traditional School Year students, and receive the same educational opportunities and supports—their summer break is simply shortened, with the remaining vacation days spread out through the rest of the year as intercession breaks. We hope that you find this information helpful, and if you have any questions regarding BSY, please feel free to contact us.

Linda Kaufman, Early Elementary Principal
517-263-0744 ext. 145

Nate Pechaitis, Upper Elementary Principal
517-263-0744 ext. 130

EDUCATIONAL TRENDS

- Early research shows shorter summer breaks equals less learning loss.
- On average, TSY students decreased in literacy by three percentile points after their summer break.
- BSY students gained approximately one percentile point in literacy after their summer break.

ENROLLMENT

- 94% of the students initially enrolled in the BSY program returned for 2015-16.*
* Many students who chose to return to TSY had older siblings moving into the Middle School.
- Interest in BSY continues to grow with an increased enrollment for this year.

SPRING 2015 PARENT SURVEY FEEDBACK

- Parents reported enjoying the shorter summer break and reduction in learning loss.
- There is a “small school feel” during summer classes.
- More frequent breaks allow for rest, travel and Academic Enrichment Opportunities

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will the school calendar be released? The 2016-17 BSY calendar will be available to families by late February. The *anticipated* start date for BSY is **Monday, August 1, 2016**.

When will applications be available? Applications for BSY will be available online and in the Elementary Office by **March 10, 2016**. Application materials are due by no later than 3:30 p.m. on **May 2, 2016**.

Will the whole family be accepted? A family will not be “split up.” A lottery process would determine if a family is able to participate, if necessary based on enrollment.

Will the Special Education services that my student receives be delivered by the same person throughout the year? Yes. Scheduling has been arranged so that your child will meet with the same support personnel throughout the year.

Will BSY students be challenged similarly to those on the traditional calendar? Yes. The same rigorous curriculum and instruction occurs for all students on the BSY and TSY calendars.

Do you intend to continue to offer educational opportunities for students during intercession breaks? Interest in Academic Enrichment Opportunities (AEOs) during intercession breaks continues to grow. At this time, we plan to continue to offer AEOs to our BSY students.

Will BSY continue to be offered for the foreseeable future? Based on parent feedback, interest in the program is growing. As long as this trend continues, we will provide a BSY option to our elementary students.

Are there plans to expand BSY to include the Middle and High Schools? BSY is not being offered at the secondary level at this time for several reasons. Research data related to student growth and achievement, attendance, and discipline needs to be collected and disseminated; there is no air conditioning in the Middle School; it is more difficult to schedule classes and teaching staff at the secondary level.

Once a student participates in BSY will they remain with the BSY calendar each year, if they choose to do so? Once a student participates in BSY, he/she will remain in the program and does not need to re-enroll each year. Students may choose to return to the TSY schedule at the end of a school year with written notification to the office by no later than **May 2, 2016**.



WHAT PARENTS SAY:

“My children’s grades are not slipping. Instead of struggling, they are excelling.”

“We enjoyed the shorter summer break (less boredom) and appreciate more chances to vacation during school. The enrichment opportunities were great.”

“The BSY schedule keeps my kids on a routine through the year and helps them stay on track and retain their education.”

“We like that we are able to visit family throughout the year without the kids missing school. Travel during off-peak times saves us money too.”

WHAT TEACHERS SAY:

“The breaks are spread out during the year. It makes me feel less tired and more refreshed!”

“I felt that my students returned in July ready to go. They seemed to remember the expectations and got right back into the swing of things. It doesn’t feel like I spent as much time reviewing procedures and I was able to quickly jump into the curriculum.”

“I love the BSY calendar because I get more time off through the year and can travel. I wasn’t able to on the traditional schedule.”

More information about the BSY option is available online: www.madisonk12.us/balanced-school-year-bsy/

Madison’s BSY program was featured on LISD-TV. Watch the story here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=IncF8oCDo_w

Madison Elementary School

3498 Treat Highway | Adrian, MI 49221 | 517-263-0744 | www.madisonk12.us