

Montabella Community Schools Calendar Questions 2018-2019

Why is school starting earlier this year?

The school districts in Montcalm County collaborated on the earlier start, and decided to begin school the week of August 20. The discussion on the earlier start was around; having semester one end prior to Christmas break, an increase in students taking college classes that start early, an increase in students attending career technical centers that start early, and band and athletic activities in full operation.

With the early start, what about classroom and bus heat?

We will monitor the heat index to ensure the safety of students. If the heat index gets to unsafe levels, we will look to modify the school day by having an early release or the potential for cancelling school, similar to what we do for extreme cold days.

Why was Spring Break moved up one week?

Montcalm County ISD is required by the State to have common calendar agreements with local districts, mainly for Christmas and Spring break. Montcalm County Schools moved toward an earlier Spring break due to the 11th grade SAT testing date (which is set by the State) being held one day after returning from the typical first-week-of-April Spring break. By scheduling Spring break one week earlier it allows students to be back in the school routine, as well as gives the district the chance to provide final SAT preparation to the students. As a county, we felt the move better supports student performance on the SAT, which is used as a college entrance exam and often used for scholarship purposes.

How is the calendar developed?

The calendar starts with collaboration of Montcalm ISD, the local school districts, along with staff representation to discuss required breaks and professional development. Once these were set, Montabella district representation met with Montabella union representation to create the final calendar. It is a collaborative process with the goal of student education being kept at the forefront. We appreciate the teamwork in completing this work.

If your family was not aware of the early start and scheduled a vacation the week of August 20th, what can you do?

If you have a vacation already scheduled, we encourage you to contact the school and fill out a planned absence form. This allows the student to get any work that may need to be completed, informs the school that the student is still planning to attend, and allows the building to mark the absences appropriately.
