



# Washington Island School District

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Hello Washington Island Parents,

Last year's principal, Michele Kanipes, created a calendar that is, unfortunately, two school days short of a full school year for our Middle School / High School students. Our Elementary Students are not required to attend as many hours of school each year and are fine. This means that **we must add two school days to this year's calendar**. This morning our School Board voted to approve the new calendar plan for our MS/HS students.

**The Plan: Our Middle/High School students will have asynchronous virtual learning days on February 20th and March 10th.**

After finding the error, I met with the Department of Public Instruction, our School Board, and our teachers to work on a solution. After those meetings, I recommended "The Plan;" here's why:

- Students/families were already planning to have students at home that day.
- Teachers are already contracted to work those days.
- Working asynchronous-virtual gives our families the flexibility to travel those days.
- Working asynchronous-virtual means our older students will be home to help younger students.
- We will not need to go later in June.
- We will not need to add minutes to the school day for the rest of this school year.

**We will make sure our students know exactly what they are expected to do that day**, which may be digital work, internet-based work, packeted materials that will be sent home, or a combination. Our teachers will have a mix of in-service and teaching responsibilities and will be available to help/work with students at least three hours that day. Also, **students will have until the next school day to turn in their work**. (That gives students a weekend for their February 20 work (assigned 2/17, due 2/21) and all of their spring break for their March 10 work (assigned 3/9, due 3/20).)

I know this isn't good news and that it may be problematic for some students and their families. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to come in and we'll figure it out together. It is, we think, the best we can do in a bad situation. I have ensured that we have a full school year plus a snow day buffer next year; this will not be a problem in the future.

Always respectfully

*Timothy M Verboomen*

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