



M U R R A Y C O U N T Y

MURRAY COUNTY SCHOOLS

**160-Day Modified
School Year
Calendar**

P U B L I C S C H O O L S



What Is it?

- Instead of 180 normal-length days our students attend 160 extended-length days.
- Teachers work the equivalent of 190 eight-hour days (or 1520 hours) in 170 extended days.
- School-level classified staff work less days but longer each day.



Why consider it?

- Limited ad valorem tax base
- Restricted retail sales
- Decline in SPLOST collections
- Massive budget cuts in FY09
- Decline in FY09 FTE
- Possibility of further funding cuts





The Process



- Before approval of HB 193, the superintendent met with cabinet members to discuss a modified year.
- A determination was made that substantial savings could be generated by modifying the school year.
- Additional cabinet meetings were held to discuss financial savings and formulate plans to allow employees and the community to have input in the decision making process.
 - Principals canvassed employees for their reaction to a reduced school year.
 - An on-line survey was made available on the system website to gather community input.
- In late May, another cabinet meeting was held to share input gathered from employees and community members.
- A community meeting was planned and advertised. The purpose of the community meeting was to explain the plan for a modified school year and to elicit community feedback.
- A Murray County Board of Education meeting was held for approval of the modified calendar.



Anticipated Adjustments

- **School Calendar**
 - First day for students was September 8
 - Last day for students is May 27
- **Board of Education Policy Revisions**
- **Special Education Summer School**
- **Summer Care for Students**

Extended School Hours

	Start of Instructional Day	End of Instructional Day	Required Instructional Minutes	Actual Instructional Minutes (160 Days)	Difference
High Schools	7:30	3:05	59,400	68,000	+8,600
Middle Schools (7th and 8th Grade)	7:30	3:05	59,400	68,000	+8,600
Elementary Schools (Include 6th Grade)	7:25	3:10	*59,400 (based on required minutes for 6th grade)	68,000	+8,600

Anticipated Adjustments

- **Certified Staff Contracts**
- **Certified Staff Work Day**
- **Classified Staff Work Day**
- **Sick Leave**



Anticipated Adjustments

- Curriculum Pacing Guides
- Grading Periods
- Staff Expectations



MISSION:POSSIBLE!

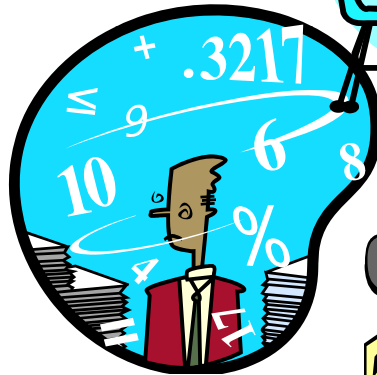
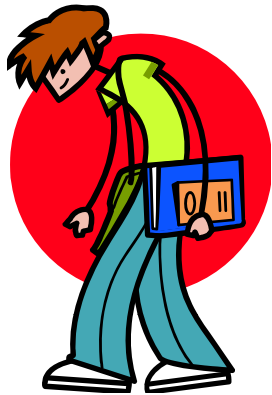


**WHAT FEWER
BUT
LONGER
SCHOOL DAYS
IS NOT**

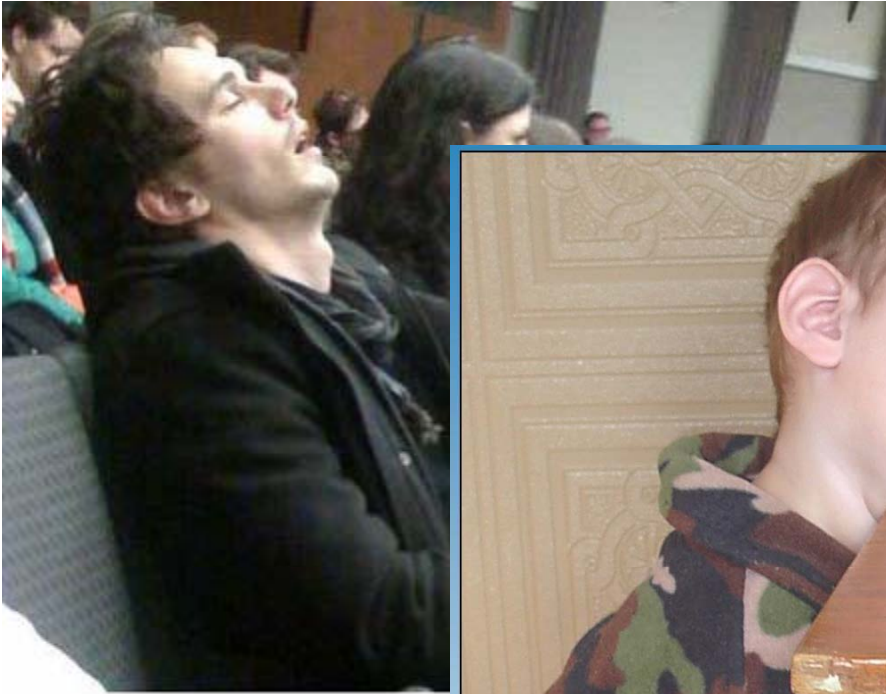
(NOT) MORE SCIENCE MOVIES



(NOT) MORE HOMEWORK



(NOT) MORE NAPS



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(NOT) MORE RECESS



The Facts:

3 fewer weeks to teach standards

180 day calendar = 4 nine week periods

160 day calendar = 4 eight week periods

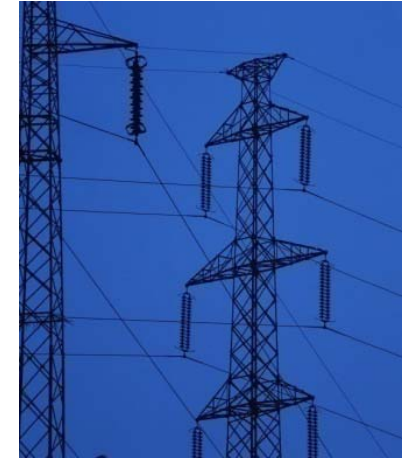
Elementary & Middle: All standards taught by the end of the 3rd-
eight week period

Last Minute Adjustments

- Procedures for processing transcript and record requests in August
- Referral timelines for ELL, gifted, special education and IEP meetings
- Coordination with shared programs
- Participation in elementary aftercare
- Work day for School Resource Officer
- Training by DOE and RESA for teachers in August
- Pay scale for substitutes



Positive Changes



- Financial savings
- Heat exposure (classroom and bus)
- Extended days
(custodian/maintenance/technology)





ATHLETIC PRACTICE ADVANTAGES

- **New calendar will allow practices to take place during cooler times of day so heat will not be as great of a concern for outdoor activities.**
- **Athletes will have adjusted to the physical strain of practices prior to the beginning of school.**
- **Allows for “Two-a-days” in full pads as opposed to one practice in full pads each day.**

CAVEATS and DISCLAIMERS

- We are not advocating that you consider a shortened school year.
- We are not saying that it is a good idea.
- Each system is different, so what works in one may not work in another.
- The most important factor in determining whether we continue or not is student performance.

THANK YOU

