



# Stafford Public Schools

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Thérèse G. Fishman, Ed.D.  
*Superintendent of Schools*

February 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians,

At the Board of Education meeting on February 4, 2008, the Board of Education approved the attached calendar. The approved calendar has a start day before Labor Day, and since about 70% of parents and guardians who responded to our calendar survey favored a start day after Labor Day, Board members requested that I write a letter explaining their thinking on this matter.

If school had started for students after Labor Day, on Tuesday, September 2, 2008, the last day of school would be Wednesday, June 17, 2009. For the past eight years, we have experienced an average of 3.25 snow days per year. With three snow days, school would let out on Monday, June 22; with four snow days, school would let out on Tuesday, June 23. Board members felt that was too late to end school.

With the first student day on Wednesday, August 27, 2008, we listened to parent comments that pointed out that for younger students, it is good to start off with a three day week, followed by a four day week (with Labor Day), and then a five day week. We also listened to parents in having shortened days for in-service and Common Curriculum Days placed on a Friday or a Monday instead of in the middle of the week.

In addition, Friday, January 2, 2009, is a vacation day, and, in order to give students a little longer break in February, something several of you requested, there will be no school on Friday, February 13, 2009, leading into a long week-end with President's Day being celebrated on Monday, February 16, followed by a Common Curriculum Day for teachers on Tuesday, February 17.

Lastly, the newly adopted calendar has a week-long April vacation, starting on Monday, April 20, 2009. The last day of school will be Friday, June 12, 2009. Even with three or four snow days, the last day of school will be either Wednesday, June 17 or Thursday, June 18.

Thank you for taking our calendar survey. We appreciated your input and did give it serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Thérèse G. Fishman  
Superintendent of Schools