

Dear Parents and Families,

I am reaching out to you as the LCSD#2 Calendar Committee nears the finalization of the school calendar options for the upcoming 2024-2025 academic year. I want to shed light on the primary factors guiding the decisions of our calendar committee, which comprises parent representatives and teacher representatives from each of the seven schools in SV.

Below are some of the major factors that influence the Calendar Committee's decisions. It is not all-inclusive but should shed light on factors that guide this process.

1. State Requirements and Building the Calendar:

A critical factor influencing our school calendar is the required hours set by the Wyoming State Department of Education. LCSD#2 structures the calendar based on 163 days to meet these hourly requirements. This ensures compliance with state regulations while providing a comprehensive and effective learning experience for our students.

2. Unified School Calendar:

Several years ago, each school in Star Valley had its own calendar, causing conflicts for families with students in multiple schools. Recognizing this strain, LCSD#2 transitioned to a unified school calendar for all Star Valley Schools, aiming to streamline schedules and enhance the overall experience for our students and their families.

3. Four-Five day School Week Hybrid Calendar:

LCSD#2 prides itself on the diverse successes achieved both inside and outside the classroom. To accommodate various extracurricular activities that happen in Star Valley, we have identified high-use days when a significant number of students and teachers/coaches would be engaged in events outside their respective buildings. These days are strategically removed from the school calendar, leading to variations in school schedules, including some Fridays in session and others off.

4. Consideration of Start and Finish Times:

While research suggests potential benefits in starting school later in the morning, this needs to be balanced with the unintentional consequence of students participating in after-school programs getting home at later times. The vast geographical expanse of Star Valley Schools, spanning approximately 40 miles from Smoot to Alpine, also presents challenges in setting start and stop times.

We understand the importance of keeping you informed about these decisions, and we appreciate your ongoing support as we work to create a calendar that best serves the needs of our students and families.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. We value your partnership in the education of our students.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Burch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "S".

Steve Burch

Principal

Star Valley Middle School

Lincoln County School District #2