



## Houghton Lake Community Schools

### Balanced Calendar Concepts

The following questions are compiled from feedback by parents and staff at Balanced Calendar presentations given at various times throughout the school year. These questions represent the most frequently asked.

- 1. Does a Balanced Calendar mean my child will have to attend school year round?**  
No. If Houghton Lake Community Schools implements a balanced calendar, students would follow a calendar that has a six-week summer break and the traditional holiday breaks. The difference would be that students would be in school in August, have extra weeks in June and have intersession breaks throughout the school year. Whether on a balanced calendar or a traditional calendar, students are in school for 180 days.
- 2. What are intersessions?** Intersessions are the breaks in-between instructional days. During intersessions, staff and students on the balanced calendar are on break. However, during the intersessions, the school district will provide activities and enrichment experiences for students. Families will have the opportunity to sign their children up for intersession experiences and keep them active during the break time. Transportation to and from school, breakfast and lunch will be offered during intersessions.
- 3. Is a balanced calendar good for kids?** The educational research indicates that students on a balanced school calendar show improved academic achievement over students on a traditional calendar. The balanced calendar has a shortened summer break which combats what educators refer to as “summer slide.” The YouTube video, [Summer Learning](#), illustrates the impact of summer breaks on student achievement. In addition to academic improvement, students on a balanced calendar have improved attendance and behavior issues decline.
- 4. Is the whole district moving to a balanced calendar?** The balanced calendar will be offered for students in Kindergarten through sixth grade. Families in those grades will be

able to choose whether their children will be on a traditional calendar or a balanced calendar. More information about signing up for the 2019-2020 balanced calendar is coming soon.

- 5. Is transportation provided?** Transportation will be provided for students who are on a balanced calendar. Depending on the number of students needing transportation for the August and late June balanced calendar days, bus routes may be adjusted.
- 6. Will students be fed breakfast and lunch?** Yes, students on a balanced calendar will receive breakfast and lunch each day they are in session. In fact, with intersessions, students on a balanced calendar will be fed for additional days.