

January 17, 2023

Dear Rye Neck Families,

Calendars

District Calendar for 2023-24

We have been working on our district calendar for next year. Most public schools in our area will wind up with similar calendars because we all have the same parameters to work within. We all must have 180 student days during the months of September through June, we are required to be closed during certain holidays, and State tests are on a common schedule. Variations include the specific number of contractual teacher workdays, how many conference days we include, and when we schedule vacation days.

Snow or inclement weather days happen and each district determines when lost days are made up. NYSED has allowed us to keep the flexibility of conducting remote instruction if we close for an emergency, but we will most likely blend “regular snow days” and remote instruction like we did last year. My kids went to school in CT where there are no Regents exams and they tack the lost snow days onto the end of the school year -- adding school days to late June is horrible for a lot of reasons, so our NY calendars are built to absorb a small number of snow make-ups without extreme measures.

Students will start after Labor Day. The last time they started before Labor Day we looked back at past years and saw that the calendar constraints required that approximately once every seven years. Also, spring break schedules are often guided by the grades 3-8 NY State tests, which begin during the second week of April next year. The school year ends based on the Regents exam calendar, which makes June 25th the likely last day of school in 2024.

Our Board of Education will be discussing the calendar and vote on its approval at their regular February meeting.

2023 Fall Athletics- Mark your calendars!

The 2023 Fall season start date for Varsity and JV sports is Monday, August 21st. All fall athletes in grades 9-12 for the 2023-24 school year are expected to be back and cleared to participate on that date. Please make sure that vacations are completed prior to the start date.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Since yesterday was the third Monday of January, we celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a day off. Timed to be around his actual birthday (January 15th -- he would have been 96!), we use the day to commemorate the civil rights movement and those active in it. It is

important to maintain a recognition of the goals of the civil rights movement as we engage in efforts to ensure diversity, equity and inclusion today (I believe Alabama and Mississippi still celebrate Robert E. Lee Day concurrently with the MLK federal holiday). I used the day as an opportunity to watch the movie *Devotion*, a film about the first African-American Navy pilot and his actions during the Korean War.

Best regards,

Dr. Eric Lutinski
Superintendent of Schools