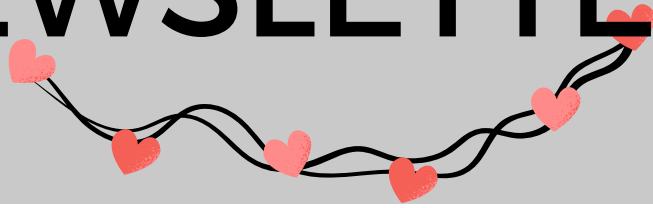




MEA NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S CORNER- A MESSAGE FROM TROY POMEROY

If you are like me, the first thing you do each year as soon as the calendar is adopted is check out the start and end dates and the days we have off. We all plan our lives around the academic calendar. In fact, I was contemplating that I have never really known any calendar other than a school calendar.

I mention that because the School Board recently adopted next year's calendar and it has resulted in a lot of questions. MSD has had many conversations about the 2023-2024 calendar with MEA as well as OSEA leadership prior to presenting it to the School Board. One of their interests was to get the information out to all of you just as soon as possible. We know you are planners!

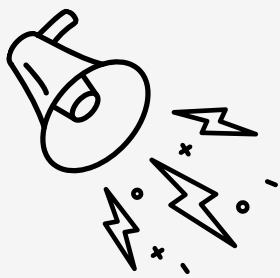
A couple of brief details about how the contract and the school calendar work. The normal school year is 190 days for teachers in total, including some paid holidays and some inservice/grading/PD days and a minimum number of student contact days. Beyond that, MSD can lengthen the year as long as they pay each member their daily rate for the additional days. You may remember the additional 7 days on last year's calendar. After that year a survey of staff made it clear that people were not in favor of adding an additional week. So this year they only added one day, the state inservice day, so we could have a district wide emphasis on literacy.

That brings us to next year's calendar. It will have 2 extra days - the state inservice day once again and an additional day during inservice week. That inservice day should provide the extra hours needed to accomplish our required trainings - time that was not available this year. Otherwise, it looks about the same, with the usual fluctuations of start and end dates. There was some thought about moving up spring break a week (which is what we did for years) but in the end it was decided to keep that break in line with other local districts.

Beyond that, certain members have extended contracts at the beginning or end of summer due to the nature of their job. They know that when they accept the job and they get paid accordingly. And then there is the summer training and other optional summer employment. As long as I can remember, there have been trainings available for members, sometimes with pay, sometimes as an opportunity, so they can further themselves and their profession. These are always optional, as we are not contracted for that time. Just like teaching summer school, everyone has to decide for themselves whether the experience and extra pay for any summer work is more or less valuable than the time off. I mention that for all of our ELA folks who are adopting and implementing a new curriculum. There is a 3 day training the week just prior to inservice that will show up on the calendar, along with 2 days for mentors and new employees. It is difficult to find a time to hold this training and staff have said they need more than a half day with the new curriculum. One of the reasons to adopt and publicize the calendar is so people can schedule around dates like these. So are you required to attend? In the strict sense, no. If you were already counting on that time, have a trip or event already booked, or just desperately need that time, then make that choice. However, as a professional who needs to be prepared to use the new curriculum, my recommendation is to plan to be there. You will get paid AND your year will go better as you are more prepared. Again, that's a recommendation. Your MEA leadership is here to support you in whatever decision you make. Please let us know if you have questions or concerns.

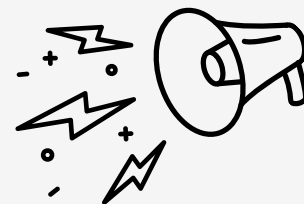


MEA NEWSLETTER



ANNOUNCING NEW E-Newsletter!

Look for your monthly Newsletter
in your INBOX, on the MEA website
& a paper copy
in your Staff Workroom



REP COUNCIL MEETING DATES

February 6th,
March 6, April 3,
May 8, June 5

Join the MEA Official Facebook



A non-political and safe
space to find member-
related information

- New look - New members
- Same respect - same goal
- Request to Join
- Invite your current member friends

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
ALL YOUR MEMBER NEEDS

YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN AT WORK



All MSD staff are invited to attend an educational seminar hosted by Corbridge Financial/ AIG Retirement Services.

February 15, 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Topics discussed:

- different plans
- what's available to you
- why you should start now

Virtual Workshop on Microsoft Teams - link following registration. Guests are welcome with registration.

Capacity is limited, so reserve now.

[CLICK HERE to REGISTER](#)

FOR QUESTIONS OR TO REGISTER BY PHONE:
CALL ANDY CROFT 458.658.6196