



## 2019-2020 SCS Calendar & 9AM Start Thursdays

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### What are 9AM Start Thursdays?

- Nearly every week on Thursdays, school starts at 9:00 am. Hallways and classrooms open at 9:00 am. To be on time, students should be in class no later than 9:15 am - as instruction will begin at 9:15 am.
- SCS staff will use these Thursday mornings for staff professional development and school improvement. This approach decreases our need for Noon Dismissal Days.
- Calendar Exceptions: We will not have a 9AM Start Thursday on November 7 and May 21

#### What if I need to drop my student off before 9:00 am on Thursdays?

- Our Before School Program opens at 7:00 am every day, including on 9AM Start Thursdays. All students arriving before 9:00 am on these days will report to the Before School Program.
- Students registered to attend the Before School Program on Thursdays may arrive between 7:00 and 9:00 am for no additional charge. [Click Here for Before School Program information and rates.](#)
- Students NOT registered for the Before School Program on Thursdays may attend for the Thursday Drop-In Rate of \$10 per student per unscheduled use (the Before School Program Drop-In Rate on regular days is \$5 per student per unscheduled use.).

#### Why use 9AM Start Thursdays and less Noon Dismissal Days?

- It's better for most SCS Families:
  - Previously, SCS frequently relied on Noon Dismissal Days for staff professional development and school improvement. However, we've heard from many families that this approach creates difficulties for their schedules, and they would prefer SCS use these days less. Many parents/guardians who work outside of the home find it challenging to find childcare at noon, creating further inconvenience.
  - Since the SCS Before School Program is available from 7:00 to 9:00 am on 9AM Start Thursdays this approach will better accommodate working families who need childcare.
- It's better for SCS:
  - This approach increases the amount of available professional development time for staff AND provides a small increase in the instructional time SCS delivers to students.
  - We've learned from other excellent schools that this type of weekly approach produces more effective professional development time, too.

Noon Dismissal Days yield occasional, but longer chunks of time for professional development at the end of a Friday with long periods in between sessions. 9AM Start Thursdays allow our staff to better work together towards continuous improvement in frequent, regular, and manageable chunks of time.