

Switching to Four Day Weeks

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Several school districts in Ohio have transitioned from a five day school week to a four day school week, and so should all other districts. A *USAToday* article explains the process and reasoning behind this decision for one of these school districts.

The students enrolled in The North College Hill City Schools will attend school Tuesday through Friday starting August 15, 2023. Mondays will be used as planning days for teachers, so that they are prepared for the upcoming week. It will work just as normal professional development days do, but it will happen weekly.

The students will not be required to participate in online courses on Mondays, but they will have some assignments to work on at home. These assignments will be simple and short, and just follow ups on what they have been learning. They will be just like normal homework assignments that they receive throughout the week.

Eugene Blalock, the superintendent of the district says that this year has been one of his toughest years of teaching, and he says that it's very obvious that lots of students and staff members are very tired and burnt out. Repeating the same thing every week for five days causes lots of students to be exhausted. He hopes that cutting the school week down to four days instead of five will help solve this problem and prevent burn out amongst students and staff.

Also, only having four in person school days prevents teachers from quitting their jobs. Lots of teachers are leaving their jobs quickly, and districts are running into teacher shortages. Giving these teachers an extra day to plan and collaborate with other teachers may convince some teachers to stay and keep teaching.

Most students agree that a lot of time during a typical five day week is wasted, and that they spend a lot of time just sitting around. During four day weeks, students get just as much work done as they would during a typical five day school week. All the time that each class period has will completely used, and there won't be as much down time in classes. Students will work until the bell rings, instead of finishing before the class is over. This will prevent time

being wasted, and hopefully allow students to take advantage of their class time.

Even if students still had assignments to complete on their day off during the week, giving them an extra day off will allow them to get more rest and prepare for the school week. Allowing students to have a longer weekend will give them more time for other things, such as sports or other extra curricular activities. It also allows them to have a more consistent schedule, and hopefully maintain a better sleep schedule.

Therefore, Olentangy should transition into a four day school week instead of the typically five days because of the advantages it has for students, staff, and the district as a whole. Switching to four days will be a better use of everyone's time and it will help prevent burn outs and teacher shortages.



This is North College Hill City High School's logo. The school district is located in Cincinnati, OH. The entire district will start having four day school weeks at the beginning of the upcoming school year. The superintendent hopes that this will be beneficial for all students and staff members throughout the district.