

# Balanced Calendar

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What is a  
balanced calendar  
and what are the  
benefits?

A balanced calendar is one in which districts spread 180 days of school throughout an extended year (instead of the traditional calendar).

Balanced calendars add flexibility for school districts to work within their own communities. With gathered data, as well as, receiving input and feedback from district families – education leaders decide what calendars work best to serve their student learning community.

# Benefits

- Students who have consistent access to learning activities throughout the year do better in school.
  - Less learning disruption from a shorter Summer (less time spent on “reteaching”).
  - Consistent student-teacher partnerships (increased attendance, decreased behavior issues).
  - Expansion of curriculum and learning opportunities.
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With these understandings...

We have created the following balanced calendar.

We are starting our school year slightly before Labor day (08/28/23), with more breaks throughout the year, taking our school year to the end of June (06/27/24). June could be used for experience based learning, with much of our learning taking place outdoors. This calendar shortens our Summer break – taking us from approximately 11 weeks to 7 weeks to limit student learning loss.

## THORP SCHOOL DISTRICT #400

### 2023-2024 Instructional Calendar

Balanced Calendar with No Tiger Academy

AUGUST 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOVEMBER 2023						
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DECEMBER 2023						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JANUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**School Start & End**  
 August 28 - First School Day  
 June 27 – Last School Day

**School Day**  
 Mon.-Thur. 8:30-3:00  
 Friday 8:30-1:30

FEBRUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

#### School Breaks & Holidays

September 31-1  
 September 4 – Labor Day  
 October 2-6 School Break  
 November 10 – Veterans Day  
 November 23-24 – Thanksgiving  
 December 20-29 Winter Break  
 December 25 – Christmas  
 January 1 – New Year's Day  
 January 15 – MLK Day  
 February 19 – Presidents Day  
 February 20-23 School Break  
 March 15 & 18 School Break  
 April 1-5 School Break  
 May 27 – Memorial Day  
 May 28-31 School Break  
 June 19 – Juneteenth

**Conferences**  
 November 15-17 Noon Release  
 March 12-14 Noon Release

**Green** - Teacher Days  
 Back to School/District Days  
 August 21-24

MARCH 2024						
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APRIL 2024						
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MAY 2024						
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JUNE 2024						
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JULY 2024						
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# Growth Opportunities



One of the major components tied to student success within a balanced calendar is providing students with enrichment, extension and intervention opportunities.

# With these understandings...

We have created a second calendar for your consideration.

This calendar includes time embedded within the proposed calendar to provide every student with exciting learning opportunities, utilizing Tiger Academy Fridays. Every attending student would take part in one intervention/extension session and one enrichment session each Friday. Teacher's would have opportunities to create sessions that ignite their individual teaching passions. Lastly, the Tiger Academy schedule provides each student with an opportunity to receive extra hours of instruction over the course of the academic year.

These learning experiences might look like: rocketry, credit retrieval, expressive arts, archery, cooking, math and reading support, sport eligibility support, coding, hiking, let your imagination soar...

## THORP SCHOOL DISTRICT #400 2023-2024 Instructional Calendar

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May 28-31 School Break  
June 19 – Juneteenth

**Conferences**  
November 15-17 Noon Release  
March 12-14 Noon Release

**Orange days** Tiger Academy  
(remediation & enrichment)  
12:15-1:30 pm

**Blue days** Tiger Academy  
Teacher Plan Time

**Green** Teacher Days  
Back to School/District Days  
August 21-24

**Balanced Calendar**  
**Tiger Academy**  
**Student 12:00 Release**



# How do we make this work?

## Approximate Budgetary Considerations:

- Extra janitorial staff within the Summer months = \$17,000 (unknown days needed)
- Tiger Academy Needs:
  - Extra Lunchroom support on Fridays. Paraeducator – \$70.71/Friday 8am-12pm for a total of 33 days = \$ 2,333.43
  - Extra bus run on Fridays, Driver and bus operation cost is \$341.96/Friday for a total of 21 Fridays = \$7,181.16

## Scheduling Changes:

- No scheduling changes necessary if plan is approved without Tiger Academy.
- With Tiger Academy Schedule:
  - All Students, P-12
    - Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 3:10 pm
    - Friday 8:30 am - 12:00 pm
  - Students Attending Tiger Academy:
    - Friday 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

\*TEA involvement would also be required to develop a final class schedule per union contract.

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There is also a potential impact to sports.

# Data points taken from:

- “Balanced Calendar Q&A - k12.Wa.us.” *Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction*,  
<https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/communications/2022docs/Balanced-Calendar-QA.pdf>.
- Pedersen, James. *Summer versus School: The Possibilities of the Year-Round School*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2015.