

Christian Academy School Calendar Development

Frequently Asked Questions: Part 2

What constitutes instructional time?

Daily instructional time begins when class is called to order in the morning and ends when instruction ends to prepare for carpool or at dismissal for middle and high school students. Lunch and other activities that break instruction are not included in the calculation of instructional time.

The minimum target for daily instructional time for CASS KY schools is 6 hours and 10 minutes. Some schools have a few extra minutes daily to accommodate their class and lunch schedules or to support arrival and dismissal procedures.

Why are professional development (PD) days scheduled during the school year?

At all Christian Academy K-12 schools, teachers are contracted and paid for 190 days work. Of those days, 180 are designated student days and the remaining 10 days are reserved for the activities required to start and end a school term and enhance professional practice. Four teacher days are scheduled in the days before school starts for students in the fall and one day following the conclusion of the school year. Recently, the first day of the second semester has been designated as a teacher work day. The remaining four contract days are used for specific teacher training.

Days are scheduled during the school year so teachers can immediately apply what they've learned to their classroom instruction. Over the past few years teachers have received training in differentiated instruction—methods of teaching content in a variety of ways to better address students' learning styles. There is ongoing work on curriculum development and instructional materials selection. Most recently, nationally known speakers have worked with our teachers to help them build each of their lessons on biblical principles. This biblical integration is the Christian school distinctive.

Why is there a professional day for teachers following Labor Day?

The day following Labor Day is the first day of the new school year when CASS can bring *all* teachers together for orientation and training. By that time CAL schools have been in session for a few weeks and CAI has been in session longer. By tying the professional day to a holiday, families have a longer break and CASS teachers can work together to develop goals for the year.

Why is the Kentucky schools' fall break scheduled over two weeks?

The Kentucky fall break is planned around system-wide teacher training sessions. Kentucky schools take an extra day or two to make the fall break. Indiana schools do not take these days due to the nature of their calendar.

To hold the system PD days followed by days off for KY but not for IN, plus give families the benefit of a long weekend, the break must impact two separate weeks.

Why are there breaks throughout the annual calendar?

Occasional breaks in the routine of day to day instruction allow students and teachers to return refreshed and ready for new challenges.

If you have additional questions, please send them to jwells@caschools.us.