

Frequently Asked Questions

How is the first day of school determined?

The August start date is determined primarily by the way the days fall on the calendar for the year. To see this, look at the way Christmas falls on the calendar, consider the usual Christmas break, then move backwards in the calendar about 90 days excluding holidays. That is when school will start. When Christmas falls at the end of a week, school will start earlier. When Christmas falls earlier in the week, school can be in session until the preceding Friday, so school is likely to start later in August.

One other factor impacting the first day of school is the desire for the first week of school to be 2-3 days long. Starting school with a full week of classes is especially difficult for young students. Planning a short week gives a reasonable transition period for students and teachers followed by a most welcome weekend. We try to schedule this short week, but sometimes it simply won't fit.

What is the purpose of the days schools are closed in the fall?

In addition to scheduling student days, teachers are scheduled for an additional 10 days for preparation for school to start and close, on-going training, and special projects. The most effective time to train teachers is in the fall. Our fall schedule for the past several years has focused on the continuing training and preparation of teachers and special teacher projects. The breaks in the school calendar during the fall months have been designed around the specific programs of professional development and work projects (curriculum development, for example) for teachers for the year.

Some of the professional development projects are best presented in blocks of time—perhaps 2 days back-to-back. Others, actually most that we've needed recently, are best scheduled with a day of training followed by weeks in the classroom followed by an additional day of follow-up training.

When scheduling in-service days in the fall, we try to arrange them around weekends so families can have extended time together. However, the purpose and focus of scheduling those days is teacher training.

You will note that there are two days schools are closed for teacher in-service training in November 2011. Our teachers will be attending a national educators' conference that will meet in Louisville this year. Since the program is offered locally we can afford to send our teachers to this top-quality professional conference.

Why does Christian Academy schedule 180 days for high school students in Kentucky?

Christian Academy schedules a traditional school year, which is 180 days for this part of the country. The length of the traditional school year is the standard that was set before budget concerns moved many states to reduce its required number of school days.

Kentucky's requirement of 177 is among the lowest in the country. (Indiana requires 180 instructional days.) States with consistently high performing students have longer school years. It has been our practice for many years to schedule a traditional school year. Also, by scheduling 180 days in high school we are able to use special scheduling for some events, like semester exams.

For several years our middle and elementary schools in Kentucky have been scheduled for 178 days and 2 conference days which do not count as instructional days. For 2011-12 the spring conference day has been eliminated, allowing us to schedule these students for 179 school days.

Christian Academy School Calendar Development

What is a recess day?

A recess day is simply a day off if we don't need it as a make-up day.

How are Christmas and Spring Breaks scheduled?

We schedule the Christmas and spring breaks around the local school system calendars so families and students can take advantage of the programs offered by their churches and the community. In Kentucky we schedule with Jefferson County Public Schools and in Indiana we schedule with New Albany/Floyd County Public Schools.

Jefferson County publishes its calendar early – the calendar for 2011-12 has been posted on their website for several weeks. However, New Albany/Floyd County schools usually delays the posting of its calendar until the preceding April. Therefore, the dates for Christmas and spring breaks for CAI are tentative until that calendar is published.

What factors impact the end of the school year?

The end of the school year is kept close to that of the local school systems since our students are active in organizations that plan around the public school schedule. Local church summer programs for students begin the first of June. College summer programs for students and teachers begin then as well.

There seems to be strong support for ending the school year prior to Memorial Day. High school teachers tell us that student scores are lower on exams that are given after the holiday break. This is one of the considerations in setting that last day of school.

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