



DEER VALLEY
Unified School District

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February 6, 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In September, I sent you a letter outlining a change to the DVUSD calendar for next school year to help promote student academic growth. Last spring, the DVUSD School Board approved the district's recommended changes to the 2019-2020 school calendar providing a ninety (90) minute early release day for teacher collaboration through the implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).

After they received the letter, many parents called and emailed our schools and my office. While parents understood and supported this important time for teacher professional development, many strongly expressed their preference that we hold the 90-minute early release day on Fridays versus our planned day of Wednesday. As a result, we recently emailed a survey to all parents, teachers, and staff to determine preference for the early release day.

Although, DVUSD administrators and I felt strongly that Wednesday would be the most productive day for our teachers to collaborate, we believe it is important to make sure everyone affected by this school calendar change had a chance to be heard. The survey results show that most parents and teachers prefer holding the 90-minute early release day on Fridays.

Therefore, my administrators and I recommended a revised plan, which the DVUSD Governing Board has approved: **During the next two school years, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, we will hold the 90-minute early release days on most Fridays.** These early release days will replace our current monthly half-day early release. Early release days will not occur during weeks when we have a holiday, parent/teacher conference, or state testing. The *Revised 2019-2020 School Calendar* is attached and available at www.dvusd.org/calendar. I encourage you to read about PLCs and how teacher collaboration will benefit your student by visiting www.dvusd.org/plc. In addition, you will find information about childcare at www.dvusd.org/plcChildCare.

Please know that the plan to hold the 90-minute early release days on Friday is a two-year trial. During the next two years, we will closely monitor the success of the implementation of the PLC professional development, the student and teacher attendance on Fridays, and our academic results to determine whether the 90-minute early release days will continue on Friday or change to a different day of the week for future school years.

As I wrote in the previous letter, the single most important thing I have done to increase student achievement during my career has been providing consistent time for teachers to work together. High quality and productive collaboration is the key to achievement for many organizations, from businesses to education, including Deer Valley. We appreciate your interest and support as we work to improve our academic results for your student and for all of our Deer Valley students.

SUPERINTENDENT
Curtis Finch, PhD

GOVERNING BOARD
Jenny Frank
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Sincerely,

Curtis Finch, PhD