

CALMAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



DISCOVER, LEARN, SUCCEED, CELEBRATE

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June 27, 2018

Dear Parents:

RE: 2018-19 TIMETABLE

The CES timetable will be changed next year; in particular, the unstructured afternoon recess break will be eliminated. Instead, teachers will have the option of incorporating a more closely monitored and supervised Daily Physical Activity (DPA) break as part of the daily schedule. As a result of this change, school start and dismissal times will be altered slightly:

OLD TIMETABLE (2017-18)

Doors Open		8:20
Warning Bell		8:30
Attendance/Classes Begin		8:35
Block 1	8:45	9:15
Block 2	9:15	9:45
Block 3	9:45	10:15
Recess	10:15	10:30
Block 4	10:30	11:00
Block 5	11:00	11:30
Block 6	11:30	12:00
Recess	12:00	12:25
Lunch	12:25	12:50
Attendance	12:50	12:55
Block 7	12:55	1:25
Block 8	1:25	1:55
Recess	1:55	2:10
Block 9	2:10	2:40
Block 10	2:40	3:10
Dismissal Bell		3:10
Buses Depart from CES		3:20

NEW TIMETABLE (2018-19)

Doors Open		8:25
Warning Bell		8:35
Attendance/Classes Begin		8:40
Block 1	8:45	9:15
Block 2	9:15	9:45
Block 3	9:45	10:15
Recess	10:15	10:30
Block 4	10:30	11:00
Block 5	11:00	11:30
Block 6	11:30	12:00
Recess	12:00	12:25
Lunch	12:25	12:50
Attendance	12:50	12:55
Block 7	12:55	1:25
Block 8	1:25	1:55
Block 9	1:55	2:25
Block 10	2:25	2:55
Dismissal Bell		3:00
Buses Depart from CES to CSS		3:10
Buses Depart from CSS		3:20

The following Q & A provides explanations to the timetabling changes.

Q: Why the change to the old timetable?

R: The change is primarily in response to parental concerns over student issues on the playground (i.e. conflict) as well as the number of supervisors available to monitor student behavior during recess.

Q: How do the timetabling changes address these concerns?

R: Eliminating the unstructured recess break in favor of DPA permits students to be engaged in physical activity under the more direct supervision of their homeroom teacher.



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Q: *Why not just have more teachers on supervision during recess?*

R: The new format seeks to provide teacher supervision of students within a more controlled environment. The student/teacher ratio is greatly reduced in the new timetable, thereby ensuring greater visibility of students by the supervisor(s) while at play.

Q: *Are the other recess breaks affected by the timetabling change?*

R: No. The morning and lunch recess breaks remain unchanged. Afternoon recess has traditionally been the most arduous of the three unstructured breaks; subsequently, only this recess is amended.

Q: *When will students participate in DPA?*

R: Homeroom teachers will determine for themselves when they would like to provide DPA for their students. The built-in flexibility of the timetable allows homeroom teachers to introduce DPA when most convenient and appropriate for their class throughout the day.

Q: *Are bus times affected by the change?*

R: Morning bus times will not be impacted, although the first morning bell will coincide more closely with bus arrival at CES. Following afternoon dismissal, buses will no longer wait in the CES bus lane while secondary students walk over for boarding; rather, buses will depart from CES at 3:10 for the boarding of secondary students at Calmar Secondary School (CSS). In effect, the actual departure time for the afternoon bus route remains unchanged at 3:20.

Q: *Without the afternoon recess break, the timetable is shortened by 15 minutes overall. Does this mean instructional time is also reduced?*

R: No. The CES timetable falls well within the Alberta Education guidelines for instructional hours. The 15-minute reduction in time is due solely to the elimination of afternoon recess. As such, instructional hours for the 2018-19 school year remain identical to 2017-18. Recess breaks are not counted as instructional time.

Q: *Is DPA instructional time?*

R: Yes. As part of physical education in schools, DPA may be consigned as instructional time.

Q: *What does the school hope to achieve with the change to afternoon recess breaks?*

R: The anticipated benefits are twofold: firstly, mitigating problematic student misbehaviors that most typically develop in the course of unstructured breaks; secondly, optimizing instructional minutes by decreasing the amount of time lost to recess transitions. Schools in the Edmonton Catholic School District and those within BGRS that have eliminated unstructured afternoon recess breaks report fewer incidents of student misbehavior and greater student engagement in afternoon classes. CES hopes to experience the same degree of success as these other schools.

Q: *What if the change doesn't achieve the expected results?*

R: The school remains optimistic the change will be for the better, though nothing is written in stone. CES has the option of reverting to the old timetable if the new schedule does not help to reach our intended goals.



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