School-Community Engagement

What You Need to Know
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“Engagement”
What does the term mean to you?
Case Study
Why to consider Calendar 2.0

Proposed Calendar 2.0
~175 student days~
8 weeks of summer vacation

Customized learning

- more choices and pathways to be responsive to individual learners' needs
- increases outcomes for personalized learning and individual growth based on multiple measures in addition to standardized tests
- increases opportunities for learning beyond traditional schoolhouse walls based on student interest (i.e. virtual, internships, job shadowing, civic engagement, camps, etc.) further involves families in the design of student goals and pathways

Minimize Disruption to Tech and Career Center Students

- provides more consistency in schedules throughout the region to ensure student attendance in tech. center programs
- minimizes disruptions to tech. center students increases potential opportunities for middle school students to experience tech. ed programs
Save our Summer - Vermont summers offer unique opportunities for our children

Join The Conversation

We are a coalition organized to preserve the current Champlain Valley public school calendar and reinforce Vermont summer as a critical time for outside-the-classroom learning, exploration of the natural world, community-building, family time, and rejuvenation.


The Champlain Valley Superintendents Association (CVSA), comprised of the superintendents of Chittenden, Grand Isle and Franklin counties, has proposed a new public school calendar that will maintain the current number of student instruction days (175) but will take away two weeks of summer vacation and add additional vacations within the school year. This calendar, called Calendar 2.0, is proposed to take effect beginning with the 2014-15 school year when the first day of school will be August 20th and the last day June 22nd. A week of vacation will be added in late October, and winter and spring breaks will be extended to two weeks each. The vacation times, called “intercessions”, will also serve as remedial instruction periods for students who are performing below standards. Very little information has been presented to the public regarding the new calendar yet the proposal is almost well into the community input phase of the plan before being submitted for formal consideration by the board of directors.
Vermont Save Our Summer Coalition
Community

Timeline  About  Photos  Likes  More

1,135 likes

Vermont Save Our Summer Coalition
August 9, 2014

This bold memo from VT Ed Secretary Rebecca Holcombe challenging the unrealistic standards of No Child Left Behind is gaining national attention. The chronic failure of virtually all VT schools to meet these impossible standards drives desperate school districts to propose "reforms" like Calendar 2.0.

http://education.vermont.gov/.../EDU-Letter_to_parents_and_cas...

education.vermont.gov

Vermont Save Our Summer Coalition
July 6, 2014

Summer: The perfect time for unstructured, free play–based learning
"Child-driven, hands-on play is the foundation of creativity, constructive problem solving, and the capacity to self-regulate."

Check out this amazing article from Harvard Medicine:...

Flights of Fancy | HMS
A five-year-old in a pink and purple striped sweatshirt bares her teeth, grows, then plunges into a knot of snarling children.

HMS.HARVARD.EDU
Primary Catalyst?

Exclusion
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Champlain Valley Superintendents Discuss Calendar 2.0

Champlain Valley, Vermont - October 11, 2013 - Champlain Valley Superintendents have completed four public forums with over 1000 people in attendance to discuss Calendar 2.0, a proposed calendar that uses existing calendar days in a different format intended to maximize student learning.

"It has been an exciting two weeks. The energy and interest exhibited at the community forums is testament to the importance our communities have in providing the very best educational opportunities for all of our students. We are grateful for the level of participation at the forums, on blogposts, and the many smaller groups who met over the course of the last nine months - all of which will be given serious consideration," commented Chittenden South Supervisory Union Superintendent Elaine Pinckney.

Superintendents in Champlain Valley agreed in a meeting this week that the forums indicated there is not broad-based community readiness at this time for this proposal for 2014-15 and it was also agreed not to implement this current proposed calendar in 2014-15; however, there remains a responsibility to engage communities in a conversation that looks at time as a variable in student learning, as well as capturing the energy around community engagement in education from the discussions at the forums.
Catalysts

Exclusion
Misunderstanding
Misinformation
Disinformation
Politicization
Disconnection
Anxiety
Self-Interest
Text-Based Discussion

Conflict Patterns
Conflict Patterns Activity

1. Read the handout on your own and write down 1-3 conflict patterns that you see occurring in your school or community (3 mins.)

2. At your tables, discuss how the patterns manifest in your community, what forms they take, and which issues give rise to them (10 mins.)

3. Each table shares 1-2 insights with the full group: What were the common themes? What did you realize about the conflict patterns in your school or community? (15 mins.)
What’s the Difference?
Marketing/PR vs. Engagement
Edward Bernays

“Father of PR”

Nephew of Freud
Dixie Cups
Sell disposable cups
Fears about germs
Luck Strikes
Sell more cigarettes
Women’s liberation
Beech Nut Co.

Sell more bacon

“All-American Breakfast”
Community Engagement
Communications Continuum

Marketing & Public Relations

- Fast
- You
- One-way
- Broadcasting
- Positional
- Salesmanship
- Autocracy

Authentic Engagement

- Slow
- Them
- Multidirectional
- Conversing
- Relational
- Leadership
- Democracy
Engagement Continuum

Selling      Informing      Advising      Co-Deciding
Principles of Engagement

Communication
Information
Participation
Conversation
Diversification
Facilitation
Co-Creation
Mobilization
Perpetuation
Structure of Engagement

Listen
Compile
Report
Discuss
Propose
Discuss
Finalize
Execute
Questions/Discussion?
Additive v. Replacement
In Charge: Student-Led Conferences at Pittsfield Middle High School

from Julie Mallozzi PLUS 1 year ago NOT YET RATED
Enrichment Thursdays: Learning for Everyone!

By David Theoharides
Sanford Superintendent of Schools

Posted Nov. 15, 2012 at 3:15 AM

As many of you know, the “Sanford Vision: Learning for Life” is based on the commitment that every young person in Sanford will be engaged in meaningful learning from the time they enter preschool to the time they reach adulthood. Our goal is to prepare Sanford’s next generation of leaders and citizens for a complex, 21st Century global society.

We aspire to create schools that are “student-centered” and “proficiency-based,” meaning that learning must be customized or personalized to the strengths and needs of each student. Our students will be exposed to a range of non-traditional, but academically rigorous learning experiences, such as community service, internships and apprenticeships in the community.
Enrichment Thursday @ SHS Library: Hour of Code

Rowan Fitzgerald, Staff Writer
November 10, 2014
Filed under A&E

Have you ever been interested in computers? Want to gain a better understanding of how they work? This Thursday in the library Mrs. Larson will be hosting an "Hour of Code" session for any students interested in computer programming. The session will begin at 7:45 (you may show up earlier) and end when the first bell rings. Computers will be available for use if you do not have your own iPad. The tutorial features "Angry Birds", "Plants vs. Zombies", and video lectures from Mark Zuckerberg and Bill Gates.

This session is made possible by Code.org, a website that offers one-hour tutorials to introduce someone to computer programming. Code.org brings people into the world of programming through simplistic tutorials and step-by-step learning. The tutorials are free and self-guided.
Existing Strategies

- Professional development
- School-board meetings
- Student governance
- School-climate surveys
- Homeroom/study halls
- Student advisories
- Performance exhibitions
- Etc.
Replacement-Engagement Activity

1. At your tables, select a volunteer to present on an existing school or district strategy that either is or could be an engagement opportunity

2. Presenters describe the strategy and what’s working or not working and answer questions from the group (10 mins.)

3. The group brainstorms and recommends ways to reengineer or replace the strategy to be a more effective engagement opportunity (10 mins.)

4. Presenters take notes and share 1-2 recommendations with the full group (15 mins.)
Questions/Discussion?
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