

# A PARENT'S GUIDE TO PARKWAY'S Late Start Days



**EVERY CHILD IS IMPORTANT.** Parkway began late start days in 2012 so teachers could have dedicated time in the morning to review each student's progress and collaborate about student learning in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Teachers meet for two hours on the last Wednesday of every month, except for December and May. On these Wednesdays, school begins two hours later than usual.



## Late Start Day Calendar 2018-19



School starts two hours later on these days:

- August 29, 2018
- September 26, 2018
- October 31, 2018
- November 28, 2018
- January 30, 2019
- February 27, 2019
- March 27, 2019
- April 24, 2019

## Why do we have Late Start Days?



**1. LATE START DAYS ARE DESIGNED** to allow teachers to collaborate in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). A PLC is a group of educators who are committed to helping every child be more successful in school. Late start days allow time for teachers to:

- Collaborate
- Study data about student performance
- Identify students who need extra help
- Identify students who need more challenging work
- Review best practices to help all students
- Take action to help each child improve
- Monitor results



**2. PLCs MEASURE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS** on student results, rather than intentions or good ideas. It's about monitoring data, taking action and continually adjusting to meet the needs of kids to help them succeed in school.





**3. HOW ARE PLC ACTIVITIES** different from traditional professional development? Under the PLC model, time for professional learning is more frequent and consistent. Rather than full days off school, teachers are reviewing individual student achievement data more often, identifying students who need extra help or more challenging work, investigating better teaching practices to help all students, and planning future instruction.

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**4. WHAT IS THE EFFECT OF LATE START DAYS** on the school calendar? Eight 2-hour morning PLC sessions replace two full days of professional development that previously took place. Students will have more consecutive learning days rather than missing an entire day. On the last Wednesday of every month, except December and May, teachers meet for two hours, beginning at each school's regularly scheduled starting time. All students have a delayed start, beginning exactly two hours after the regular start time.

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**5. DON'T TEACHERS ALREADY HAVE** planning time? Yes, but teachers need that work time to prepare lessons and grades, return phone calls and emails, meet with students and parents, update websites, etc. There isn't enough time for collaboration with other educators. District-wide PLC times also allow teachers from different schools to work cooperatively to learn best practices to benefit all students.

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**6. WHY CAN'T THE PROFESSIONAL** development be done before/after school or during the summer? Those times fall outside of our teachers' contractual work day. Dedicated time within the school day ensures maximum participation and provides the most benefit for students.

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**7. HOW DO LATE START DAYS** impact transportation and student activities? Buses arrive exactly two hours later than usual and after-school activities are not affected.

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## 8. WHAT IS THE RATIONALE for selecting a delayed start instead of early release?

- Allows more focused, undistracted study time for teachers before the hustle and bustle of the school day begins.
- Eliminates unsupervised after-school time during which students are waiting for athletics/activities to begin or are just “hanging out” at home alone for an extended time.
- Gives students additional time to sleep in the morning.
- Mornings allow coaches and after-school activity sponsors to participate.

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9. DID YOU CONSIDER HOLDING PLC DAYS on Fridays instead of Wednesdays? Yes, however based on the experiences of other districts, student and staff attendance is lower on Fridays. Holding sessions on Wednesdays maximizes learning time and participation.

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10. WHAT ABOUT CHILD CARE for parents who work or have other commitments? Elementary families are offered before school child care on the eight late start days. For more information on child care options, [click here](#).

11. WHERE CAN I GET MORE information about PLCs? Call the Parkway Communications Department at (314) 415-8077.



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