MCS 4 Day School Week with Optional Fridays
Frequently Asked Questions

Why change from a 5-day school week to a 4-day school week?

Mosier Community School will be moving to a four-day student contact week for the 2026-27 school year as a way to better support students, families, and staff while strengthening instructional time for all grade levels. This change is designed around the needs of our rural community and multi-age learning model.

Increased instructional time for our students.

Instructional Hours Comparison		
	25-26	**26-27**
K/1	1034 hours	1039 hours
2/3	1034 hours	1039 hours
4/5	974 hours	1025 hours
6-8	987 hours	1045 hours

Later start time and end time for students
A four-day week allows for a later start time, which supports student well-being, improves attendance, and aligns better with child development research. It is important that students are well rested and have had plenty of sleep. The benefit of a later start time on academic performance and health is particularly pronounced for our middle school students.

The later end time may also help many of our working families whose work schedules make it difficult to pick up their student(s) before 3:50pm.

Longer school days allow for deeper, uninterrupted instruction
With fewer student contact days, each school day becomes longer. This creates larger uninterrupted instructional blocks, allowing teachers to provide more in-depth lessons, teach more project-based learning, foster deeper concentration, and be available to students for slower-paced and stronger academic support. Longer blocks of instruction time also results in less transition-related disturbances and time lost in transitions.

More effective use of staff time, staff retention and staff recruitment
A non-student day can be used for planning, professional learning, collaboration, and family outreach. This strengthens instruction and supports the individualized needs of our students. All staff inservice days and work days are on Fridays and the schedule allows for team planning time. Additionally, as teaching staff here in Oregon and across the country learn to work in an environment of increased student behavior challenges, higher stress, a growing understanding of individualized student needs, post-Covid academic knowledge and achievement variability, and increasingly restricted federal and state resources, we want to support teacher well-being, retention, and recruitment.

What will be the start and end times each mandatory school day?

Drop begins at 7:45am - Breakfast available during this time

Instructional time begins at 8:20am

Instructional time ends at 3:50pm

What about using NWASCO transportation?

Students that use NWASCO transportation would load buses at the Wahtonka Campus around 7:50am and departing The Dalles at 8:00am. At the end of the school day, students would load buses at 3:50pm and would arrive at Wahtonka Campus between 4:15pm and 4:30pm depending on the bus route. (The exact bus schedule is still being finalized.)

What options are there for Fridays?

When there is a Monday holiday, students attend school on the Friday of that week. There are five Fridays that are mandatory instructional days. In addition, Mosier Community School will be offering 17 Optional Fridays for our students to provide high dosage tutoring and enrichment activities for the day. The optional Fridays will begin at 8:30am (drop off at 8:15am) and an end time of 2:00pm, with transportation available.

What about clubs?

MCS clubs would be available at either before school (7:15am) with a bus option, after school 4:00pm - 5:00pm (no bus option), and/or some Fridays. The times offered will depend on the adult that is supervising the club and their schedule and preference.

What if my child has after school activities that begin before 3:50pm?

We have structured schedules so that students in grades 4 - 8 could leave during their enrichment time, which is after 3:10pm, if needed. However, transportation would not be provided by MCS at that time.

Will my child still have PE and Music each day?

PE and Music will move from 30 minutes each day to 45 minutes two times per week. Additional PE time will be provided by classroom teachers twice per week to maintain the state required 150 minutes of PE each week.

This will allow our specialists to provide more comprehensive lessons, with fewer transitions for our students. This also allows our teaching teams in grades K-5 to have common preparation time with each other.

What will this cost the school?

There will be both cost savings and new expenses. The school will realize potential modest savings on utility usage and food services. The school will have some new costs, the most significant being to cover mileage for the additional bus routes and the acquisition of Mosier's first school bus.

The good news is that the cost of a school bus and any other additional transportation costs (including any miles charged by D21) will be reimbursed 70 percent by the State of Oregon. The new bus will also expand Mosier School's possibilities for off-campus learning and activities–in alignment with our strategic plan. We are currently working with D21 to finalize exact costs.

What if I still have unanswered questions?

Please join our 4 Day School Committee meetings or reach out to Michelle Dawkins with additional questions. We value your input and ideas.