



Dwight Elementary School

2012 National Blue Ribbon School

**1600 Redding Road
Fairfield, CT 06824**



Mimi Maniscalco
Principal

Phone: (203) 255-8312
Fax: (203) 255-8201

August 20, 2014

Dear Dwight Elementary Families,

Starting in the 2014-2015 year, the elementary schools in Fairfield will be using a five-day rotating schedule using letter names for each day (Days A, B, C, D, E). This means that your child's class will be assigned a specials schedule (Physical Education, Art and Music) that meets on a given letter day rather day of the week. By doing this we achieve the goal of having more equitable distribution of special area class meeting times. Under the old Monday to Friday system, students who had Art on Monday would not have had the same amount of instructional time as students at the same grade level who had Art on a Wednesday due to the nature of the school calendar. With a rotating schedule, the school days missed due to holidays or professional development no longer impact the special areas instructional time.

Additionally, we will be introducing a new special areas class to elementary students, Tech Time. To provide consistent direct instruction in technology, our Library Media Specialists will be teaching students during Tech Time based on the Library Media curriculum. Tech Time will also follow the five-day rotating schedule.

The five-day schedule is "locked in" so that it does not create confusion. In other words, if there is a snow day, and students miss "B Day", we come back to school on "C Day" as shown on the calendar. Missed days will be added to the end of the year. This "locked in" format allows everyone to know what letter each day is well in advance.

We plan on reviewing the effectiveness of this five-day rotating schedule to inform our plans for the 2015-2016 school year. We will be sure to include an opportunity for parents and students to provide us feedback.

Attached you will find a FAQ sheet about the five-day schedule and a 2014-2015 school calendar with letter days identified. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have at 203-255-8312.

Sincerely,

School Principal Signature

Fairfield Elementary Schools Five-Day Rotation Schedule FAQs

1. Why are we moving to a five-day rotation schedule?
The five day rotating schedule allows greater equity for student access to special area classes. Holidays and scheduled professional development days will not create an inequity of instructional time for students in Physical Education, Art, and Music.
2. What specials classes do elementary students have?
Your child has various scheduled specials, including the new special, “Tech Time.” The allocation of specials times have not changed.

Grade K: Art – 30 minutes, 1x/week
 Music – 30 minutes, 2x/week
 Physical Education – 30 minutes, 2x/week
 Tech Time – 40 minutes, 1x/week

Grade 1: Art – 45 minutes, 1x/week
 Music – 30 minutes, 2x/week
 Physical Education – 30 minutes, 2x/week
 Tech Time – 40 minutes, 1x/week

Grade 2: Art – 45 minutes, 1x/week
 Music – 30 minutes, 2x/week
 Physical Education – 30 minutes, 2x/week
 Tech Time – 40 minutes, 1x/week

Grade 3: Art – 45 minutes, 1x/week
 Music – 30 minutes, 2x/week
 Physical Education – 30 minutes, 2x/week
 Tech Time – 40 minutes, 1x/week

Grade 4: Art – 60 minutes, 1x/week
 Music – 30 minutes, 2x/week
 Physical Education – 30 minutes, 2x/week
 Spanish - 25 minutes, 2x/week
 Tech Time – 40 minutes, 1x/week

Grade 5: Art – 60 minutes, 1x/week
 Music – 30 minutes, 1x/week
 Chorus – 45 minutes, 1x/week
 Physical Education – 30 minutes, 2x/week
 Spanish - 25 minutes, 2x/week
 Tech Time – 40 minutes, 1x/week
3. What happens to the schedule when there are unexpected closings such as a snow day?
The letter day is missed but will be made up during the end-of-year make-up days in June.
4. What special area classes or services will not be on the rotating schedule?
The classes or services that will not follow the rotating schedule are: strings, band, and occupational/physical therapies.

5. Are all elementary schools following this schedule?

Yes, all eleven elementary schools in Fairfield will be using this schedule starting in 2014-2015.