

Dear Rosa Parks Elementary School Staff and Community,

Now that we have entered the second semester of the 2018-2019 school year, we understand that you are eager to hear more about your school's calendar change starting in Fall 2019, and the supports that the district will be providing to Rosa Parks.

We would like to provide you with an update that we hope addresses some of your questions and concerns, and inform you about a great opportunity for your children this summer.

On May 8, 2018 our School Board voted to return Rosa Parks to a traditional calendar, starting in school year 2019-20. A major reason for the calendar change is to align Rosa Parks' calendar with the rest of the schools in Portland Public Schools. The middle school and high school in the area – George Middle School and Roosevelt High School – have traditional calendars, so Rosa Parks families with children in one or more of the area secondary schools have had to manage multiple different schedules for their children. Also, it is difficult to coordinate certain district-wide activities for only one school that is different from all other schools – this includes meal services, report card schedules, and teacher trainings. Further, our district has begun a process to consider possible changes in enrollment and program placement, to make better use of schools with extra space and to relieve overcrowding in other schools. When all Portland Public Schools have a consistent calendar, district-wide changes like this can work more smoothly across the district.

We recognize that one of the greatest concerns about returning to a traditional calendar is the possibility of losing the extra days of extended learning opportunities for Rosa Parks students. We share your priority on maintaining the extended days model with the new calendar, and, starting in summer 2019, students of Rosa Parks will be offered a summer enrichment program. The program will include academic and intellectual enrichment in a variety of areas, much like the intersessions at Rosa Parks have provided.

In the next several weeks we will ask for your ideas about what you believe would make an excellent summer program, from the perspectives of students, families, and staff. We will also send you information throughout this winter and spring as details of the summer program are coming together. Both of us will be leading this process.

There are many good things already happening at Rosa Parks, and we will work hard to maintain them and to take your children's education to an even higher level each year. Please don't hesitate to contact Principal Newsome or your school office staff with any questions.

Sincerely,

Scott Whitbeck
Area Assistant Superintendent

Karl Logan
Area Senior Director