

Early Dismissal FAQ

When is early dismissal?

Early dismissal will start in August 2018 at the beginning of the next school year - the 2018-19 school year. Early dismissal will take place at 2:30 p.m. every Monday school is in session.

How will after-school care work for my child?

If your children currently attend or plan to attend after-school care at the elementary schools, they will simply go to after school care ½ hour earlier on Mondays at no extra cost.

If you do not plan to utilize the after-school care, but are unable to pick your child up at 2:30 you will be able to sign up for “late pick-up.” Late pick-up will take place at 3:00. Appropriate supervision will be provided by your school for this ½ hour period on Mondays at no extra charge.

St. Boniface students will be provided transportation to St. Mary After School Care on early dismissal days.

Central Catholic Jr.-Sr. High School currently provides supervised study tables and the “Knights’ Cafe” to its students and families at no charge. This program has been popular among families and students and will start a ½ hour earlier on Mondays at no extra charge. Central Catholic will be monitoring attendance at these free options so that parents can see that if their child is attending.

How will practice for sports and extracurricular activities work on Mondays?

Teachers who also coach are expected to attend each Monday session with their fellow teachers. However, non-teacher coaches and assistant coaches may still start practices at the normal times. This will be determined by each coaching staff and will be covered in the parent/athlete meetings prior to the beginning of each season.

Why is weekly PD for teachers important?

LCSS, like many high performing schools, has moved to a continuous improvement model. Like other industries, continuous improvement requires more frequent times to meet to review data, progress, and collaborate. A weekly time dedicated to continuous improvement allows teachers to adequately meet and collaborate on items that are deemed essential for top performance and preparation. This early dismissal enables LCSS to provide our staff with a weekly opportunity to work together on school improvement, training, collaboration, spiritual formation, review of data, and reflection. Student learning and achievement increase when educators engage in effective professional development focused on the skills educators need in order to improve student outcomes.

How long will each PD session last?

Each PD session will last 1 hour and will take place from 2:30 - 3:30 every Monday school is in session.

Do the elementary schools and the high school have the same early dismissal time?

Yes. On Mondays, all four schools will dismiss at 2:30. During the rest of the week (Tuesday - Friday), however, CC and the three elementary schools will dismiss at their usual times. St. Mary, St. Lawrence, and St. Boniface will all dismiss at 3:00, and Central Catholic will dismiss at 3:12.

What factors were considered when deciding on early dismissal?

The after-school time was chosen to ensure that the schools were able to provide after-school care or supervision for working parents. This Monday time was chosen based on teacher availability in conjunction with the teacher contracts. Our LCSS teachers are contracted to work 190 days. This is 7 days more than the public school teachers. There are no options to add this weekly collaboration time due to all the other extra days already required in their contracts.

Was the loss of instructional time considered a factor?

Yes. LCSS currently exceeds the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) instructional time requirement. An early dismissal of 2:30 will still exceed the minimum requirement for a day of school by the IDOE. Additionally, while instructional time is reduced by a ½ hour each week, the adoption of continuous school improvement is expected to produce gains in the classroom and instruction that will more than make up the loss of that ½ hour.

Did LCSS consider late arrival?

Yes. It was determined that this would put even more hardship on families with two working parents as many must drop their children off at 7:30. In order to accommodate these families, we would need to provide early drop off at 7:30, which would mean these children would be at school for over an 1:15 minutes before school started on Mondays.

Why don't teachers do PD on their own time?

We have made much progress on increasing our teacher pay over the last five years, and our goal is to continue to narrow the gap of pay between LCSS and the public schools. Currently, however, LCSS teachers are expected to do more with less pay than our public school teachers. Teachers are expected to prepare lesson plans for multiple subjects and grade homework and tests after school hours. LCSS cannot expect to remain competitive in the hiring of teachers unless it is prepared to provide time for professional development within the school day.