



Lana Snodgras, Communications & Community Relations Director  
West Plains Schools  
610 East Olden Street., West Plains, MO 65775  
(417) 256-6150  
lana.snodgras@zizzers.org  
www.zizzers.org

## West Plains School District Announces 2020-2021 Calendar

The West Plains School District Board of Education has approved the 2020-21 school calendar. The State of Missouri now mandates all districts must start on or after August 24. The district start date for the 2020-21 school year will be on Monday, August 24, and the district will end one week later than in recent years.

The district has collaborated with the five K-8 districts to create a calendar that is community minded yet meets the unique needs of each district. Districts are required to offer at least 1,044 hours of instruction annually. Annual days and hours of instruction differ from district to district due to the incorporation of snow days, bussing schedules and local autonomy. In order to meet state requirements, the West Plains School District has extended the school year and modified school start and end times. Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, West Plains Elementary will begin at 7:30 am and end at 2:55 pm. South Fork Elementary will begin at 8:05 am and end at 3:45 pm. West Plains High School and Middle School will begin at 8:05 am and end at 3:40 pm.

In an effort to shift focus from teaching to learning, the district has designated time in the 2020-2021 calendar to allow teachers at all grade levels to work together. The collective wisdom of all should be greater than the wisdom of one, and educators can better their classroom experience for students by sharing methods among peers. District leaders and the board of education recognize the need for teachers, as professionals, to collaborate with peers. Each week on Wednesdays, all buildings will dismiss one hour early. This dedicated, weekly time will be devoted to teacher collaboration through the Professional Learning Communities school improvement model.

Information on Professional Learning Communities and can be found at [www.zizzers.org/PLC](http://www.zizzers.org/PLC).

#####

*2,600 students attend schools in the West Plains School District. More information about the West Plains Schools and its individual schools can be found at [www.zizzers.org](http://www.zizzers.org)*

---

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jimmy E. Thompson, President    Cindy Tyree, Vice President    Sam Riggs, Member    Lee Freeman, Member  
Brian Mitchell, Member    Courtney Beykirch, Member    Christena Silvey-Coleman, Member