

July 2016

Dear Colleagues,

Even as we enjoy these wonderful days at the height of summer, I'm excited to write this in welcoming you to the 2016-17 school year! I know this time for traveling, family, and re-energizing evaporates all too quickly, but I hope it brings you back to our sacred work with full hearts for this year ahead.

Many of you know I admire the work of Richard Elmore and Liz City, education professors at Harvard, for the important clarity they bring with their "instructional core" model. Simply, the instructional core is the relationship between the teacher and student in the presence of content. At the center of the instructional core is student task – those things we ask students to do in practicing or demonstrating their learning.

Elmore and City correctly point out that if we are not doing something meaningful to improve the instructional core, we aren't really doing anything that is improving instruction or making genuine change. Certainly, if we aren't asking students to engage with meaningful and important tasks, we aren't really changing their experiences.

In their work *Instructional Rounds in Education* (City, Elmore, Fiarman, Teitel) had this to say about improving schools.

*In most instances, when people ask us, "what can we do at the system level to foster improvement in schools and classrooms?" our answer is "don't broaden the work with new initiatives, **deepen the work** with greater focus." ... schools don't need more things to do. In fact, they need less to do with greater focus. They need a more powerful, coherent culture of instructional practice.*

For the past two years, we've made great strides in establishing this coherent culture with our focus on the district's "Big Three" instructional initiatives.

- **Teaching all Kids to High Standards**, where we (systematically) hold high expectations for all students, weaving our "Global-Ready Skills" into these.
- **Response to Instruction (RtI)**, and our work to bring students' engagement and understanding of their own learning into our practices of responsive teaching.
- **Empowered Professionals**, where we've been intentional about giving our classroom teachers and other professionals the authority and flexibility to make key decisions about their work, treating all our employees with the dignity and respect they deserve.

These three big ideas are neither particularly innovative nor flashy. But they form the foundational drivers of quality in every great education system. It is within these areas where we will continue to "**deepen the work**," and forcibly reject the latest mandates or gimmicks that only serve to distract us from what's really important.

While much of our attention and organizational focus is on teaching and learning, I also wish to extend a recognition and word of appreciation for our wonderful and talented administrators and support staff personnel. The magic of learning that happens with our students on a daily basis would simply not be possible without all that you contribute.



Almost three years ago, we published a vision document for Eagle County Schools entitled “Unparalleled Altitude: A Globally-Inspired Vision for Eagle County Schools.” Embedded in that document was the following statement:

If ever there was a place that could set a shining example for what a community and its schools can accomplish out of love for its children – let that be us, and let it be now.

Each school year brings with it a sense of hopeful optimism for the future and this is certainly the case for the work before us. Let’s lean hard into that work of showing the world what we can accomplish for these kids.

With all the reverence and appreciation I can offer, thank you for all that you do for our kids and community,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason E. Glass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Jason E. Glass
Superintendent & Chief Learner
Eagle County Schools

Teachers *Returning* to Eagle County Schools

Position	Start Date	Location
Master	Monday, August 1	Your School
Mentor	Thursday, August 4	Your School
Teacher	Thursday, August 11	Your School

Teachers *New* to Eagle County Schools

Position	Start Date	Location
Master	Monday, August 1	Your School
Mentor	Thursday, August 4	Your School
Teacher	Tuesday, August 9	Eagle Valley High School- Main Entrance

All Eagle County School Employees:

Please refer to the inserts included in this envelope, for August events, dates, times and locations.

Support Staff:

A breakfast with the Superintendent, Dr. Jason Glass, will be held August 16 from 7:00-8:00 a.m. at Avon Elementary School cafeteria. Please feel free to drop by after 7:00am and if you need to leave early to fit your schedule we understand.

Event Locations:

Avon Elementary School is located at 850 West Beaver Creek Blvd, Avon, CO 81620
Battle Mountain High School is located at 0151 Miller Ranch Road, Edwards, CO 81632
Eagle Valley High School, 641 Valley Road, Gypsum, CO 81637
Edwards Interfaith Chapel, 32138 US Hwy 6, Edwards, CO 81632
Café Milano, 429 Edwards Access Road, Edwards, CO 81632

If you have questions regarding this calendar, please contact Audrey McNeely in the Educator Quality Department.

970-328-2181

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Eagle County Schools (ECS) 2016-17 Work Year Calendar

Employee	Current Start	Current End	Total Paid Days	Pay Start Date	Pay End Date
Administrative Employees					
Assistant Principals	08/01/16	06/14/17	204	07/18/16	07/16/17
Principals					
Elementary School	08/01/16	06/14/17	204	07/18/16	07/16/17
Middle School	08/01/16	06/28/17	214	07/18/16	07/16/17
High School	08/01/16	06/30/17	216	07/18/16	07/16/17
Certified/Licensed Employees					
Curriculum, Learning & Instruction Specialists	07/18/16	07/14/17	224	07/18/16	07/16/17
Master Teachers & Instructional Coaches	08/01/16	06/01/17	192	08/15/16	08/13/17
Mentor Teachers	08/04/16	05/30/17	187	08/15/16	08/13/17
New Licensed Staff	08/09/16	05/30/17	184	08/15/16	08/13/17
Returning Licensed Staff	08/11/16	05/30/17	182	08/15/16	08/13/17
Counselors					
Elementary School	08/11/16	05/30/17	182	08/15/16	08/13/17
Middle School	08/04/16	06/02/17	189.5	08/15/16	08/13/17
High School	08/04/16	06/06/17	192	08/15/16	08/13/17
Permanent Substitutes	08/18/16	05/25/17	171	08/15/16	08/13/17
NOTE: Permanent substitutes are only scheduled during the days students are present					
Support Staff Employees					
Office Managers, Registrars, School Secretaries					
Elementary School	08/01/16	06/16/17	214*	08/01/16	06/18/17
Middle School	08/01/16	06/30/17	224*	08/01/16	07/02/17
High School	08/01/16	07/04/17	226*	08/01/16	07/16/17
NOTE: Office managers, registrars & school secretaries are scheduled for all teacher training/work days and parent teacher conferences					
Case Management Assistants	08/01/16	06/06/17	203*	08/01/16	06/18/17
NOTE: Case management assistants are scheduled for all teacher training/work days and parent teacher conferences, except for September 23, 2016 and March 10, 2017.					
Paraprofessionals & Health Assistants	08/16/16	05/25/17	183**	08/15/16	06/04/17
NOTE: Paraprofessionals & Health Assistants are scheduled only during the days students are present plus a full day August 16, 2016, August 17, 2016, and a full day October 18 2016.					
Preschool Support	08/11/16	05/26/17	188**	08/01/16	06/04/17
NOTE: Preschool support are scheduled only during the days students are present plus full days August 11 through August 17, 2016, a full day October 18, 2016, and a full day March 20, 2017.					
Cooks	08/15/16	05/26/17	186**	08/01/16	06/04/17
Cafeteria Managers	08/15/16	05/30/17	188*	08/01/16	06/04/16
NOTE: Cooks and cafeteria managers are scheduled only during the days students are present plus full days August 15 through August 17, 2016, a full day October 18, 2016, and a full day March 20, 2017.					
Bus Drivers	08/11/16	05/25/17	183**	08/01/16	06/04/17
NOTE: Bus drivers are scheduled only during the days students are present plus full days August 11, 2016, August 12, 2016, and March 20, 2017.					
NOTES:					
* Includes 10 paid holidays					
** Includes 9 paid holidays					

July 2016

Dear Educators,

Summer provides you with well-deserved time to enjoy your family and friends. As fall approaches, we are anticipating your return to move forward the work of the strategic plan, "Altitude in Action." The thinking will begin:

August 1 st	Principals and Master Teachers Return, in buildings
August 2 nd and 3 rd	AdTeam Retreat (Masters Attend), Edwards Interfaith Chapel, 8AM-4PM, Activities to Follow
August 4 th	Mentor Teachers Return, ILTs in buildings
August 5 th	ILTs in buildings
August 8 th -11 th	Registration for Educator Academy
August 8 th and 9 th	Learning Services Institute for ILT and District Leadership, Edwards Interfaith Chapel
	August 8 th 7:30AM-3:30PM
	August 9 th 8:30AM-3:30PM
August 9 th and 10 th	New Teacher Orientation, Eagle Valley High School
	August 9 th 7:00-4:00PM
	August 10 th 8:00AM-4:00PM
August 11 th	All Teachers Return, in buildings
August 12 th	Educator Academy for All Certified Staff, Battle Mountain High School
	7:30-4:00PM Reception at Café Milano to follow, Hosted by EFEC and ERYC
August 15 th	Educator Academy: Day 2, in buildings (this will vary by school, ask your principal)
August 18 th	First Day of School for Middle and High School Students
August 18 th and 19 th	Elementary School Testing Days
August 22 nd	First Day of School for Elementary School Students

Deepening Our Work

We will maintain our focus on the "Big Three": Teaching All Kids to High Standards, Response to Instruction, and Empowered Professionals. We can accomplish the Big Three, every day, in every classroom by working together to develop performance tasks that put an emphasis on global-ready skills. Enhancing our collaborative practices will continue to be a strategy to empower our educators and to build leadership capacity.

Looking ahead to 2017-2018, we will see the implementation of the Board approved teacher leader model. Therefore, schools will utilize the '16-'17 year to collaboratively create their school-based strategic plans which will detail academic goals and the roles and responsibilities of their teacher leaders will be to accomplish those goals. The beauty in how teacher leadership is evolving in ECS is in its flexibility and that you will craft it based on your school's student need.

I hope the above information helps you plan for your transition back from summer into our school year. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Sincerely,



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August

2016

Back to School Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Principals, APs, Masters, Inst. Coaches, OM, Registrars, & SS In Buildings	2 AdTeam Retreat# Edwards Interfaith Chapel	3 AdTeam Retreat# Edwards Interfaith Chapel	4 Mentors, MS & HS Counselors Return – In Buildings	5 In Buildings	6
7	8 Learning Service Institute^ Edwards Interfaith Chapel	9 Learning Service Institute^ Edwards Interfaith Chapel New Teacher Orientation – EVHS	10 New Teacher Orientation – EVHS ILTs in Building	11 All Teachers, Elem. Counselors, Pre School Support, & Bus Drivers In Buildings	12 Educator Academy* BMHS	13
14	15 Teachers in Building Educator Academy* Day 2 Food Service In Buildings	16 Teachers in Building Paras & HAs Return Support Staff Breakfast+ AES	17 Teachers in Building	18 Elementary Testing Day First Day of School: Middle and High	19 Elementary Testing Day	20
21	22 First Day of School: Elementary	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

All Principals, APs, Masters, Directors, Curriculum, Learning and Instruction Specialists, and Asst. Superintendents Attend
 ^ All Principals, APs, Masters, Mentors, Directors, Curriculum, Learning and Instruction Specialists, and Asst. Superintendents Attend
 * All Certified Staff Attend
 + All Support Staff Attend (Please RSVP to your Supervisor) ****Please See Attached Information for Times*

