



## **Parent Communication Embedded Collaborative Learning Time**

During the past two years, 16 schools have adopted the Embedded Collaborative Learning Time model to enhance professional learning for teachers. There is overwhelming evidence that student learning and student engagement increase when teachers have opportunities to work together as Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). A recent evaluation of the collaborative learning teams from all current schools indicates that teachers are engaged in valuable learning and are adjusting their teaching practices to improve student engagement and achievement.

In 2014-2015, the Park View feeder system will join all other schools by implementing Embedded Collaborative Learning Teams.

What will “embedded collaborative learning time” look like?

- ✓ On designated days of the school year, the school day will be reduced by 90 instructional minutes for staff to collaborate and engage in professional learning.
- ✓ To support the early dismissal dates, instructional time will be extended by an average of seven to 10 minutes each day for the entire school year.
- ✓ The added daily instructional time will allow for 14 ninety-minute early dismissals per school year on various afternoons (schedule below).

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) has been a leader in working with the following partners to review research and develop a framework for moving forward with embedded collaborative learning time:

- ✓ Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU)
- ✓ Nova Scotia School Boards Association (NSSBA)
- ✓ University Schools of Education
- ✓ Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium (NSELC)
- ✓ Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators (ANSEA)

Benefits to students and their families include:

- ✓ Decrease in the number of times teachers will be away from their students for professional development
- ✓ Enhanced examination of student work so supports are in place sooner
- ✓ Continued support for inquiry-based learning and student engagement
- ✓ Increased student achievement in all areas, including math and literacy
- ✓ Improved assessment practices
- ✓ Issues, such as cyber bullying and the development of social emotional competencies of students, are more effectively addressed
- ✓ A classroom environment that allows students to work from their preferred learning styles and talents

**Evidence-based Nova Scotia documents that support this direction include:**

- ✓ Report and Recommendations of the Education Professional Development Committee (EPDC) – 2009
- ✓ Department of Education Response to the above Report – 2009
- ✓ Report of the Professional Learning Communities Study Committee – 2011
- ✓ Steps to Effective and Sustainable Public Education in NS – 2011
- ✓ Kids & Learning First – 2012

Principals and Regional staff consulted with school staffs and their SACs and developed a modified schedule that will begin in the 2014-2015 school year.

- ✓ On average in the feeder system, the day will be lengthened by an average of seven to 10 minutes each day for the entire school year, through extending and reorganizing the school day. Daily instruction in Nova Scotia can vary between 240 and 360 minutes per day in grades primary to 2, including recess; and between 300 and 360 minutes per day in grades 3 to 6, including recess; and between 300 and 360 in grades 7 to 12, not including recess.
- ✓ On designated days throughout the school year (schedule below), students will be dismissed early. Staff will remain at school for collaborative learning time after the students leave. This structured time will be used to examine student achievement data and to plan for specific strategies to improve student learning and student engagement.

We appreciate your support as we continue to find creative ways to encourage professional learning for our teachers and to improve on student achievement and engagement. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the principal.

## Early Dismissal/Embedded Collaborative Learning Time Schedule 2014-2015 School Year

The schedule for early dismissals for embedded collaborative learning time for the 2014-2015 school year is as follows:

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Wednesday, October 8   | 8. Wednesday, February 25 |
| 2. Wednesday, October 22  | 9. Wednesday, March 11    |
| 3. Wednesday, November 5  | 10. Wednesday, March 25   |
| 4. Wednesday, November 19 | 11. Wednesday, April 15   |
| 5. Wednesday, December 3  | 12. Wednesday, April 29   |
| 6. Wednesday, January 14  | 13. Wednesday, May 13     |
| 7. Wednesday, February 4  | 14. Wednesday, May 27     |

**Please see the revised 2014-2015 start and end times for your school/family of Schools along with the early dismissal times for the fourteen dates above.**

\* *Indicates a change from the current 2013-2014 school start and/or end times.*

*It is important to note that the amount of instructional time during the school day at all of the schools below has been extended by an average of 10 minutes. Schools have changed one or all of the following:*

- *start and/or end times*
- *reduced the length of recess and lunch breaks*

School	Start Times 2014-2015	End Times 2014-2015	Dismissal Time for CLT Days
BA P-9	*8:25	*2:32	1:02
BCS P-6	*8:10	*2:10	12:40
BCS 7-9	9:15	3:15	1:45
HA P-5	*7:55	*1:45	12:15
HA 6-9	*9:03	3:00	1:30
NES	*8:20	*2:12	12:42
PES	*7:55	*1:52	12:22
PRES	*7:55	*1:54	12:24
PVEC	9:28	*3:32	2:02

School	Start Times 2014-2015	End Times 2014-2015	Dismissal Time for CLT Days
ACES	8:00	1:50	12:20
CDES	8:00	1:52	12:22
NRCS	8:10	2:20	12:50
CAMS	8:55	2:50	1:20
FHCS	9:00	3:10	1:40

School	Start Times 2014-2015	End Times 2014-2015	Dismissal Time for CLT Days
NGES	8:48	2:55	1:25
NGRHS	8:48	3:00	1:30
WNES	8:05	1:57	12:27

School	Start Times 2014-2015	End Times 2014-2015	Dismissal Time for CLT Days
BES	8:40	2:38	1:08
BJSHS	9:00	3:01	1:20

School	Start Times 2014-2015	End Times 2014-2015	Dismissal Time for CLT Days
NQCS	8:35	2:44	1:14
GES	8:28	2:15	12:45

School	Start Times 2014-2015	End Times 2014-2015	Dismissal Time for CLT Days
DJCWA	8:40 am	2:50 pm	1:20 pm
SQMS	7:45 am	1:40 pm	12:10 pm
LRHS	8:00 am	2:00 pm	12:30 pm

**Other IMPORTANT Notes:**

- If your start and/or end times are changing, please communicate this to your parents.
- Please make sure that local daycares, YMCA, etc. are notified of these dates.
- No extra curriculums for staff on early dismissal days before regular dismissal time.