



WALL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

P.O. Box 1199 • 18th Avenue

Wall, NJ 07719

Dr. Tracy Handerhan
Superintendent of Schools

December 20, 2023

Dear WTPS Community:

At last night's Business Meeting of the Board of Education, this year's school calendar was revised for K-5 schools. The calendar now reflects an **early dismissal** schedule (1:05 PM) on **February 28, 2024** for **K-5 students** ([click here](#) to view the revised calendar). This early dismissal will provide time for K-5 teachers to receive additional professional development in the science of reading methodologies and practices. As many of you are aware, WTPS has moved to this evidence-based strategy in K-2 and we are currently piloting this instructional practice in some classes in grades 3-5. Next year, the transition to this evidence-based practice in grades 3-5 will be complete. The focus of this next-step training will be on the prevention and remediation of reading difficulties. The timing of this additional training will be particularly beneficial as we head into the second half of the school year.

I understand that any changes to a school calendar, no matter how slight, can be inconvenient for families. Please know that I recognize this. I also recognize that our students will certainly benefit from the implementation of these evidence-based strategies.

Should you wish to learn more information about this evidenced-based reading practice, please [click here](#) to view the slide presentation presented at a Board of Education meeting earlier this fall. Also, an evening parent presentation on the science of reading is currently in the works for this spring. The details will be communicated to you in the new year.

Sincerely,

Tracy R. Handerhan, D.Litt.
Superintendent of Schools