

Something new in our school district this year is an on-line interactive calendar. Schools everywhere have wanted and needed something like this for many years. Now, with computers and Internet access becoming more and more common, it's finally both practical and cost-effective.

The interactive calendar is accessed through the district web site, at www.fairfieldcityschools.com. There's a button for it on the left side of the home page.

The power of this new type of calendar is that it lets users decide which schools and event types they want to see. So, for example, a parent with children at the Middle School and at the Freshman School can set up the calendar to show just those two schools, and not have to sort through events going on at our other eight schools.

It also lets users select the types of events they want to see. A resident who's interested in the sports schedule can set up the calendar to show just our athletic events, and not have to also see all the entries for other types of events. Setting up the calendar to a custom view only has to be done one time for any individual computer.

Another powerful feature of the interactive calendar is its subscriptions and reminders feature. These enable users to receive an email notification if an event is canceled or rescheduled, and also to receive reminders about upcoming events. Users can set how often they want to be reminded and how long before the event they want to receive the reminder.

We are a busy, active school district with a lot going on. Clicking on the calendar to see all schools and all events will give a good idea of just how much is happening in our district.

If you have questions about the calendar, please feel free to contact any of our school offices. Each school puts in all of its own upcoming events, and needs to know if anything is missing, inaccurate or possibly unclear.

Something else that is new this year is a change in the district's policy on student absences. At its Aug. 21 meeting, the Fairfield Board of Education added college visits and medical or dental appointments to the approved excused absence reasons. (The other approved reasons are personal illness, illness in the family, quarantine of the home, death of a relative, work at home due to the absence of parents or guardians, observance of a religious holiday, and an emergency or set of circumstances, which, in the judgment of the superintendent, is a good and sufficient cause for absence.)

As our school planners and agendas were printed earlier in the summer, the policy as shown in those items does not reflect the changes the school board made at the Aug. 21 meeting.

Regular school attendance is crucial. Successful students are in school, on time, almost every day of the school year.

Please watch out for our children as they travel to school and back home again. We want to have an exciting year in our district, a year in which all of our students are safe, and successful.

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