



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2015 | 2016

DCPS

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

dcps.dc.gov

Dear Friends,

Classrooms are ready, backpacks are filled, and teachers, principals, and staff are raring to go! Welcome to a new year at DCPS, one that I know will be our best year ever.

As I enter my fifth year as Chancellor, I am proud of the work we have done together. DCPS is the fastest improving urban school district in the country. More DCPS classrooms are led by highly effective teachers, and graduation rates, attendance, student satisfaction, and enrollment are all on the rise.

With great educators, rigorous academics, and engaged students and families, we have overcome challenges and broken down barriers. We already have a lot to celebrate, and we will accomplish so much more this year.

As you know, we invested in three key priorities for this school year: improving our high schools, empowering males of color, and ensuring equity and rigor in every classroom. All of these investments are part of my biggest priority: we want to make school challenging and engaging for all of our students.

Through this calendar, and through your child's school year, we want you to see some of the amazing opportunities available to our students. From international travel to computer programming, from foreign language to new high school electives, we want every student to experience the joy that comes from exploring new fields and gaining new expertise.

Our schools and our educators are ready to provide your child with extraordinary experiences this year. I hope you are as excited as I am to see what our young people can achieve.

We are DCPS and we can do this!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in white ink on a blue background. The signature is cursive and reads "Kaya Henderson".

Kaya Henderson
Chancellor



Get Involved!

Would you like to work more closely with your school this year? Here's how!

JOIN your school's parent organization or Local School Advisory Team.



SUPPORT your child's learning at home by asking about school.



READ with students during or after school.



Share your wisdom and life experiences by **MENTORING** a student.



CONNECT high schools with internships at your workplace.



DONATE books to school libraries or classrooms (but ask first!).



VOLUNTEER with a local organization that works with schools—all skills welcome!



VISIT dcps.dc.gov/page/volunteer-our-schools for more information.



Find Us Here:

At School

Staff are always ready to provide information, answer questions, give a school tour, and address concerns.

Online

Stop by dcps.dc.gov for important updates and student stories.

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram for snapshots of DCPS school life: @dcpublicschools.

Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/dcpublicschools.

On the Phone

Questions? Call the DCPS Central Office at 202.442.5885.

In the Community

Keep an ear out for community meetings throughout the year to provide input on DCPS programs and initiatives.



Photo by Marshall Moya Design

Cornerstones

Cornerstones are high-quality, rigorous, and Common Core-aligned lessons for all students. These lessons are taught across grade levels and content areas, including English-language arts, math, science, art, health and physical education, social studies, and world languages. Developed by DCPS's top teachers, Cornerstones give educators the tools they need to be even more effective and ensure that all students are exposed to the same quality instruction.

August



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
09	10	11	12 New Teacher Orientation	13 New Teacher Orientation	14	15
16	17 Professional Development Day No school for students	18 Professional Development Day No school for students	19 Professional Development Day No school for students	20 Professional Development Day No school for students	21 Professional Development Day No school for students	22
23	24 First day of school for students Term 1 begins	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Teacher days: 11 | Student days: 6

- Early Childhood Transition Week will begin with home visits from August 24-26.
- Children whose last name begins with the letters A-K will attend school on Thursday, August 27.
- Children whose last name begins with the letters L-Z will attend school on Friday, August 28.
- All PK3 and PK4 students will attend school together starting on Monday, August 31.
- If your child is enrolled in a Montessori program, please contact the school about your child's transition plan.

SEPTEMBER
2015

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



Photo by Marshall Moya Design

Career Education

To ensure that our graduates are prepared for success in high-growth, high-wage careers, DCPS offers robust Career Education programming. One example is our career academies in IT, engineering, hospitality, and more. Students learn firsthand from industry leaders what it takes to be successful, and gain valuable experience in the workplace – all before graduating high school.

September



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PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	01	02	03	04	05
06	07 Labor Day No school for students, teachers, and staff	08	09	10	11	12 September ACT test date
13 Grandparents Day Rosh Hashanah begins	14	15 Hispanic Heritage Month begins	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Yom Kippur begins	23	24	25 Term 1 Midpoint Progress reports mailed	26
27	28	29	30	01	02	03

Teacher days: 21 | Student days: 21

- Attendance Awareness Month
- National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15)
- Library Card Sign-Up Month (dclibrary.org)
- BackTo School Nights are scheduled by each school during September and early October.

OCTOBER 2015

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Photo by Andy Le

Athletics

DCPS student athletes strive to achieve on the field and on the court, but more importantly, in our classrooms as role models. DCPS offers a wide range of varsity and intramural sports from elementary school to high school that give students opportunities to explore their interests, pursue scholarships, and engage in fun, healthy activities.

October



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PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	01	02	03 October SAT test date
04	05	06	07	08	09 Professional Development Day No school for students	10
11	12 Columbus Day No school for students, teachers, and staff	13	14	15 Hispanic Heritage Month ends	16	17
18	19 Parent-Teacher Conference Day No school for students	20	21	22	23	24 October ACT test date
25	26 Term 1 midterms/ finals begin	27	28	29 Term 1 midterms/ finals end	30 Records Day Term 1 ends Students dismissed at 12:15 p.m.	31 Halloween

Teacher days: 21 | Student days: 18.5

- College Awareness Month
- National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15)
- National Book Month
- National Bullying Prevention Month
- Principal Appreciation Month

NOVEMBER
2015

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



Photo by Marshall Moya Design

Early Childhood

DCPS's Early Childhood Education program ensures that pre-K3 and pre-K4 children are supported in developing into healthy, happy, and engaged learners who successfully transition to kindergarten and experience long-term success in school. DCPS offers diverse programming for pre-K students that includes dual and English-language learning, special needs instruction, STEM education, and arts integration.

November



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 Daylight Saving Time begins	02 Term 2 begins	03	04	05	06 Term 1 grades due from teachers	07 November SAT test date
08	09	10	11 Veterans Day No school for students, teachers, and staff	12	13 Term 1 report cards mailed	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Turkey Bowl Football Championship Thanksgiving Day No school for students, teachers, and staff	27 Thanksgiving Break No school for students and teachers	28
29	30	01	02	03	04	05

Teacher days: 18 | Student days: 18

• National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month

DECEMBER	2015	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3	4	5
		6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		27	28	29	30	31		



Photo by Marshall Moya Design

Visual Arts

DCPS's Arts programs provide students from pre-K through high school with opportunities to engage in the creative process. Students investigate, explore, and produce works in a wide range of art forms like digital media arts, drawing and painting, and ceramics, while examining their own experiences through the lens of visual arts.

December



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PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	01	02	03	04 Professional Development Day No school for students	05 December SAT test date
06 Hanukkah begins	07	08	09 Term 2 midpoint Progress reports mailed	10	11	12 December ACT test date DC Education Festival
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Winter Break No school for students and teachers	22 Winter Break No school for students and teachers	23 Winter Break No school for students and teachers	24 Winter Break No school for students and teachers	25 Winter Break No school for students, teachers, and staff Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa begins
27	28 Winter Break No school for students and teachers	29 Winter Break No school for students and teachers	30 Winter Break No school for students and teachers	31 Winter Break No school for students and teachers	01 Winter Break No school for students, teachers, and staff New Year's Day	02

Teacher days: 14 | Student days: 13

JANUARY 2016

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Photo by Marshall Moya Design

Empowering Males of Color

Through our Empowering Males of Color initiative, DCPS examines the current challenges and successes of our Black and Latino males. With an approach focused on innovation and equity, DCPS collaborates with schools and communities to enhance the student experience, increase achievement, and prepare our males of color for college, careers, and life beyond DCPS.

January



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PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	01 Winter Break No school for students, teachers, and staff New Year's Day	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12	13	14	15 Term 2 midterms/ finals begin	16
17	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day No school for students, teachers, and staff	19	20	21 Term 2 midterms/ finals end	22 Records Day Term 2 ends Students dismissed at 12:15 p.m.	23 January SAT test date
24	25 Term 3 begins	26	27	28	29 Term 2 grades due from teachers	30
31						

Teacher days: 19 | Student days: 18.5

• National Mentoring Month

FEBRUARY	2016	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4	5	6
		7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		28	29					



Photo by Marshall Moya Design

Technology

Students in DC Public Schools use technology to engage critically with academic content, collaborate with other students around the world, and spark creativity to inspire innovation. By using technology in the classroom, students prepare themselves for college and careers as they eliminate traditional classroom walls and take their learning to the next level.

February



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PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	01	02	03	04	05 Term 2 report cards mailed	06 February ACT test date
07	08	09	10	11	12 Professional Development Day No school for students	13
14	15 Presidents Day No school for students, teachers, and staff	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Parent-Teacher Conference Day No school for students	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	01	02	03	04	05

Teacher days: 20 | Student days: 18

- Black History Month
- American History Month

MARCH 2016

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Photo by Andy Le

Music Education

In addition to our world-renowned marching and concert bands, DCPS offers instrumental and vocal music instruction to students in all grades that build skills and habits students will take with them to college, career, and beyond. Our partnerships with some of Washington, D.C.'s most prominent and respected music organizations support students' growth and give our young people opportunities to showcase their talents on a national stage.

March



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	01	02 Read Across America Day Term 3 midpoint Progress reports mailed	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13 Daylight Saving Time ends	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Easter	28 Spring Break No school for students and teachers	29 Spring Break No school for students and teachers	30 Spring Break No school for students and teachers	31 Spring Break No school for students and teachers	01 Spring Break No school for students and teachers	02

Teacher days: 19 | Student days: 19

- National Women's History Month
- National Reading Awareness Month
- Music in Our Schools Month

APRIL 2016

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Photo by Andy Le

Community Engagement

The Family Engagement Collaborative, a yearlong fellowship for teachers, gives educators an opportunity to create trusting relationships with their students' families and bring strong family engagement skills to their classrooms. Through this exciting program, teachers visit students and families at home and come together six times per year to learn about a variety of family engagement topics, including how to host a great parent-teacher conference, how to maintain positive relationships with families, and how to empower families to support learning at home.

April



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	01 Spring Break No school for students and teachers	02
03	04 Term 3 midterms/ finals begin	05	06	07 Term 3 midterms/ finals end	08 Records Day Term 3 ends Students dismissed at 12:15 p.m.	09 April ACT test date
10	11 Term 4 begins	12	13	14	15 Emancipation Day (Observed) No school for students, teachers, and staff	16
17	18 Term 3 grades due from teachers	19	20	21	22 Earth Day Term 3 report cards mailed	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Teacher days: 19 | Student days: 18.5

- National Autism Awareness Month
- National Financial Literacy Month
- National Mathematics Education Month
- Poetry Month
- School Library Month

MAY	2016	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31						



Photo by DCPS

Global Education

DCPS's Global Education programs help students access the resources and opportunities to become engaged, informed global citizens. Through the Embassy Adoption Program, world language classes, Mini United Nations, and Cultural Immersions programs, DCPS offers students a truly global education, one that prepares them for success both in our international city and our increasingly interconnected world.

May



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01	02 Teacher Appreciation Week	03 Teacher Appreciation Week	04 Teacher Appreciation Week	05 Teacher Appreciation Week	06 Teacher Appreciation Week Professional Dev. Day No school for students	07 May SAT test date
08 Mother's Day	09	10	11	12	13 Term 4 midpoint Progress reports mailed	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Parent-Teacher Conference Day No school for students Finals for graduating seniors begin	24	25	26	27 Finals for graduating seniors end	28
29	30 Memorial Day No school for students, teachers, and staff	31	01	02	03	04

Teacher days: 21 | Student days: 19

- Asian-Pacific Heritage Month
- Physical Fitness and Sports Month
- National Science Month
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month

JUNE 2016

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Photo by Marshall Moya Design

College Readiness

DCPS's dual-enrollment and college preparatory courses give academically advanced students an opportunity to experience the rigor of college coursework and earn college credit while in high school. Through partnerships with prominent local colleges and universities, DCPS has designed programming to help students and families be better prepared to make college and career choices.

June



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	01 Term 4 grades due from teachers for graduating students	02	03	04 June SAT test date
05	06 Ramadan begins	07	08	09 Term 4 finals begin*	10	11 June ACT test date
12	13	14	15 Term 4 finals end*	16 Term 4 ends Records Day Students dismissed at 12:15 p.m. Term 4 grades due from teachers	17 Professional Development Day No school for students	18
19 Father's Day	20	21	22	23 Term 4 report cards mailed	24	25
26	27 Summer school begins	28	29	30	01	02

Teacher days: 13 | Student days: 11.5

- Gay and Lesbian Pride Month
- Student Safety Month

*Subject to change depending on snow days

JULY	2016	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
							1	2
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
	31							



Photo by Marshall Moya Design

Summer Learning

When the school year ends, the learning continues with a variety of high-quality summer programs that help students and advance their learning. DCPS offers summer school for students in kindergarten through high school, as well as college-preparatory and career courses, and gifted-and-talented programming, such as DC Meets Washington and Summer Enrichment.

July



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	01	02
03	04 Independence Day No school for students, teachers, and staff	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31					Summer school ends	

Teacher days: N/A | Student days: N/A

AUGUST 2016

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Directory of Services for Families and Students

DCPS Central Office	202.442.5885	Human Resources	202.442.4090	ADDITIONAL SERVICES: DC GOVERNMENT
Chancellor's Office	202.442.5885	International Baccalaureate	202.442.4993	
Academic Services	202.673.4488	Language Testing	202.671.0750	
Afterschool Programs	202.442.5002	LGBTQ Student Support	202.442.5103	
Assessments	202.724.7938	Local School Advisory Team	202.719.6613	
Athletics	202.729.3288	My School DC Lottery	202.748.5738	
Attendance	202.442.5450	New Heights Teen Parent Program	202.645.4040	
Bilingual Education	202.671.0750	Out of School Time Programs	202.442.5002	
College and Career	202.645.6114	Residency Verification	202.478.5738	
Communications	202.805.2885	Schools	profiles.dcps.dc.gov/	
Community Partnerships	202.719.6613	Special Education	202.442.4800	
Data and Accountability	202.724.7938	Student Placement	202.939.2004	
DC One Card	202.671.2273	Summer School (K-8)	202.442.5002	
Early Childhood Education	202.698.1033	Summer School (9-12)	202.442.5047	
Early Stages	202.698.8037	Title I	202.442.6025	
Enrollment	202.478.5738	Transportation (Parent Call Center, OSSE Special Education, Division of Transportation)	202.724.8600	
Family and Public Engagement	202.719.6613			
Food Services	202.442.5112	Home/Hospital Instruction Program (formerly Visiting Instructional Services)	202.939.3506	
Graduation Requirements	202.299.2115			
Homeless Youth	202.576.9502	Volunteers	202.442.5447	
				Office of State and Superintendent (OSSE) 202.727.6436
				DC State Board of Education 202.741.0888
				Mayor's Call Center 311
				City Council 202.724.8000
				Emergency Response 911
				DC Healthy Families (Free Health Insurance) 202.639.4030
				Department of Health 202.442.5955
				Department of Behavioral Health 1.888.793.4357
				Child and Family Services Administration (CFSA) 202.442.6100
				Report Abuse 202.671.SAFE

Key Calendar Dates

HOLIDAYS

Labor Day Sep 7, 2015

Columbus Day Oct 12, 2015

Veterans Day Nov 11, 2015

Thanksgiving Break Nov 26 - 27, 2015

Winter Break Dec 21, 2015 - Jan 1, 2016

Christmas Dec 25, 2015

New Year's Day Jan 1, 2016

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Jan 18, 2016

Presidents Day Feb 15, 2016

Easter Mar 27, 2016

Spring Break Mar 28 - Apr 1, 2016

Emancipation Day (Observed) Apr 15, 2016

Memorial Day May 30, 2016

Independence Day Jul 4, 2016

TERM DATES

TERM 1

Begins August 24, 2015
Midpoint (Progress Reports Mailed) September 25, 2015
Midterms/Finals October 26 - 29, 2015
Ends October 30, 2015
Grades Due From Teachers November 6, 2015
Report Cards Mailed November 13, 2015

TERM 2

Begins November 2, 2015
Midpoint (Progress Reports Mailed) December 9, 2015
Midterms/Finals January 15 - 21, 2016
Ends January 22, 2016
Grades Due From Teachers January 29, 2016
Report Cards Mailed February 5, 2016

Summer school begins June 27, 2016

TERM 3

Begins January 25, 2016
Midpoint (Progress Reports Mailed) March 2, 2016
Midterms/Finals April 4 - 7, 2016
Ends April 8, 2016
Grades Due From Teachers April 18, 2016
Report Cards Mailed April 22, 2016

TERM 4

Begins April 11, 2016
Midpoint (Progress Reports Mailed) May 13, 2016
Finals for Graduating Seniors May 23 - 27, 2016
Grades Due From Teachers for
Graduating Students June 1, 2016
Midterms/Finals June 9 - 15, 2016
Ends June 16, 2016
Grades Due From Teachers June 16, 2016
Report Cards Mailed June 23, 2016

Summer school ends July 29, 2016

CORNERSTONES

CAREER
EDUCATION

ATHLETICS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MUSIC

GLOBAL EDUCATION

EMPOWERING

SUMMER LEARNING

MALES OF COLOR

VISUAL

EARLY CHILDHOOD

ARTS

EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY

COLLEGE READINESS