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## 2025-2026 spring break Calendar change

2 messages

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**Kat Sutter** <classicmove84@gmail.com>

Wed, Feb 5, 2025 at 1:32 AM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Carmen Sutter  
2360 River Rd, Missoula, MT 59801  
360-771-3997

Missoula County Public Schools  
Superintendent's Office and Board of Trustees  
215 S 6th St W  
Missoula, MT 59801

Subject: Opposition to Potential Change in MCPS Spring Break Schedule

Dear [Superintendent and Board of Trustees,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the recent questionnaire proposing a change to Missoula County Public Schools' (MCPS) Spring Break schedule, potentially severing its alignment with the University of Montana's academic calendar. Such a change would have significant and detrimental effects on our students, families, and the broader Missoula community.

As a university town, Missoula is deeply interconnected with the University of Montana (UM). Many families within the MCPS district have parents, guardians, or older siblings who either work at or attend the university. Aligning the school district's Spring Break with UM's schedule ensures that families can coordinate time together, reducing the burden of missed instruction and the need for alternative childcare arrangements. If MCPS were to adopt a separate Spring Break, families with ties to the university would be forced to navigate conflicting schedules, resulting in unnecessary stress, logistical challenges, and, most concerning, an increase in student absences.

Children whose parents work or study at UM would likely miss additional days of instruction if their families opt to travel during the university's break, as many already have academic and professional obligations tied to that calendar. This misalignment would disproportionately affect students in families with university affiliations, forcing them into difficult decisions between education and family needs. The consequences could be particularly harmful for younger children who rely on the consistency of their school schedules, as well as older students whose academic progress could be impacted by excessive absences.

Beyond the practical implications for families, maintaining alignment with UM's Spring Break reinforces Missoula's identity as a university-centered community. A key part of our town's culture and economy is the close relationship between MCPS and the University of Montana, and a schedule change would erode this connection. Many high school students also participate in UM programs, dual enrollment courses, and extracurricular activities that benefit from a shared break. Disrupting this synchronization would create unnecessary barriers for students who seek enrichment opportunities through the university.

Additionally, a split schedule would create challenges for educators and school staff who may also have obligations at the university. Faculty and staff members who have children in MCPS would face increased difficulties in balancing work and family responsibilities, potentially affecting retention and overall job satisfaction among district employees.

For decades, MCPS and the University of Montana have operated in tandem, reflecting the symbiotic relationship that strengthens our local institutions. While it is understandable that scheduling considerations evolve, any decision to change the academic calendar should prioritize the best interests of our students, families, and educators. Maintaining the current alignment of MCPS Spring Break with UM's schedule is not only a matter of convenience but a fundamental support structure for the many families who rely on it.

I urge you to consider the broader impact of this decision on our community and to preserve the long-standing alignment of Spring Break schedules. I appreciate your time and commitment to ensuring the best possible outcomes for our students, and I look forward to your response on this matter.

Sincerely,  
Carmen Sutter  
360-771-3997

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## Option 2 for High Schools

2 messages

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**Brian Connelly** <bsconnelly@mcpsmt.org>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Thu, Feb 6, 2025 at 1:23 PM

I am a teacher in the district. I have worked to minimize distractions in the classroom due to phones for years. This year, with a school-wide policy, has been the most successful. If one teacher is trying to enforce a policy and others are allowing it, the enforcing teacher is “a jerk” and the distractions overwhelm the curriculum. The word distraction is an understatement; these are addicts, this substance (the phone) is designed to hijack their brains and it works. The number of academic challenges it presents, from properly sourcing information to learning how to construct a persuasive opinion are beyond the scope of a 15 year old brain. They need help, they need guidance from parents, teachers and elders, but the devices undercut that guidance and make everything much harder when they are present.

Brian Connelly  
he/him//his  
Hellgate High School Science

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## Regarding Spring Break Schedules

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Laci Rathbun <laci@donationwarehouse.net>

Sat, Feb 8, 2025 at 12:28 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

I would just like to comment in regards to changing the spring break schedule, that I am in support of moving the date IF nearby districts schools and child care providers will also be adjusting their spring break. There are many families that have children enrolled in an MCPS school and a feeder school like Bonner, Target Range, etc and making sure that they can align as closely as possible is important.

Also, many of us utilize spring break camps through Missoula Parks and Recreation, the YMCA or other organizations, and it is vital that those organizations are able to provide care during spring break, and so I trust that their availability is consulted for this decision as well.

Thank you for your time and work each of you do!

Laci Rathbun

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## **Fine Arts Supervisor/Budget Cuts**

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**Lindsey Schultz** <schultzmissoula@gmail.com>

Sun, Feb 9, 2025 at 6:56 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Good evening school board members! I would like to urge you to NOT approve the budget cuts that include the Fine Arts Supervisor. Missoula prides itself on the Arts and they positively impact children greatly in a variety of ways. To cut this program and this position would further injure our art programs and without a doubt would negatively impact kids city wide. This budget cut could lead to the end of programs that Missoula kids have benefited from for many years- and what a disservice that would be. Art education encompasses a lot and if you look at the research for how the Arts positively impacts children, schools and communities - you would not consider this cut.

I thank you for your time and hope that you will stand with our kids.

Lindsey Schultz  
ERA Lamros- Assistant  
[Sent from my mobile]

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