

Middle School
By Zoe Carter and Carol Clay

HOW ABOUT THIS SCHOOL CALENDAR ?

Learning Objective(s): The student will

1. Explore the possibilities of creating a school calendar within state and district rules;
2. Recognize the difficulties in arriving at consensus under a set of rules and personal preferences.

TEKS: 8.30 B; 8.32

Materials Needed: A Calendar for 2003-2004 for each pair of students; pencils, colored pencils or markers

Vocabulary: Teacher decision

Teaching Strategy:

1. Divide students into pairs or small groups.
2. Give each pair a copy of the Calendar for 2003-2004.
3. Instructions for students:
 - a. State law requires students to attend school 180 days. (Local school districts may require additional days.)
 - b. Your calendar may start and end at your own choosing. (You may even have year round school!)
 - c. Work in pencil in case you need to make changes.
 - d. Choose as many or as few holidays as you wish from the following list. (See ATTACHMENT)
 - e. Show the beginning and ending days and the holidays prominently on your calendar.
4. Post the calendars and decide on a “winner.”
5. What did students learn from this experience?

Extension for GT: Have students design a district guideline for holidays.

Possible School Holidays (July 2003 - June 2004)

Labor Day (9-1)
Patriot Day (9-11)
Columbus Day (10-12)
Halloween (10-31)
Veterans Day (11-11)
Thanksgiving Day (11-25)
Pearl Harbor Day (12-7)
Christmas Day (12-25)
New Years Day (1-1)
Martin Luther King Day (1-19)
Ground Hog Day (2-2)
Constitution Day (2-5)
Valentine's Day (2-14)
Presidents' Day (2-17)
Fall Break
Spring Break
St. Patrick's Day (3-17)
Easter (4-11)
Memorial Day (5-31)
Flag Day (6-14)
Independence Day (7-4)
Bad Weather Days

Add any other days that students think are important enough to include.