

1.I am a: (Check all that apply): Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student; Barcroft Elementary staff member; Other	2.Current grade level of your youngest child:	3.What about the current modified school year calendar best serves students and families?	4.What supports might students, parents/guardians, or staff at Barcroft Elementary need to transition successfully to a traditional school year calendar that aligns with other APS schools beginning in Fall 2021?	5.Provide additional comments, if any, regarding the calendar for anything not covered in previous questions.
Barcroft Elementary staff member	2nd Grade	Verano corto	Campamentos de verano	Ninguno
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student Barcroft Elementary staff member	Kindergarten	yes	no	n/a
Barcroft Elementary staff member	Kindergarten	I love the calendar and don't want to change.	Nothing	No comments
Barcroft Elementary staff member	Pre-K or younger	More days of learning	Supplemental learning materials provided by DTL for families	Students and staff benefited from additional learning days and also shorter but more frequent breaks
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	4th Grade	The modified school calendar provides students opportunities to learn subjects and gain specialized knowledge outside the classroom. The programs provided during intersession and the opportunity to travel without missing school days is an experience that cannot be replicated by shifting to a traditional school calendar.	Why is this question worded as if the transition is a foregone conclusion? Is there no opportunity for Barcroft to remain on a modified school calendar? Why are other schools not considering starting earlier to accommodate reduced off-school time?	Based on the second question, this appears to be simply another Arlington questionnaire to satisfy "community input" before a neighborhood in S. Arlington is affected to simplify life for schools in N. Arlington.
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	1st Grade	Less camp to pay for	Assistance for families w child care needs	We are comfortable moving to traditional calendar which gives our family more of a summer vacation.
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Kindergarten	Greater continuity with learning with shorter Summer break	More Summer School programs	I'm highly in favor of keeping the modified schedule.
Barcroft Elementary staff member	1st Grade	Consistent community and opportunity for children learning English to get practice year round.	English language learner support	Very disappointing!!

Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	1st Grade	It gives the children regular breaks that allows them to refresh and refocus when they start. It significantly reduces childcare costs in the summer and is very beneficial for family life. Despite the study we believe it reduces summer learning loss.	The calendar is part of the school identity. Why would a family choose to move to the neighborhood if there is not something unique and beneficial for the school. You will see a significant increase in a loss of students to option schools or moving out. Definately more white flight will occur reducing the diversity of the school	APS is taking a bad situation and making it much worse with this decision without consultation. They are taking advantage of the pandemic to ram through these changes. Much of the school does not have the capacity to effectively protest this change.
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Kindergarten	I am glad that the calendar will be changed to match the rest of the county. My neighborhood is so split because people opt out of barcroft due to the calendar., therefore it really doesn't make our neighborhood have a community school. There is also not middle or high school that is on the same schedule so it's hard for families with various ages.	Once again, I support the change. I disagree on the way it was told to the Barcroft families however.	The way this change was brought up to Barcroft families was unacceptable. Families did not see this change coming and had no idea a study was taking place last year. We should have been in the loop from the initial thoughts in order for families to prep.
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	5th Grade	Having had two students complete the modified school calendar, has shown me the great advantages it has on individual students. My children had benefited on a year round community of well trained staff that helped them prepare be confident learners. One particular advantage is the constant available support my children have benefited from.	Extra support during summer months of transition, particularly towards the families.	

Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Pre-K or younger	Nice to have longer vacations during weeks that other schools may not have a break.	Aligning with other schools, IMO, wouldn't require support. The shorter breaks throughout the year would mean childcare or time off work is needed for less time	Last year was my sons first and only year at Barcroft (he was a 5th grader). We enjoyed the longer breaks but it does mean taking off work for an extended week that many people don't have the means to take off that long. My son really did not like the short summer because many of his friends were on break while he was in school.
Barcroft Elementary staff member	2nd Grade	Students have increased learning opportunities throughout the year. The calendar allows students and staff to work to their full potential without feeling burnt out. Between June and August student lose very little learning. The social emotional connection built between staff and students is strong due to time spent with students and a variety of teachers.	Summer school options, STEM or young scholars opportunities for students, additional academic support to potentially support the students increased needs.	It is mentioned every year that this will be considered but having this truly brought to a vote during a pandemic and after the one year calendar change will unfortunately build trust in a school system. Community engagement should have taken place much sooner and for a longer period of time. If this were N. Arlington, a change like this would not be attempted with so little engagement. What considerations are being made for staff who took jobs based on the schedule? What other programs are being cut from other schools to account for the budget deficit? If there was no deficit would this still be forced? Have you completed studies that followed students who participated in all intersession opportunities K-5 at Barcroft and compared them to a peer in another APS school? And rather than one, was there a focus group formed?

Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	4th Grade	The inter session instruction and topics provide a nice break in the school year and allow students to explore topics they might not otherwise be able to explore.	Expectations management for the kids with regard to the inter session.	It would be nice for both my kids to have the same schedule. My other child is at the HB Woodlawn program which also has some atypical aspects and it has been difficult for me as a single parent to accommodate the two calendars.
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	4th Grade	Makes it easier for kids to get back into school mode. Also, for the parents that don't have anyone to watch their kids it's nice b/c they don't have to worry about childcare for so long.	More summer activities to keep kids occupied and help parents out with childcare.	
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	5th Grade	Flexibility. Better knowledge retention due to shorter summer break. The opportunity for an early start is also a tremendous cost-savings for many families that don't have to incur the expense of four additional weeks of summer camp. The intercession learning opportunities have been a tremendous opportunity for our kids to explore new topics and learning approaches.	Summer reading and activity program.	The modified school year has worked out much better than I first expected. You're not only doing a great disservice to Barcroft families by eliminating this option, but depriving other APS families of similar opportunities. The modified school year option should be expanded to middle school, and not eliminated entirely. I find it extremely hard to believe that this option is losing money for APS when you haven't needed to heat buildings, run air conditioning, fuel buses, or buy cafeteria food and even school supplies since March. Don't ruin a good thing for Barcroft families just b/c APS can't develop a backbone and eliminate unnecessary administrative and managerial positions.

Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Kindergarten	Less need for summer camps, ability to take vacations during non-peak times.	N/A this is our first year at Barcroft	We have a middle schooler and we're in full support of aligning Barcroft's calendar with the rest of the schools in Arlington. If Barcroft had a modified calendar this year, we would've pursued other options for our kindergartener due to the difference in schedules.
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Pre-K or younger	Provides more consistent and dedicated stability for a large student The outdoor work scores at Barcroft is because a disproportionate amount of parents in the Barcroft neighborhood choose NOT to send their kids to Barcroft. There is also a significant cost savings for all the middle class and lower income families that struggle to make ends meet in this high cost of living county by a shortened summer.	APS can step up and make Barcroft a science/math/IT focused program school. The county can't take away the one thing the school had going for out without replacing it with something that provides value to all of the students and families. No one actually cares what the county does or says it will do to support the transition. For once the county should do something that truly matters. Something that actually makes a difference. Less talk, more action.	Giving parents who live in Barcroft more excuses to opt out of sending their kids to Barcroft needs to end. Why can't the county do something that will reverse the mistakes of the past? If the county removes the ability to opt out of Barcroft or makes sending your kids to Barcroft enticing by making it a program school with a STEM focus (NOT ART) it will right a wrong. The figures for how many families opt out of Barcroft is astonishing. If any neighborhood in North Arlington has that issue, APS would have had it fully resolved 10 years ago.
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Kindergarten	Achievement. The modified calendar's achievement benefits are have been proven again & again around the world.	A credible defense from APS that this is not an exploitation of a small, vulnerable community without a voice in the county.	We will not accept this decision. We will fight it.
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	2nd Grade	We enjoy the change of pace exposure to different subject matters offered by the intersession classes. We also save money on summer camp due to the shorter summer period and household adults having to work.	We could transition without much support, but prefer the current calendar.	

Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Kindergarten	shorter summer break leads to less content loss over the summer. shorter summer is easier for 2 working parents	summer camps, programs	
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Kindergarten	N/A	N/A	I agree with the proposal to align with the traditional calendar. I do not want the modified calendar.
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	1st Grade	Shorter summer, early August start	More affordable and flexible summer camp options	
Barcroft Elementary staff member	1st Grade	Shortened summer, opportunities for enrichment, remediation, and Project Based learning during Intersession. The beginning of the year is so nice because it feels like we have a longer time to get to know students.	Tons and tons and tons of communication posted in the community over emails and texts.	I hate to see it go! Intersession is such a relief for teachers.
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	2nd Grade	We attend out of state medical appointments during intercession. My son has annual survivors visits to make sure he's still cancer free. We also worry about skills loss during the summer months	We need learning support for the summer months and scheduling support for medical visits	
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Pre-K or younger	Less loss of knowledge with shorter summer breaks. Easier to plan summer activities. Easier to avoid missing school during the year due to intersessions.	Greater financial support for summer child care.	The county needs to more transparent in the process of collecting and analyzing the data.
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	1st Grade	The additional time allows them to advance with their education.	Psychological impact on students.	I am against the change in calendar.
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	3rd Grade	The shorter summer means less learning loss and is a big help for working families. Intersession provides fun learning opportunities.	Access to summer programs	Please reconsider and keep the calendar. It has been a big help for our working family. A ten week summer is a long time to find child care and keep kids engaged.
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	2nd Grade	El actual	Seguir las clases only	Las clases online es la mejor opción y el horario del calendario escolar es el mejor

Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	1st Grade	With the current pandemic and early closing of school now is the time for a modified school calendar.	Phycological impact on students. My son is so behind because his kindergarten year was cut short and now with this change it shortens his education even more.	This is not the time to make this change. I am sure Arlington County has enough money in budgets that funds can be reclassified to support this school and maintain a modified calendar, to support the education of our children they are our future.
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<p>Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student</p>	<p>3rd Grade</p>	<p>I feel that my daughter attending school for 11 months has enhanced her educational level and keeps it steadily growing instead of her having a decrease during a 2 month break which use to happen to my son when he was on a regular school year calendar with a 2 month break. PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE THE CALENDAR FIR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN ON A LOWER LEVEL. THIS calendar at least helps with maintaining where they are instead of declining even more.</p>	<p>This transition should take at least a couple years because they will be out from school during intersession and summer which will be to many days out from school in 1 year. A gradual change will be needed. Lastly being that PRCR no longer has free or low cost programs during the summer I dont know where we can put our kids for 2 months. One months of child care is expensive and we can barely make it happen for 1 month but 2 months can be unreachable. Plus having to ensure that my child's educational level does drop to low is difficult while both parents have to work. Basically we need more camps or programs at PRCR that are affordable for families that don't qualify for reduced fees. We pay high rent to stay at Barcroft.</p>	<p>I have also signed my lease depending on this calendar and pay a higher rent because I don't have to provide child care for 2 months of summer. Which means that I will have to pay a higher rent and pay for child care for 2 months. That is an expenditure that I am not able to afford. Alone with having to decrease my hours to home school during COVID. NO CHANGES UNTIL COVID IS OVER WOULD BE BEST FOR US LOW TO MEDIUM INCOME FAMILIES. WE ARE HAVING ALOT OF FINANCIAL CHANGES that are very difficult to manage ALREADY. PLEASE HELP US AND DON'T HURT US ANY MORE THEN WE ARE ALREADY STRUGGLING to stay above water. THIS change can bring us back to low income as are barley holding on having to home school. We are hopeful to get back to a regular day to day in order to catch back up financially which includes Barcroft being open for 11 months and not having to worry about my daughter educational level dropping more by being off for 2 months in the summer. This happend to my son every summer. Even though I made him read all summer and practice math skills during the summer. Why change the calendar when we could</p>
<p>Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student</p>	<p>1st Grade</p>	<p>Extra weeks coverage are a huge plus. Ability to give students a chance to catch up during intersession very beneficial (the 2019 study suggesting this was not beneficial does not prove anything in my eyes)</p>	<p>Come up with a substitute program that provides extra weeks of coverage and the ability to help students improve in areas of need, especially English learners.</p>	<p>I am appalled by the fact that the Barcroft community wasn't involved and that a decision to move forward the with alignment has clearly already been made.</p>

Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	3rd Grade	Todo bien	Todo bien	Con respecto ala bus si preocupa cuando llueve o neva
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	1st Grade	The ability to provide students with special needs who do not qualify for esy to be able to continue to receive support. Also with the modified calendar there is more flexibility for families	Child care needs will change.	I personally enjoy the modified school year it has helped my child from regressing over the summer.
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Pre-K or younger	My child in special ed will have less regression over the summer. Intersession breaks give us an opportunity to visit with family at non-peak travel times.	Broaden the criteria for qualifying for ESY services over the summer.	Clearly the county has made up its mind. Yet this process does not seem transparent.

<p>Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student</p>	<p>Kindergarten</p>	<p>The consistency for the kids of having one "home" from August through June is a stabilizing force. It is a huge benefit to working families - for the parents, yes, but also kids young elementary school kids who struggle with transitions and new adjusting to new situations. Those young children go to the same place, at the same time, with many of the same people, for more of the year than they would if it were standard calendar. For someone like me with 3 kids in elementary school, it's not really possible to send them all to the same summer camps, but the extended school year means we have all kids at the same place, same drop off/pickup routine, and they are calm and confident. It's a bonus that intersession is much less expensive than local camps, but I'd pay more to have intersession because of all the other benefits. Teachers seem less burnt out and teach full-tilt the whole year, unlike schools my friends' kids attend where they report lots of movie-watching at the end of the year. The intersession times are a fantastic opportunity to try some concepts - Young Scholars Innovation Academy was piloted at Barcroft intersession (and it was great! my son LOVED it, and it made him more excited for school). In recent years, they've been able to have some multi-grade options, which help build community among kids in different grades, and sometimes allow siblings to be in the same course for a couple weeks.</p>	<p>"intersession" programming for the full month of August every year (that means normal school hours, at Barcroft, quality programming, extended day options, with transportation). It would be possible for families to pay somewhat increased fees over what was charged during prior intersessions. I don't think that would really help the kids that need interim academic support, or a break from the heavier academic work routine to be fresh for the next quarter, but it would help a lot of the other issues related to stripping the calendar.</p>	<p>I vehemently object to the utter lack of real research or community engagement on this topic. One online survey during a pandemic where likely all of our high percentage of FRM families + additional folks are at severe risk of having food security and paying rent each month, and with families who don't even really use email to get notice of the survey let alone respond to it, is insufficient outreach. I respectfully request a REAL engagement process with our community, which we were promised and deserve as much as any of the other schools in the district. If the district is overburdened this fall with return-to-school planning and school boundary adjustments, let's work on this with an eye for potential change in 2022-23. I would also like to note that I have a kid going to middle school next year, and two others that will still be in elementary. I have no concerns about their schedules not aligning. It is worth the benefit of the modified calendar for my younger kids to deal with the mis-alignment. Enough of the year aligns that it is fine for us.</p>
<p>Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student</p>	<p>3rd Grade</p>	<p>A shorter summer helps students academic, allows for a fall and spring intersession, and makes summer childcare more affordable.</p>	<p>A fall break and summer camp.</p>	<p>We love our calendar and the modified school approach. All of Arlington should adopt, not the other way around.</p>

Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	4th Grade	Better learning retention after shorter summer break.	As always, the Barcroft staff remains positive and passes that on for the students.	My older children were ready to go back to school after 6 weeks in the summer.
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Pre-K or younger	It is an essential part of our neighborhood character. It saves parents thousands of dollars each year in camp and childcare costs. It keeps students and families in touch with teachers and school support year round - something many of our neighborhood families desperately need.	Reduced costs for camps in August. Ways for families to be engaged with teachers and staff in August and connected with social services.	The way this change was announced is deeply offensive. There was no consultation or opportunity for engagement until after the decision was made.
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Pre-K or younger	I'm indifferent to the modified school year; I care much more about the late morning start time (i.e., 8:50 AM).	Developing a plan for daycare to cover the extra week in June and the weeks in August.	

<p>Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student</p>	<p>Pre-K or younger</p>	<p>Provides students with continuity of a structured schedule, consistent english-speaking exposure and consistent meal delivery especially for at-risk, economically disadvantaged students. Provides all students benefit of continuity of education and mitigates "summer backslide" in learning. Provides enrichment learning on subjects outside normal curriculum in a school that is already disadvantaged in this respect from other, more highly funded Arlington County schools.</p>	<p>Better understanding of options for continued summer learning for ALL students over the summer if so desired. Services that can be provided for economically disadvantaged students to ensure they are cared for both academically and personally. A greater line of communication and trust with the school board / Superintendent for future decisions concerning Barcroft as trust has been broken from both this decision as well as the Principal selection where parents and community were not able to provide input prior to recommendations. Understanding of how funding will be provided to provide for gap in the services and school programming that is already not made available to Barcroft but is available at other Arlington schools. What other options can be provided to students looking for alternatives which are not provided for in S. Arlington like they are in N. Arlington (Science Focus, Discovery, etc.). Our community is once again short-changed from some of the great alternatives that are provided for across town and are not pressured to reduced funding in the same way</p>	<p>Overall the process and communications on this matter has been handling extremely poorly and is incredibly disappointing, especially given the new Superintendent. You have disrespected our community but not taking the time to engaged us appropriately and especially in reaching out to the families who will be impacted and are not able to engage in the same way as other Arlington County parent populations. The study you provided does not make the case that this change is necessary or beneficially and was also conducted without input, participation of the parents and calls into question the real motivations for this change which are seemingly monetary. It would be good to understand the per student cost of Barcroft vs. other Arlington County schools as I am certain we are underfunded and now under-represented by the school governing body and is not something that would have been accepted in North Arlington (which the school board already caters to). Finally, the rush to make this decision during a pandemic is quite possibly the worse timing given the amount of attention, support and stress families are already under. You have asked for patience and support during these</p>
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Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	4th Grade	A more seamless academic experience and less learning loss over the summer.	Financial supports for staff	Perhaps the way to recapture the cost would be to add more schools, therefore amortizing the cost over more schools and students. This calendar serves families, staff and students well. Yes, it is outside the box, but that's not always a bad thing.
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Kindergarten	Nothing in my specific situation	None I can think of	
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	4th Grade	Sería muy bueno ya que cada interseccion ha sido pagada. De ésta manera solo se pagara la escuela de verano y eso me complace por que cada gasto extra me perjudica.	Yo creo que ninguno. Pienso que sería algo muy conveniente para todos tener un horario normal cómo el resto de las escuelas.	Sólo agradecerle a quienes hayan propuesto el horario regular escolar a corde a el resto de escuelas. Ya que las intersecciones entre medio del año escolar ha sido perjudicial para mi familia.
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	2nd Grade	Pienso que depende de la disponibilidad de cada padre siempre hay casos donde no es la mejor opción para los padre más cuando trabajan o tiene niños en educación especial.	más información respecto a como protegerse por el covid 19 y que opciones se implementarán para los niños para q los padres puedan sentirse libres y seguros enviar a los niños a clase. Ya que esa es nuestra mayor preocupación.	

Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Kindergarten	Students benefit from a shorter summer as there is less time to fall behind academically and socially. Parents benefit from the 6 week summer because it is less cost for childcare and summer camps. The intercession breaks give students the chance to learn and play in multiage groups in an area of interest, but still keep the routine of school.	Many Barcroft families may need significant support with cost of childcare, meals, and summer activities. Students may need a summer school option for academics.	The modified school year calendar is unique and beloved at Barcroft. Many other APS elementary schools also have special programs that are special to their community. The cost of such programs at all schools should be evaluated rather than using the Barcroft calendar as a main way to cut costs. APS leaderships seems to be taking advantage of this community, many of who are struggling just to put food on the table during a pandemic. Barcroft families are dedicated and passionate, but asking them to weigh in on a calendar change at this time is not respectful. Community engagement this fall is not sufficient to vote on this possible change for the 2020-2021 school year. Please wait for the pandemic to ease and give our community adequate time to participate in this conversation.
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	2nd Grade	the short summer been beneficial to all three of my children for learning and retention purposes. they look forward to the more frequent breaks at intersession	additional summer academic services and resources	
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	4th Grade	Less break in instruction time in summer and mental and physical breaks during the school year that supports learning.	Unknown	Our family prefers the "year round" schedule that Barcroft has offered for optimal learning and balance.

<p>Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student</p>	<p>Kindergarten</p>	<p>For working families (both my husband and I work & we cannot work remotely) , it's nice to have the kids engaged most of the year. My son, 5, would complain during preschool summer breaks that he was bored and he missed his friends. An all year calendar can keep the kids stimulated, both mentally and socially.</p>	<p>I believe summer break will be the hardest for most. Families and teachers are accustomed to a shorter break so finding something for them may be hardest. It may be difficult for families to afford camps and other external activities for their kids.</p>	<p>I believe the Barcroft community will be sacrificing a lot if the county moves forward with the calendar change. Will there be other schools within the county receiving equal budget cuts for their school? Now more than ever, social and emotional health have been affecting the children during the pandemic. I think they need to be considered when the calendar changes. I think families rely on the calendar to keep their kids healthy whether the school brings a safe environment for the child or his/her next meal. 2020 has brought a significant amount of change and stress to the Barcroft community. Let us not add any more.</p>
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Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Kindergarten	I think this modified school year (MSY) has many advantages to families. The current shortened summer vacation helps students maintain knowledge across their school years. Having already raised a child who attended their entire elementary school experience under the MSY I definitely have seen the benefits as compared to my own childhood experiences in traditional two month long summer vacations. In addition, the intersessions provided a nice break to the eventual monotony of school. Students could get additional education chances or families could get opportunities to take time off and vacation or time to explore whatever they wish at a time of the year that most other families are not.	Shared Information amongst everyone. Improved electronic resources (calendars, text reminders).	
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Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	4th Grade	I believe the shorter summer is beneficial to student development, especially elementary. I think it is also easier on parents to manage summer programs for kids with only 5-6 weeks to manage - and less expensive overall as intersession options are inexpensive.	Clearly by having this question, when in this manner indicated that APS isn't truly interested in parent feedback and has already committed to ending the year round school program feels as if APS is just trying to get the result they wanted last year around making Barcroft a Spanish immersion program. This seems opportunistic and disingenuous to go against feedback on that pushed agenda item. Feedback on making a school that is currently 60% English as a second language school with many walkers into a school that is focused on teaching spanish to new learner's send to go against any efforts for walkable, neighborhood schools that support parents, especially those that can participate more effectively when able to easily get to the school.	The stories and interpretation that APS is using around the academic benefits of the year round school program are at best skewed. It is my understanding that the same group of the study APS is pointing to for data has published studies that contradict the one being used by APS that shows that year round school is better for children's learning development..
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Kindergarten	Shorter breaks less change of sliding back academically	Advance notice to arrange child care when needed	I am also a teacher at APS and would prefer my child to have same schedule as I have.

Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	4th Grade	<p>Modified school year provides opportunities for parents and students to learn outside of traditional school subjects while still maintaining a regular school year. Whether students travel during intersession period or take intersession classes at the school, the opportunities to expand education through environmental education, cooking, and other non-traditional learning cannot be replaced. In addition, the data provided in the study clearly demonstrates that while the overall scores on standardized tests have not exceeded those at other Title 1 schools, the rate of improvement has far outstripped the comparable schools, where test scores have remained more or less static. This both directly opposes the justification for a traditional school calendar and is not addressed by either the study or the line of reasoning for the shift in calendar.</p>	<p>The wording of this question asserts that the decision has been made to transition. Why even request the feedback of the community other than to provide "engagement theater"? The schools report is light on justification for the shift. There is no data to demonstrate that budget discrepancies between the Title 1 schools is attributable to the school calendar. The budget is higher, with similar staffing, but what are the budget line items that are directly attributable to the school calendar that demonstrate a marginal increase in the budget at Barcroft? Why did the Barcroft budget converge with other Title 1 schools until the change in administration at the school? Given that the differences in the school budgets were converging without any significant capital or instructional initiatives, the budget difference can't be accurately assessed to demonstrate that the increase in funding is attributable to the calendar. Lastly, the development of multiple learning plans is also disingenuous at best for a school system that continues to support a publicly funded school with an alternate teaching methodology, unless there are no instructional differences between instructional methods at a school such as Barcroft and Arlington Montessori.</p>	<p>This process stinks of being a self-fulfilling prophecy. If the decision is being made to converge calendars and move Barcroft two weeks later and other Elementary schools two weeks earlier, then why is Arlington unable to say that? The data provided in the report either directly contradicts or is presented without adequate detail to support APS' position. It seems that the entire assignment is incomplete and either APS simply tell Barcroft that they don't want to do it anymore, or provide some additional information as to what alternatives are available.</p>
Barcroft Elementary staff member	5th Grade	<p>everyone is allowed extra time for breaks throughout the year. Students and teachers are more efficient throughout the year because of that.</p>	<p>Child care, for activities to do with the children for the extra month</p>	

Barcroft Elementary staff member	2nd Grade	The calendar currently allows strong relationships to be developed and nurtured throughout the entire building. Students and teachers have breaks that prevent the burnout and the 5 weeks off on the summer allow teachers and students to quickly jump back into learning in August with very little academic loss.	Increased summer learning opportunities, increased opportunities to engage in STEM during the school year, opportunities to experience extra curricular sports and activities that would normally take place over intersession. Additional academic support opportunities as needed.	
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Pre-K or younger	Yes	You have everything and everybody do good job thank you very much	
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Pre-K or younger	Yes it's very good.	I think it's all is perfect.	I don't have anything to add.
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	2nd Grade	Yo no tengo nada en contra amii m gustaba de como estaba	creo q todos estamos haciendo un gran esfuerzo al ayudar a nuestros hijos	
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	1st Grade	It provides opportunity for the kids that need it and for the families that can use the alleviation of high childcare costs in Arlington. It also creates incentive to send your children to Barcroft instead of bussing them elsewhere in the county.	The Provide a math or STEM focused program or experiential coding program as a special educational benefit to Barcroft students since they are largely at a disadvantage to other kids attending North Arlington schools that are not concerned with the same challenges that continues to plague Barcroft.	APS fixes symptoms not problems. Removing the year round casket we'll just get another slight on a historically underprivileged and challenged student population. Fix the problem and NOT the solution. Recruiting "the right teachers" isn't the answer. It could help but it's not fixing anything. Lol at the real underlying issue (hint: it's not the kids maybe the parents who choose to bus their kids elsewhere).
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Kindergarten	التقويم الحالي جيد جدا واثمني الاستمرار عليه	ان نتبع التقويم المدرسي المتماشي مع جميع المدارس	انا اؤيد التقويم الحالي الذي يتماشي مع جميع المدارس
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Kindergarten	ليس الكل	التركيز على التلاميذ المهاجرين بقوة ، وايضا توفير مترجمي اللغة العربية	توفير والتركيز علي مترجمي اللغة العربية
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	5th Grade	Me gustaría que no cambien	El idioma, la traducción de inglés español.	
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Kindergarten	The August start date	Keep school in August	
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Pre-K or younger	Si, esperamos que nos ayude mucho	Que se usen todas las medidas de seguridad necesarias	

Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	2nd Grade	The current calendar works well for working families with a shorter summer and affordable intersession costs.	?	
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	1st Grade	Good for our family schedule. Our kids like the schedule. Our kids thrive on the schedule. The calendar and the timing of the intercessions facilitates stronger relationships between families across the socioeconomic divide. We are heartbroken that APS is even considering the termination of this calendar, and even moreso, that the superintendent would make such a proposal BEFORE reaching out to our families about this. This process makes us feel, once again, like our school community is being treated like second-class citizens by APS -- and that this process would happen in this way in other more affluent school communities in Arlington.	How about asking what support we need to make the modified school calendar be more successful? Why not ask that question?	I implore you, in the strongest terms possible, not to change the Barcroft calendar. If the modified school year is failing (and we don't feel, like it is), then those failures should be identified and addressed to help the modified school year succeed, rather than terminating the schedule altogether. If this calendar change happens, our family has decided that we are going to pull our three kids (4th grade, 2nd grade and pre-K) out of Barcroft Elementary to attend a private school. Because, quite frankly, this change and the way it is taking place makes it quite evident that: (1) APS cares very little about our input or our community's needs; and (2) this proposal is based largely on Barcroft's past SOL results, and we are not about to let APS have an opportunity to tout our three kids' well-above-average future test scores to justify that this decision was a good one.

<p>Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student</p>	<p>1st Grade</p>	<p>buffers against summer learning loss and achievement gap; provides greater social and emotional supports in school community; provides unique/experiential learning opportunities</p>	<p>A meaningful opportunity for true community voice and engagement; an understanding of how critical services and opportunities lost will not result in collateral consequences for students. The framing of this question and the outreach generally indicates the recommendation is likely to move forward without there having been any genuine opportunity for feedback or engagement. It's very disappointing, particularly as families are struggling to keep up with the many other concurrent changes in APS that are affecting their children's learning and well-being.</p>	<p>There are several points of concern around claims of empirical support for this decision. The APS "study" merely presents descriptive data. There is no statistical controls, equivalent comparison groups, or consideration of the counterfactual. You can't draw any strong inferences about the effectiveness of MSYC from the study. It is equally plausible that MSYC is buffering against even greater gaps in SOL indicators. Title 1 schools are not a monolith. In addition, the consultant that did the literature review of the evidence for MSYC says on their website "available research suggests that year-round schools are at least as effective for student learning as traditional schools, and may be even more effective for disadvantaged student populations." This is a more positive interpretation than what APS quoted in their report. It says MSYC doesn't hurt and could help the kids who need it most on educational outcomes and a whole host of unmeasured positive benefits (e.g., social, emotional), especially for English language learners and under-served kids. Bottom line, it is an easy cost cut with little real analysis or consideration of alternative administrative policy options, that is been slid through</p>
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Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	Kindergarten	A year-round calendar greatly alleviates needs and costs to households that would otherwise have to pay for childcare during the summer. Similarly, providing school lunch during summers helps combat hunger for needy and low-income families.	Additional programs and resources, things like camps and low cost summer programs for students during the summer to provide child care during parent working hours. Resources and counseling to assist families plan for this period would also be helpful.	It would be helpful to see more detailed data and metrics, as well as qualitative assessments, of the educational benefits to students and economic benefits to Barcroft families.
Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student	1st Grade	Flexibility for working parents; extends the lessons learned from school and shortens the gap between school years; allows for alternative learning opportunities during the school year	establish a summer school or camp; alternative options for fall or spring break; additional opportunities to bridge the learning gap between school years	Please do not remove this option - it was one of the primary reasons that we chose to stay within our neighborhood school and we'd like to be able to take advantage of this opportunity for both of our children.

<p>Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student</p>	<p>Pre-K or younger</p>	<p>Our principal has described at recent PTA meetings student achievement gains across demographics -- which I assumed was part of the reason she was chosen as a recent principal of the year (much deserved in any case, by the way, she is fantastic). Regardless of achievement, though, I do think the extended calendar is a help to our lower-income families (of which we have more than most schools) as they navigate what is an increasingly difficult economy. What strikes me as most odd is that the district is proposing to make this change in the midst of a pandemic when all families are preoccupied with so many other issues, including navigating remote schooling, the choice of hybrid vs. remote, changes in the proposed hybrid schedule, etc. I can't help but feel that - budget issues included and considered -- this change could wait another year or two. Also, we are about to vote on a \$52 million bond issue for APS -- which I will support. But why can't some portion of that go toward staving off or eliminating what seem like short-sighted budget cuts ... or at least cuts that are not being made without the full input of the community that will be affected.</p>	<p>I have heard anecdotally that the district foresees \$600K in savings from transitioning Barcroft to the traditional calendar. At least in the early years, would it not make sense -- and be most fair -- to devote some portion of those savings (say, half) to other resources designed to boost student achievement among Barcroft students? As a two-earner family who is doing fine, we still often ask ourselves, would a North Arlington family be treated similarly -- and we can't help but think the answer is "no". It runs deeper ... the fact that all public housing seems to be centralized along Columbia Pike (running counter to what seems intuitive ... integration of different socio-economic people fosters diverse communities, better odds of upward advancement, and less concentration of poverty, crime, etc. Don't get me wrong, we love everything about Barcroft and the Pike, but there are times where it seems like there is very disparate treatment between South and North Arlington. In our county policy, let's try to lift all boats.</p>	<p>Though I wish we had more notice of the proposed change and time to comment, I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback.</p>
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<p>Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student</p>	<p>2nd Grade</p>	<p>Shorter breaks throughout the year with opportunities for strengthening allow students to learn more consistently throughout the year. The Virginia LARC study referenced by the APS staff document examines the many benefits of a modified school year calendar. Virginia awarded grants to 57 schools in 2019 to foster extended school years. This model is not discredit, disproven, or out of fashion. The school board should investigate the benefits on its own because the document and plan presented by APS staff belie the evidence presented in the state report. 2020, perhaps more than any year in recent memory, demonstrates that agility is an asset in withstanding adverse conditions. The Barcroft calendar is an example of agility to expand opportunity for learning, particularly for students who face the most disadvantage. Barcroft students can participate in summer programs for strengthening. They can also learn during intersessions. This has immense benefit for students with the most to gain academically.</p>	<p>Barcroft should not be the only school deprived of APS engagement practices or a fair consideration of the merits of the program. This 18 year old program should not be killed off amidst a pandemic when families are fighting for survival. The board should reject the APS staff recommendation and defer consideration of any change until an actual objective study of Barcroft can be conducted by outside consultants, incorporating factors affecting school stability including staff turnover, the arrival of 59 new students mid-year when a new multifamily dwelling opened, and other objective factors in the assessment of school performance. The school board has shown deference to the impact of the pandemic in other change considerations. Barcroft is due the same consideration.</p>	<p>I urge the school board to compare the breadth and depth of feedback responses received with similar changes in county schools. Have you received a similar level of engagement and feedback? From all backgrounds? Why or why not? Please consider the haste with which APS staff have recommended this major change, the conditions that exist for all amidst the pandemic, the absence of an actual study on the impact of the calendar on Barcroft, and the underlying and undisclosed motives of dismantling Barcroft's differentiating feature before setting aside this topic for objective review and an opportunity for clarity outside of a period of emergency operations. Additionally, the staff bias is inherent in the recommendation. The presentation indicates APS staff find the calendar has a neutral effect on standardized test scores and then says changing to a traditional agrarian calendar will "help close the achievement gap." That is bias and discredits the staff's couching of the Hanover Research Group's white paper on extended school years, generally, with no Barcroft-specific evaluation. No study of the impact of the Barcroft calendar was actually conducted. There are two discrete and unrelated</p>
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<p>Parent/guardian of a Barcroft Elementary student</p>	<p>Pre-K or younger</p>	<p>The current modified school year calendar (MSYC) creates a valuable foundation for educational support, access to resources, and community engagement that would otherwise be difficult to support in summer months, especially in Barcroft, which is increasingly a socioeconomically and racially diverse district.</p>	<p>Student achievement levels, especially amid a pandemic, are of real concern to Barcroft families. Twenty years ago the district put the MSYC in place to provide Barcroft with a learning model that would support student achievement, all in an effort to address the achievement gap plaguing the school. Today, the district states that its rationale for changing the MSYC is, "the neutral impact the MSYC has had on student achievement." This is acknowledgement from APS that improved student achievement levels have not been realized. What, then, is the proposed plan to address the underlying achievement issues? APS has not shared a plan to address Barcroft's student achievement shortfalls, nor has APS even suggested a concrete timeline for a plan. Families should not be expected to undertake a change to the MSYC - including the risk and disruption therein - until APS has a plan in place that otherwise supports Barcroft student achievement. APS must devote heightened resources to addressing this underlying and critical issue.</p>	<p>The timing for the change to the MSYC is bad -- The proposal to change the MSYC amid a pandemic comes at a time when families are balancing extraordinary pressures to manage their children's learning, social/emotional health, and overall family wellness. These added expectations of families are compounded with the pressures of compromised and modified work situations, lack of access to resources, concerns about family and community health, etc. It is an understatement to say that it is extraordinarily UNFAIR to expect any family - but especially low-income families with fewer resources - to undertake the added pressures of managing and planning for the many considerations and (still unknown and un-communicated) impacts of this change at this unprecedented time in history . . . and all just to save a fraction of what is needed to balance a district-wide budget shortfall.</p>
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