

# Faith Baptist Christian Academy

## ~Four-day school week begins August 2024~

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When Faith Baptist Christian Academy students return to school on August 12, 2024, they will be reporting for a four-day school week. The main reasons for changing to a four-day program versus a traditional school five-day school week centered on four points of emphasis; teacher retention and effectiveness, teacher recruitment, student achievement, and school financial benefit.

Faith Baptist Christian Academy provides families opportunities to spend time together with each other, friends, sports, and hobbies. Cultivating time for these things was a major component as well.

The school made the decision to change to a four-day week this semester after much research, prayer, and discussion with other educators and the school Board. The school will add 30-45 minutes to class each day, depending on grade level, which will be added to the academic instruction.

Faith Baptist Christian Academy, which has students in grades prekindergarten through 12th grade, has studied several groundbreaking schools, and found that this specific method could help both families and students.

Current research indicates that schools on a four-day week program had fewer absences, improved preparation for instruction and curriculum, much less disruption due to extracurricular activities, more time to systematically teach difficult concepts, reduced student and teacher burn-out and increased quality time for families. High School students at FBCA were often out on Fridays for extracurricular events. A study by Georgia State University and Montana State University showed that a four-day school week had a positive impact on students' academic performance.

Additionally, parents regularly take their children for doctor appointments, and with this new system, parents will be able to get those events scheduled for Fridays. With these potential positives, FBCA believes that the longer weekends will also help the school in recruiting and keeping teachers.

For parents of young students, Friday care will be available with the FBCA Day Camp program. This will be primarily prekindergarten through 10 year old students. Those students will have learning experiences and activities that are outside of the curriculum and classroom. Fridays will be a great day for the kids that will both interest and excite them.

Most families have reacted with enthusiasm about the new schedule that was announced to parents on May 14. Some parents have more flexible work schedules and are thrilled to have their children available on Fridays.