



Kris Munro

*Superintendent of
Schools*

Molly Parks

*Assistant Superintendent
Human Resources*

Patrick K. Gaffney

*Assistant Superintendent
Business Services*

Dorothy Coito

*Assistant Superintendent
Educational Services*

April 2019

Dear Partner Districts,

In the 2020-21 school year, Santa Cruz City Schools will be shifting our school calendar in an effort to better support the academic and social emotional needs of our students.

About three years ago, high school students petitioned the Board, district leadership, and the union to shift the calendar. The student request was to begin the school year earlier, so that the academic semester could end before the winter break, and Advanced Placement courses could be completed closer to the College Board examination window in the spring. This shift also allows for middle and high school students to complete their semester finals before the winter break and gives students and families a true break without school work during the winter holidays. Having the semester end in December also supports students who may have incomplete coursework at the end of the semester. This time will allow students to resolve any incompletes without the pressure of current course work during the break.

Many California school districts have adjusted their calendars for earlier starts in recent years. In our calendar negotiations with our teachers, we collectively decided to make this change to support student needs.

I am happy to answer any further questions that you may have.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kris Munro'.

Kris Munro
Superintendent

Board of Trustees

Sheila Coonerty, Deedee Perez-Granados, Cynthia Ranii, Jeremy Shonick, Patricia Threet, Deborah Tracy-Proulx, Claudia Vestal