



821 Williamson St. * Madison, Wisconsin 53703-4503 * Phone (608) 257-0491 * Fax (608) 257-1168

Solidarity!

2016-17 MMSD School Calendar Finalized

The school calendar for the 2016-17 school year has now been finalized. The calendar was particularly challenging to put together given the 192 day teacher contract, the timing of winter holidays, and the legislative requirement that school cannot start until September 1.

Start of the school year. Returning teachers will be expected to report to work on **Thursday, August 25**, with **August 25, 26, 29 and 30** scheduled as **staff learning/preparation days**. The content of those days will be determined collaboratively by the principal and SBLT and shall include “collaborative learning” aligned to SIP, room set up, individual and team planning, family communications, scheduling, and records review. **Wednesday, August 31, will be a voluntary day** for teachers. Individual teachers have total discretion over the use of the voluntary day. **School starts on Thursday, September 1**, for grades 4K-5, 6 and 9. **All other middle and high school students start on Friday, September 2**. The Labor Day holiday is Monday, September 5.

Winter break. Because of the timing of the winter break holidays, winter break will commence on **Thursday, December 22**, and will continue through **Tuesday, January 3** (a total of 9 days). School will resume on Wednesday, January 4.

Spring break. In order to shorten the school year to have school end on June 9, both winter break and spring break have been shortened by one day. Spring break will commence on **Monday, April 10**, and continue through **Friday, April 14** (a total of 5 days). School will resume on Monday, April 17.

End of the school year. By shortening winter break and spring break by one day, the **last day of school for students** will be **Thursday, June 8**. A “**staff only**” day will then be held on **Friday, June 9**, with the content again determined at the building level by the principal and SBLT.

The full calendar, including the scheduling of parent teacher conferences and other “staff only” days, is available via a link on MTI’s web page: www.madisonteachers.org.

Important Reminder! Teacher Contracts Issued End of April

Teacher contracts for the 2016-17 school year will be issued the end of APRIL. Signed contracts of all returning teachers must be received in Human Resources not later than **June 15**. MTI strongly recommends that teachers return their signed contracts **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** to the District Office of Human Resources, in person, to assure that it is received on time. Take a copy with you, ask that it be stamped “received,”

and keep it for your personal records. **Failure to return a signed contract by June 15 may result in the District accepting such as one’s resignation.**

Back by Popular Demand: MTI/WEA Member Benefits Retirement Seminars April 13 and 26

MTI and WEA Member Benefits are teaming up again to provide MTI members two **free** retirement planning seminars on April 13 and 26 from 4:15-6:00 p.m. Similar seminars conducted in March filled up within one week, indicating a strong demand. Each seminar will include two parts. The first part, conducted by WEA Member Benefits staff, will help you to:

- Learn how to read/interpret your pension statement. Calculate your WRS pension benefit.
- Learn how to choose an appropriate annuity option.
- Learn how to purchase forfeited service.
- Determine whether you will have a retirement income gap.
- Learn how you can make changes to your personal savings.

The second part will involve a Q & A with MTI Executive Director Doug Keillor on a variety of MTI/MMSD benefit topics, including:

- Teacher Emeritus Retirement Program (TERP) benefits.
- Accumulated sick leave (escrow) available at retirement to pay for post-retirement insurance.
- Post-retirement insurance options including escrow funds, MMSD health insurance plans, Health Reimbursement Arrangements, and Medicare.
- Return-to-work options following retirement (including substitute teaching).
- Proposed changes to WRS and the need for political involvement to protect the WRS.
- Potential changes to TERP and retirement sick leave benefits via the MMSD Employee Handbook.

Interested MTI members can register on-line via MTI’s webpage www.madisonteachers.org or by calling MTI at 257-0491. Space is limited so register early. Spouses/partners welcome.

Our Union Makes Us Strong!

MTI’s web page - www.madisonteachers.org
MTI’s email - MTI@madisonteachers.org

DPI Electronic Licensing - Start Early

The Department of Public Instruction receives 36,000 teacher license applications each year (initial and renewal applications). To help make this process more efficient, DPI created the **Educator Licensing Online (ELO) System** in December, 2013. *DPI no longer accepts paper applications for license renewal; one must complete and submit the renewal application through this online system.*

Don't wait until the last minute to prepare for a license renewal. If your license is set to expire on June 30 of this year, start collecting the required documentation early. You will need to provide information about the certifications currently held (they can all be renewed), and where and when you completed your certification (you can provide multiple IHEs). *If you were licensed in 2004 or after, you must have your PDP reviewed and approved.* Once that is accomplished, the District will provide that information directly to DPI.

If you are renewing your license through the completion of 6 university credits, have electronic (scanned) verification available, so it can be uploaded during the application process. All applicants will need to complete a Conduct and Competency Questionnaire and will need to scan and upload an Employment Verification form (#1613) signed by MMSD Human Resources. Using the new system the first time can be confusing and frustrating. Having all the information and/or materials you need, will help to make the application process go more smoothly.

A one-time, one-year license extension is possible. Failure to renew one's license can be considered a severance of one's teaching contract, and will be considered a resignation by the District.

Contact MTI for assistance or questions about your license renewal. For more information visit DPI's ELO website: <http://tepd.dpi.wi.gov/licensing/elo>.

Bowl-A-Thon Reminder – April 24

MTI Cares is looking for your help to make the 3rd annual Bowl-A-Thon to support Briarpatch Youth Services Teen Homeless Shelter another success! *The event will take place at Dream Lanes* (13 Atlas Court, Madison) **on Sunday, April 24, from 12-3:00 p.m.** Three games and shoes will cost \$9 and each bowler is asked to raise \$20 for the cause from donations or sponsors.

Once again, all proceeds will go toward the operation of the newly opened Briarpatch Shelter for homeless and unaccompanied teens. If each school sponsors a team we will fill the lanes for this family-friendly, fun event. Participants do not need to be MTI members. There will be a silent auction again this year. If you are willing to donate services, artwork or something else of value for the silent auction, contact Lora Schmid-Dolan (lucydarua@yahoo.com) or Jeff Knight at MTI. Sign-ups and details related to the event can be found at www.madisonteachers.org/bowl-a-thon2016. *Come on out and support this worthy cause!*

Special Education Plan Feedback Sessions April 7 and 13

From MMSD: Join us for our second round of Special Education Plan feedback sessions on April 7 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Wright Middle School, or April 13 from 5:00-7:00 p.m., at Allis Elementary School. To participate, contact Mary Mitchell (mamitchell@madison.k12.wi.us /663-8429).

For more details on the feedback sessions, or if you cannot attend one of the feedback sessions, but would like to provide input on-line, please visit the Special Education Plan webpage <https://specialed.madison.k12.wi.us/SpecEdPlan> to view the draft plan and respond to the MMSD survey by April 30, 2016.

Keep MTI Updated on Changes

Please call, write or email MTI if you have a change in name, home address, home email address, telephone number, work location, certification, or hours of work. Having this information allows MTI to serve you better, both personally and contractually.

April Calendar

- **Monday, April 4, 5:15 p.m., Doyle Room 103**
BOE Instruction Work Group
- **Tuesday, April 5, Election Day - VOTE**
- **Monday, April 11, 4:30 p.m., MTI**
MTI Board of Directors
- **Monday, April 11, 5:15 p.m., Doyle Room 103**
BOE Operations Work Group
- **Tuesday, April 12, 4:15 p.m., MTI**
MTI VOTERS Political Action Committee
- **Friday, April 15 Professional Development Day**
- **Tuesday, April 19, SCFL Room 201B**
MTI Faculty Representative Council (4:15 p.m.)
MTI Joint Fiscal Group (4:45 p.m.)
- **Wednesday, April 20, 4:15 p.m., MTI**
USO-MTI Board of Directors

Important - Save the Date

- MTI Cares Bowl-a-thon - April 24
- MTI 50th /Strike 40th /EA Walk-out 20th / 2011 Protest 5th - May 7



**Tuesday, April 5,
is Election Day;
Photo ID Required**