A.4 SCHOOL CALENDAR AND WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Description of School Calendar

The Hirsch Academy: CFA 2013-14 school year calendar reflects 190 student instructional days and 200 teacher duty days. It is the hope of the school to eventually increase the instructional days to 195 days and then 200+ days, when possible. Teachers will report for 10 days of professional development prior to the mid-August instructional start date. The length of the school day is seven hours. The school year calendar will end in June. The calendar is divided into quarters, with 46, 47, 47 and 50 days respectively. Start of a new term, mid-term, and end-of-term and are noted. Early Release days are scheduled on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Benchmark assessment is scheduled for fall, winter and spring. State assessment will be scheduled in spring within the designated testing window. Parent Conferences are scheduled in October and February. Federal holidays are observed and school vacations are also noted.

Rationale

The school calendar addresses a common concern often expressed among teachers that there is never enough time to teach all that needs to be taught and to work together on student data, programming and professional growth. This is especially true when working with a population of students who are low performing and in high-need neighborhoods. Additionally, the ten days of professional development prior to the mid-August instructional start date provide time for development, training, and preparation for the opening of the school year.

By increasing the number of instructional days, duty days, and early release days, Hirsch Academy: CFA will maximize the use of time for student learning and build teacher capacity. Bi-monthly early release days will increase the opportunity for regular school-wide and grade-level articulation of student achievement data, programming, and topic-specific, applied professional development. This would also pave the way for the possibility of a more seamless implementation of TAP: The System for Teacher and Student Advancement without a major adjustment to the calendar, as this is the intent of the school in year three or four depending on financial feasibility at that time. Placement of professional development days at the front end of the school year will provide teachers with an opportunity to refresh understanding and skill, learn new information and skills based on identification of a school-wide need for professional development, and time to collaborate in school- level, grade-level and special area teams. The calendar also acknowledges respect for family interests and time together with regard to holidays and vacation. Ending the school day at 3:00 allows for tutoring, intramural sports or after-school clubs to take place before the dinner hour and with consideration for rush hour traffic. The extended length of the fourth quarter addresses the issue of lost instructional time due to a heavy testing schedule in the spring and would keep the focus on learning through the end of the school year.

Total Instructional Days: 190

Hirsch Academy: CFA 2013-2014 Sample School Calendar

July 29-Aug 9	Teacher's Report for Prof. Dev.		Jan 6, 2013	First Day Back from Winter Vacation
Aug 8	Meet the Teacher Night 4:00pm-6:00pm		Jan 8	Early Release Professional Development
Aug 12	First Day of School		Jan 10	Second Quarter Ends
Aug 19-Sep 9	NWEA Fall Assessment Grades K-8 Jerry Johns , Gates-McGinitie & CKLA Fall Assessment K-3		Jan 13	Third Quarter Begins
			Jan 13-Jan 31	Jerry Johns, Gates-McGinitie, Winter Assessment K-6
Aug 21	Early Release Professional Development		Jan 20	No School - Martin Luther King Day
Aug 29	Parent Orientation/Back to School Night		Jan 22	Early Release Professional Development
Sept 2	No School - Labor Day		Feb 5	Early Release Professional Development
Sep 11	Early Release Professional Development– Review Test Data		Feb 12-14	Early Release - Parent Teacher Conferences
Sep 11	Core Knowledge Parent Discussion		Feb 13	Third Quarter Midterm
Sep 12	First Quarter Midterm		Feb 17	No School - Presidents' Day
Sep 25	Early Release Professional Development		Feb 26	Early Release Professional Development
Oct 7	No School - Columbus Day		Mar 12	Early Release Professional Development
Oct 9	Early Release Professional Development		Mar 17-21	No School- Spring Vacation
Oct 17	First Quarter Ends		Mar 24	Fourth Quarter Begins
Oct 18	Second Quarter Begins		Mar 26	Early Release Professional Development
Oct 22-24	Early Release - Parent Teacher Conferences		Apr 9	Early Release Professional Development
Oct 25	No School - Fall Break		Apr 7- 18	Stanford 10 (2) and AIMS (3-8) Testing
Oct 30	Early Release Professional Development		Apr 23	Early Release Professional Development

Nov 11	No School - Veteran's Day		May 1	Fourth Quarter Midterm
Nov 13	Early Release Professional Development		May 5-23	NWEA, Spring Assessment Grades K-8 Jerry Johns & CKLA Spring Assessment K-3
Nov 25	Second Quarter Midterm		May 14	Early Release Professional Development
Nov 20-22	No School - Thanksgiving Break		May 26	No School - Memorial Day
Dec 11	Early Release Professional Development		May 28	Early Release Professional Development
Dec 2-20	NWEA Winter Assessment Grades K-8		Jun 4	Early Release Professional Development
Dec 20	Early Release Professional Development		Jun 6	Early Release Last Day of School & Staff Records Day
Dec 21-Jan 5	No School - Winter Vacation			

School Hours: Begin at 8:00 am

End at 3:00 pm

2nd & 4th Wednesday, every month:** Early Release at 12:00 pm

****Note Exception Aug 21, Oct 30, Feb 5, June 4&6****

Every Monday – After School Meetings

1. Staff Meeting
2. New Teacher Meeting
3. Staff Meeting
4. Child Study Team Meeting

(No Tutoring, Clubs or Activities on Mondays)

Parent/Teacher Conferences: Early dismissal at 12:00 pm

Fall Conferences:

Oct. 22 12:30-7:00 (Dinner break from 4:00-5:00)

Oct. 23& 24 12:30-4:30

Winter Conferences:

Feb. 12 12:30-7:00 (Dinner break from 4:00-5:00)

Feb. 13 & 14 12:30-4:30

Grading Periods

1st Quarter	Aug. 12-Oct. 17	46 Days
2nd Quarter	Oct. 18-Jan. 10	47 Days
3rd Quarter	Jan. 13-Mar. 20	47 Days
4th Quarter	Mar. 21-Jun. 6	50 Days

Total Student Days **190 Days**

Total Teacher Days **200 Days**

Description of Weekly Schedule

All K-8 students at Hirsch Academy: CFA will be welcomed with a smile and by name when entering campus each day, reflecting a strong belief in positive character education as a component in a program of instruction. Students will have the opportunity to participate in 30 minute before-school and/or after-school tutoring if needed to support the student's academic progress. The K-6 and 7-8 schedules reflect a common period at the beginning of the day for morning announcements, community-building, and routine tasks. Core subject instructional time for math, reading, writing, science and social studies varies for K-3rd, 4th-5th, 6th, and 7th-8th grades, but, in line with the Core Knowledge curriculum, science and social studies content will also be weaved into language arts and mathematics instruction. Core subject instructional time will be aligned to the Arizona State Standards, Common Core State Standards (CCSS), and Core Knowledge curriculum. Also per the broad content focus of the Core Knowledge curriculum, Special Area classes (Art, Music, PE) are scheduled in the morning for grades 4-8 and in the afternoon for grades K-3. After school tutoring and additional assistance will also be provided.

Lunch and recess are scheduled together in 40-minute periods K-6 and 30 minute periods for 7-8. An afternoon 20-minute recess period for grades K-6 will be scheduled by grade level, allowing students a break extra time for exercise before returning to classroom instruction. This time also provides for additional educational support time for students who may need it.

Instructional periods for core subjects reflect at least the minimum requirement specified for total instructional hours in ARS 15-901 (minimum of 712 hours for 1st-3rd grade, 890 hours for 4th-6th grade and 1000 hours for 7th-8th grade). Lunch and recess are not included in instructional minutes.

Foreign language instruction may be added at the discretion of the school director and school's Board for 20-30 minute periods twice a week, during the school day, when enrollment is such that would make this offering financially feasible.

Rationale

We believe that collaborative educational effort should extend beyond instructional hours to meet the needs of students who struggle academically. Each teacher is expected to contribute two 30-minute periods per week before school, during lunch/recess, or after school, to meet this need by tutoring students. Recess is scheduled before lunch to make a seamless transition to tutoring. It has been the experience at some of our other TeamCFA network schools to see the benefit of students playing before eating. Lunch becomes a more purposeful, focused, and relaxed social activity where students aren't rushing out the door to get to the playground.

Instructional minutes in math increase from 40 to 60 to 90 minutes to meet the need of developmental pedagogy considerations as well as to better meet expectations for higher-

level coursework as students' progress through the grades. Instructional minutes for K-3rd grade also allow for specific reading and language arts instruction in the reading block as well as time to include other interdisciplinary connections within the 180-minute block. For our younger students this allows for more seamless instruction and learning. The 4th and 5th grades will continue with reading and language arts instruction but within a 120-minute block for reading/ELA to allow for 80-minute blocks for science and social studies. ELA content will also be taught and reinforced in the content areas as intended in the CCSS and CK. In 6th grade, students and teachers are able to further refine the interdisciplinary nature of the curriculum, CCSS, AZ Standards and 21st Century Skills within 90-minute ELA instructional blocks and 60-minute science and social studies blocks. 7th and 8th grades are scheduled for 90-minute blocks for all core subjects, including ELA.

K-3 Sample Schedule (300 instructional minutes)

Period	Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
0	7:30-8:00			Tutoring		
1	8:00-8:15			Morning Announcements		
2	8:15-11:15			Reading/ELA		
3	11:15-11:55			Recess & Lunch		
4	11:55-12:35			Math		
5	12:35-1:15			Science		
6	1:15-2:00			Specials (Art, Music, PE)		
7	2:00-2:20			PM Recess		
8	2:20-3:00			Social Studies		
9	3:00-3:30			Tutoring		

4th or 5th Grade Sample Schedule (300 instructional minutes)

Period	Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
0	7:30-8:00			30 min Optional Tutoring		

1	8:00-8:15	Morning Announcements
2	8:15-10:15	Reading/ELA
3	10:20-11:00	Specials (Art, Music, PE)
4	11:00-12:00	Math
5	12:00-12:40	Recess & Lunch
6	12:40-1:40	Science
7	1:40-2:00	PM Recess
8	2:00-3:00	Social Studies
9	3:00-4:00	30-60 min Optional Tutoring

6th Grade Sample Schedule (300 instructional minutes)

Period	Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
0	7:30-8:00			30 min Optional Tutoring		
1	8:00-8:15			Morning Announcements		
2	8:15-9:45			Block 1 (Reading/ELA or Math)		
3	9:45-10:25			Specials (Art, Music, PE)		
4	10:25-11:30			Block 2 (Reading/ELA or Math)		

5	11:35-12:15			Recess & Lunch		
6	12:15-12:40			Block 2 (con't)		
7	12:40-1:40			Block 3 (Science or Social Studies)		
8	1:40-2:00			PM Recess or Team Project Time		
9	2:00-3:00			Block 4 (Science or Social Studies)		
10	3:00-4:00			30-60 min Optional Tutoring		

7th or 8th Grade Sample Schedule (360 instructional minutes)

Period	Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
0	7:30-8:00			30 min Optional Tutoring		
1	8:00-8:10			Specials Extension-Morning Announcements		
2	8:10-8:40			Specials (Art, Music, PE)		
3	8:40-10:10			Block 1		
4	10:10-11:40			Block 2		
5	11:40-12:40			Block 3.1		

6	12:40-1:00			Lunch		
7	1:00-1:30			Block 3.2 (con't)		
8	1:30-3:00			Block 4		
9	3:00- 4:00			30-60 min Optional Tutoring		

Weekly Instructional Minutes						
Grade Level	Math	Reading	Writing	Science	Social Studies	**Total Minutes**
KG	40	180	Included in ELA/SC/SS/MA	40	40	300
1	40	180	Included in ELA/SC/SS/MA	40	40	300
2	40	180	Included in ELA/SC/SS/MA	40	40	300
3	40	180	Included in ELA/SC/SS/MA	40	40	300
4	60	120	Included in ELA/SC/SS/MA	60	60	300
5	60	120	Included in ELA/SC/SS/MA	60	60	300
6	90	90	Included in ELA/SC/SS/MA	60	60	300
7	90	90	Included in ELA/SC/SS/MA	90	90	360
8	90	90	Included in ELA/SC/SS/MA	90	90	360