



*St. Paul Catholic School
1900 12th Street North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33704
Deeply Rooted in Knowledge, Faith, and Family, Since 1930*

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Survey Response from Mrs. Smoot # 2

School Calendar

Each year the schools in the Diocese of St. Petersburg are given a calendar template to complete and return to the Office of Catholic Schools (OCSC) for approval. Included in this are mandatory diocesan wide “Professional Development Days”. These are days when teachers in the diocese participate in training planned by the OCSC. Recent topics included Common Core, Language Arts and Mathematics Unit Planning, and Understanding by Design lesson planning. To date, the teachers here at St. Paul Catholic School have participated in more than 500 hours of professional development this school year in a wide array of courses.

Schools are required by Florida law to have 180 school days for students and 190 days for teaching personnel. Schools may schedule 10 half days, and 2 half day conference days. Schools often plan to have speakers or other organized activities for the teachers in the afternoon on half days. The OCSC recommends that schools take Veterans Day and Presidents’ Day off. Schools that have a festival and take a ‘festival holiday’ usually plan for students to attend classes on either or both of these holidays.

Two years ago, the OCSC offered the option of allowing schools to take the first school day in January as a Professional Development day. Schools either planned together in small clusters or individually, giving teachers the opportunity to share ideas and different teaching strategies. St. Paul Catholic School, along with many other schools in the diocese, took advantage of this Professional Development opportunity.

Each school looks at their own needs when planning their academic calendar. Some parents have mentioned that “other schools were not in session” on days when we had classes. I hope the above explains the planning process that administrators use when preparing their school calendar.