

This SY'21-22 school plan has been approved at the building-level by the Principal and Teacher Leadership Team, and is final pending SEZP Board approval later this school year



Chestnut Middle School

Talented & Gifted

School Plan

SY 2021-22

Educator Working Conditions: Chestnut TAG

1. Allocation of discretionary funds made available by the principal, including in areas such as: wraparound services for students and families, after-school programs, and school supplies. Discretionary funds are those remaining after a school budgets for district services, partner fees, staff salaries and stipends.

For the 2021-22 school year, discretionary funds have been allocated in the following amounts:

- Supplies & materials: \$5,000
- Field trips: \$5,000
- PD/Conferences: \$5,000

Any transfer or use of additional funds received over the course of the school year will be determined by the principal. If additional funds become available - for example, in late fall after any “true-ups” - TLTs should discuss the possibility to increase discretionary funds in the current fiscal year.

2. School curriculum issues.

Chestnut TAG will use a curriculum framework aligned with the Massachusetts State Curriculum Frameworks. Teachers may be asked to assist in developing new and improved curricula for their own use and that of other teachers in the building. To the extent possible, teachers will be made aware of curriculum changes in advance and have an opportunity to provide feedback.

3. Professional development activities applicable to the school as a body. This does not include individualized professional development or coaching of teachers.

Teachers may be required to participate in professional development activities throughout the school year, including before and after the school day for students, and before or after the school year starts and ends. If possible, at least one week’s notice will be given to teachers before any required professional development activities. Expected professional development activities include those below (please see school calendar for additional details):

- Up to 3 days of additional professional development from July 6th-8th, 2021 (for new staff only) (to be paid by an hourly rate of \$29.10/hour for that time);
- Up to 5 days of Summer Institute professional development for all core teachers (Math, ELA, Social Studies, Science) from July 26th- July 30th, 2021 (to be paid by an hourly rate of \$29.10/hour for that time);
- Up to 6 days of professional development and/or staff planning days before the school year begins (August 10-11 & August 24-27);
- Up to 2 days of professional development and planning days during the school year;
- Up to 30 hours of PD after the school day ends for students during the year (“Extended Day”)
- One half-day of PD on the last day of school for students, and after the students release at 11:35am.

4. School calendar.

Please see the attached 2021-22 school year calendar for staff. Any change to the school year calendar is subject to SEZP approval. If possible, at least one month’s notice will be given to teachers before any change to the school calendar. In the event of a change during the year, accommodations may be made for individuals with critical scheduling conflicts on a case-by-case basis. The school calendar will include:

- The total number of school days and hours for students. Required total hours are a minimum of 1330 per year for Middle School students and 1200 for High School students.
- The total number of days and hours for educators, including school days and professional development and planning days. Teachers are required to work a minimum of 1500 hours per year.
- All federal and state holidays.
- Winter break, Mid-winter break, Spring break.

5. Schedule for staff and students, provided that all teachers will continue to receive duty-free lunch and regular student-free preparatory time.

Teachers at each school will receive a duty-free lunch and regular preparatory time.

The standard workday for educators will be 7 hours and 55 minutes. For the majority of educators, required hours will be approximately 7:35-3:30pm.

Teachers will have approximately the equivalent of 5 self-directed preparatory periods per week. These hours will be allocated as evenly across the school week as possible. This self-directed time can be used to plan, grade, collaborate with their colleagues, etc. In extenuating circumstances, teachers may be asked to perform some duties during this time.

Additionally, all staff members are expected to participate in professional development, collaboration activities and/or PLC meetings, expected to be held on 5 days at time (dates TBD), unless otherwise directed by the principal.

In addition to traditional responsibilities and those duties listed above, all staff at Chestnut TAG may be expected to be involved in educational and administrative activities that are necessary to fulfill the mission of the school. These activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Attend the back to school family event after school on the Thursday of August PD week
- Host Student-led family Conferences four nights a year (up to 6 hours) (when possible during Extend Days – except for families who need alternative times) for Advisory students
- Participate in 1 learning showcase curriculum-focused event (Math Parent Night, Band/Art showcase - dates to be chosen with input from staff)
- Participate in at least 2 family engagement (TAG BBQ in the park, TAG family Movie Night, etc.) events during the school year (dates TBD)
- Phone calls/emails (3-5 minimally weekly) to families about the academic, behavioral, and social progress of students
- Preparation of individual student weekly reports, progress reports, and report cards (dates TBD)
- Weekly entry of grades in Powerschool (minimally 3 grades per week)
- Assign and check homework (core classes) Mondays through Thursdays
- Attend student-related meetings, parent conferences, etc. as needed during the school day
- Work regularly with school administrators to improve one's instructional practices
- Lead an Advisory group daily
- Host one fall Family Advisory Family Night
- Work one hour of after school academic help (Monday, Wed or Thurs) every week starting the second week of school
- Attend daily professional learning time (PLCs) and collaborate with colleagues
- Attend DEI professional development during some Extended Days, portions of August PD days and during the district full-day PD days

6. Class coverage and substitutes.

During a typical Monday-Friday week, all staff members may be required to cover classes as needed, except during teachers' duty-free lunch. To the extent possible, class coverage will be assigned equitably and on a rotated basis, including:

- Coverage of Advisory periods, not exceeding 25 minutes per day;
- Substitute coverage of classes of others who are absent from school. (This is a rare occurrence as we will exhaust all support staff before having a teacher cover classes.)
- The Principal will staff a zone substitute (or equivalent) as budget allocation allows, to support classroom coverage

7. Schedule of school-wide parent/teacher meetings. This does not include individual parent-teacher meetings that may occur between school-wide meetings.

Chestnut TAG will hold 4 Student Led Family Conferences during the 2021-22 school year during Extended Days. Staff are required to attend all 4 for a total of 6 hours.

8. Work before and/or after the regular school year.

Core teachers (ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies) are expected to attend a special PD from July 26th-30th, 2021 and will be paid for that time by an hourly rate of \$29.10/hour. All teachers are expected to attend two full PD day sessions on August 10th and 11th (Restorative Justice PD). Teacher PD will resume again for all staff on August 24, 2021. The final work day for teachers is June 23rd, 2022. Teachers are expected to work the half day 7:30-11:35 with students and then remain for the second half of the day 11:36-3:30 for professional development. These dates assume five days built in for inclement weather and will change based on the actual number of inclement weather days. If possible, at least one month's notice will be given to teachers before any change to the start and end of the school year.

Additionally, teachers new to TAG will participate in three full PD day sessions on July 6, 7 & 8th and will be paid by a stipend/hourly rate of \$29.10/hour for that time.

9. Notices and announcements.

Teachers will be notified in advance of special events which will involve students such as health testing, assemblies, etc. Classroom interruptions for notices or public address announcements will be kept at an absolute minimum.

10. School health and safety issues.

Working with SEZP and SPS, the school will make every effort to provide appropriate materials, space, and technology to support effective teaching and learning.

Security of school premises will be maintained and visitors to the school will be required to check in upon entry.

Every effort will be made to mitigate painting or repairs to buildings while school is in session, to avoid distractions or interruptions to student learning.

11. Staff dress code.

Staff at Chestnut TAG are asked to dress professionally for a school setting. Excessively casual clothing such as ripped jeans, revealing clothing, beachwear, and flip flops is not permitted.

12. Rotation of duties.

During a typical Monday-Friday week, all staff members are expected to perform additional duties that are necessary to fulfill the mission of Chestnut TAG. To the extent possible, duties will be equitably distributed and rotated among staff members on a regular basis. These duties may include, but are not limited to:

- Coverage of Advisory periods, not exceeding 25 minutes per day;
- Coverage of break periods, or block periods, not exceeding 60 minutes per day.
- Substitute coverage of classes and duties of others who are absent from school.

Staff may be asked to perform additional duties or responsibilities not listed here. Some additional responsibilities may come with additional compensation in the form of stipends, but stipends should not be expected.

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13. Class size.

Chestnut TAG commits to ensuring a reasonable class size for students and teachers. Class sizes may be differentiated, to support student learning and teacher development. We aim to keep our core classes at 22 or lower.

14. Bulletin boards.

Teachers may be asked to support in the development and maintenance of bulletin boards in hallways. The Springfield Education Association will be provided a clearly designated bulletin board for the purpose of posting Association-related notices and other materials. Such space will be provided in each building for the exclusive use of the Association.

15. Family-teacher communication.

Teachers may be required to make regular phone calls to families about the academic, behavioral, and social progress of students, as well as respond to family inquiries via email, phone or in-person meetings throughout the school year.



**Springfield Public Schools
2021-2022 Student Calendar
Chestnut TAG
355 Plainfield Street, Springfield MA 01103**



Student Hours 7:40 AM - 3:20 PM; *see calendar for special student early release days

Teacher Hours 7:35 AM - 3:30 PM

Aug 30: School Begins

August 2021				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

February 2022				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28				

Feb 21: Schools Closed - Presidents Day
Feb 22 - 25: Schools Closed - Mid-Winter Vacation

Sep 6: Schools Closed - Labor Day

September 2021				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

March 2022				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

Mar 18: Schools Closed for Students & Staff

Oct 8: Early Release at 1:00pm
Oct 11: Schools Closed - Columbus Day

October 2021				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

April 2022				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

Apr 15: Schools Closed - Good Friday
Apr 18: Schools Closed - Patriots Day
Apr 19 - 22: Schools Closed - Spring Vacation

Nov 2: Schools Closed - Teacher PD Day (Election Day)
Nov 11: Schools Closed - Veterans Day
Nov 24 - 26: Schools Closed - Thanksgiving Vacation

November 2021				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

May 2022				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

May 27: Early Release at 1:00pm
May 30: Schools Closed - Memorial Day

Dec 23: Early Release at 11:35am - Last day before holiday vacation
Dec 24 - 31: Schools Closed - Holiday Vacation

December 2021				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

June 2022				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

Jun 20: Schools Closed - Observance of Juneteenth Day
Jun 23*: End of School Year - Early Release for Students at 11:35am

Jan 6: Schools Closed - Teacher PD Day
Jan 14: Early Release at 1:00pm
Jan 17: Schools Closed - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 2022				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

*Calendar includes five (5) additional pupil school days for inclement weather. Schools will close after they have been in session for 180 pupil school days. Official end date and dismissal will be covered by bulletin.

- School Closed
- Student Early Release
- Special Student Early Release



**Springfield Public Schools
2021-2022 Staff Calendar
Chestnut TAG
355 Plainfield Street, Springfield MA 01103**



Student Hours 7:40 AM - 3:20 PM; *see calendar for special student early release days

Teacher Hours 7:35 AM - 3:30 PM

July 6-8: New Staff Orientation

July 26-30: Summer Institute for Core Teachers

Aug 10 & 11: Teacher PD

Aug 24-27: Teacher PD

Aug 27: Convocation

Aug 30: School Begins

August 2021				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
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16	17	18	19	20
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	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

Oct 8: Student Early Release at 1:00pm / Staff Early Release at 1:10pm

Oct 11: Schools Closed - Columbus Day

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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
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16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

Dec 23: Early Release for Students at 11:35am / Early Release for Staff at 11:45am - Last day before holiday vacation

Dec 24 - 31: Schools Closed - Holiday Vacation

December 2021				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

Jun 20: Schools Closed - Observance of Juneteenth Day

Jun 23*: End of School Year - Early Release for Students at 11:35am & 1/2 Day PD for Staff

June 2022				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
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3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

*Calendar includes five (5) additional pupil school days for inclement weather. Schools will close after they have been in session for 180 pupil school days. Official end date and dismissal will be covered by bulletin.

- School Closed
- Staff Early Release
- Regular Day + PD until 5:00pm
- Student Early Release + PD
- Full Day PD
- Special Staff Early Release