

# **Cary Academy**

## **Academic Calendar Guidelines**

### **Student Contact Days**

The Cary Academy academic calendar operates on a trimester system, designed to provide more regular breaks for students between major grading periods. This system can limit the flexibility to provide other holidays or breaks.

### **First Day of School**

School will begin in mid-August.

### **Graduation and the Last Day of School**

Graduation traditionally falls on the Friday before the Memorial Day weekend. It can move to Saturday or Sunday if it conflicts with end-of-season athletic tournaments.

The last day of the school year is determined by the placement of Memorial Day and the timing of the 10<sup>th</sup>-grade language trips. Due to vacation schedules at our partner schools, the trips need a two-week window not to exceed June 10. This could result in graduation and the start of Discovery Term occasionally happening before Memorial Day.

### **School Holidays**

Our calendar at-a-glance will make note of diverse religious and cultural holidays. Our absence policies and homework/assessment guidelines strive to respect all religious celebrations and can include no-homework/no-assessment days as well as excused absences for days missed. Divisional offices and the office of diversity and inclusion will provide more detail on holidays throughout the year.

As two major Jewish holidays traditionally fall in September and impact student attendance, we will hold a professional development day on one of the holidays, with preference given to Yom Kippur if both holidays fall during the school week.

Due to the large number of CA students who have immediate family overseas, we will make every effort to have two full weeks off school during the winter holiday to accommodate long-distance travel during that time.

### **Snow Days**

An occasional “snow day” can be a welcome respite in the winter and can be viewed as a “bonus holiday.” Divisional guidelines ensure that student learning is not negatively impacted by weather events that stretch over multiple days. This will be done through use of technology and “virtual learning” days as appropriate. More detail will be provided by the divisions, and guidelines can be found in our handbooks.

*Document written and reviewed by Leadership Team in January 2017.*