

## **School Calendar Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why do we have so many Teacher Planning days?**

The scheduling of Early Release Days and Teacher Planning Days are negotiated in the Broward Teachers' Union contract and are agreed to occur at the end of each marking period to allow time for teachers to grade exams and to enter grades for report cards.

### **Why do we have certain Jewish holidays off and not for Columbus Day?**

Each year the Calendar Committee, representing District staff, school-based employees, parent advisory groups, and employee bargaining units, reviews input and requests made regarding days off for the school calendar. Federal holidays are generally observed as days off or paid holidays and are negotiated by the bargaining units. Providing a day off for the Jewish holidays has been an established practice in Broward for numerous years. Although some communities outside of Florida observe Columbus Day as a day off, this practice has not been recommended by the Calendar Committee or adopted in Broward.

### **Why do we have Veterans Day off?**

Veterans Day is a federal holiday that has been traditionally recognized by the Broward County Public Schools as well as federal and state agencies. Veterans Day is also negotiated as a day off in numerous employee work group contracts.

### **Why is Election Day a day off of school?**

A decision was made to close the schools for the federal election in November, 2008 and to schedule a Teacher Planning Day on the day of the Primary Election in August, 2008. Since so many of our schools are designated polling sites, the decision was made to close the schools on these dates in order to ensure school safety.