

CFCI Calendar Feedback: FAQ

Professional Development / Half Day/Workdays- When CFCI was founded, it was with the knowledge and understanding that good teachers need continuous professional development, time for collaboration with colleagues and time to put into developing lessons and units that fit the individual needs and interests of our students.

We are a school of inquiry and while our method of teaching no doubt works wonderfully for students, it takes a lot more work and planning on the front end than if we used textbooks/answer keys and big programs for our curriculum support. Inquiry instruction requires time not only for planning lessons, but gathering materials, planning projects, differentiation, set up of field trips and speakers, collaboration with grade level and finding the most up to date resources.

We use workdays at the beginning of the year for Responsive Classroom training, Inquiry training and introducing big initiatives that we will be following throughout the year. We use our professional development half days as well as some of the teacher workdays to continue these professional development goals as well as address other professional development needs that arise during the course of a school year.

Teachers use workdays to build the lessons and units described above. Many teachers choose a site other than the CFCI campus to complete this intense work which is supported as we are all professionals. Teams often meet off site as well to collaborate and design plans and units as well as analyze data and build assessments that work for groups of students.

Daycare/Daycamp---Below is a list of the current daycares that drop off at CFCI who are open on our half days and workdays per parent inquiry in the survey!

Daycare Name	Open on CFCI 1/2 Days	Student Days	Allow day non-enrolled students on workdays
Childcare Network	Yes	Yes	No
AAI	Yes	Yes (if 5+ students)	No
Wilmington Athletic Club (WAC)	Yes	Yes	No
Children's Learning Center (CLC)	Yes	Yes	No
FAST	Yes	Yes	Yes
YWCA	Yes	Yes (if 5+ students)	No
YMCA (when repaired)	Yes	Yes	No
ISSHIN-RYU	Yes	After 12:00 noon	No

Holidays- All holidays that are built into our calendar are required

Student-friendly- Everything we do at CFCI, we do with students in mind. Teachers need time to really look at student work/data to help drive instruction and see where they are, training and PD on workdays only enhances the experience students are getting from their teachers who truly are life-long learners. The breaks also help assist in preventing student burn-out.

Traditional/New Hanover Calendars- Traditional schools are held to very strict calendar rules that can be found at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/fbs/accounting/calendar/>. Charter schools are held to the 185 days or 1025 instructional hours and CFCI builds our calendar based on hours, however we are not held to many of the other parameters. Traditional schools all over the state are fighting for more flexibility because the inflexibility of these calendar laws build student and teacher burn out and are not conducive to building professional development models for teachers to better support their instruction in the classroom.

List of play date ideas- Many parents who do not use daycare collaborate and establish play dates on our half days and workdays. Below are some ideas for doing so. Parents often rotate supervising/hosting the play dates with classmates to help take the pressure off. Teachers will gladly help to share if groups of getting together as well to help out!

- Jellybeans
- Scooters
- Cape Fear Museum
- Serpentarium
- beach
- Jungle Rapids
- bowling
- County Parks and picnics
- Children's Museum
- Fort Fisher Aquarium
- Library/Bookstores
- 144 Pinterest Playdate Ideas: <https://www.pinterest.com/kerribestogden/play-date-ideas/>

Winter/Spring Breaks- We make it a priority to match New Hanover's breaks, although we may build in a workday at the front or end (see below).

Workdays paired with breaks- Winter and Spring break are both a big transition periods for teachers and students. The breaks are mandatory vacation days for the teachers and they are not paid to work during that time (although many still come in). Therefore, the workday that falls before or after allows teachers opportunity to plan for the upcoming semester, gather data for progress reports, and set up new inquiry-based units and lessons for the new semester.

Early Start Date/ Stagger Start- Helps with filling seats (finance) because first 20 days, days in calendar, build in extra weather days, Kindergarten

Martin Luther King Holiday/Workday: The reason that the county system splits this week the way that they do is because that Friday marks the end of their semester. Since High Schools are on semesters, they have to have an even number of days for each and do not typically budge on those days. They can get board approval to do so, but that means making one semester longer than the other. This does not impact the K-8 students and teachers so much, but in the high schools students start all new classes for second semester so the balance is important. For the 2014-2015 school year, CFCI decided to match the days with New Hanover since there were so few days to match up beyond holidays because New Hanover is stuck with such a strict calendar. This year the board evaluated the teacher and parent input, which was very divided across the board and decided to make the week a four day weekend, but since Monday is the holiday, the 2nd quarter workday will be Tuesday. This keeps another week from being broken apart.