

October 23, 2024

Parkview Blog – Professional Development Days

“Hey Mom! I don’t have to go to school on Thursday or Friday.”

“Why?”

“Teachers are having Professional Development Days.”

“Professional Development Days, what do teachers do at those?”

This is a fairly typical conversation that happens in households each year. Students are released from a day of school so that the staff can be provided professional development training and parents and other adults want to know why. The best and shortest answer that I have to this question is that this time is used to provide professional development time and programs to our staff so that they can stay on top of what is going on both in their fields and in education in general.

On Thursday, October 24, the District has a professional development day and students do not have school on that day. Our focus for the day will be on reading instruction mandated by Act 20 at the Elementary School and a focus on Character Strong at the Junior/Senior High School.

The Parkview School District has also built the following dates into this school year for additional staff professional development days: November 25 and 26, January 20, February 13, and April 18. It is beneficial for the school district to have inservice days placed on the school calendar at different times of the year, so that certain topics can be worked on and assessed over a longer period of time. This year, some of the professional days will be used to provide training to staff on reading instruction, Character Strong, Academic and Career Planning and methods to update and improve our curriculum instruction. When I addressed the staff at our opening session for the school year, I made the staff a promise. The promise was that our professional development days would not be spent on what I call “the flavor of the day” or the idea or program that seems most popular at the time. I promised them that whatever professional development program we initiated at the start of the year, we would carry on with it until completion.

The overall goal of all of our professional development days is to help teachers become more effective so that the students receive the best instruction possible.

In order for organizations to improve, time needs to be dedicated to professional development activities for our staff. Inservice days allow us to build some of this time into our calendars, so that we can work with all staff at the same time on topics that are necessary and relevant to their present and future success.

So when your child comes home from school and lets you know that they do not have school on Thursday or Friday, please know that we are using this time wisely and constructively. Thank you for your continued support – it is appreciated and valued.