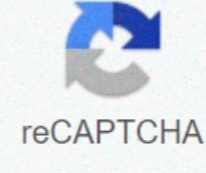




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## Washington union school district calendar

Photo: shutterstock.com Children don't need to understand that good public schools support the value of homes in their areas. Although high-quality schools are usually accompanied by higher property taxes, homeowners in such areas are ultimately reimbursed through the high selling price of homes. Getting a response sounds great, but how much are we talking about? New research from Realtor.com showed that in order to enter a desirable school district, 9% of buyers say they will pay 11% to 20% above the budget. Separately, 17% say they will pay extra to be close enough so that their children can walk to and from school. Related: 7 renewal tips to enhance the value of resale in the confrontation between adult amenities and education for children, you guessed it: kids win. Realtor.com found that 62% of buyers will even pass a home spa if it means entering the appropriate school area. 50% would recognize easy access to shopping, while 44% would give up space in the form of a bonus room. If the house you plan to sell is located in a highly coveted school area, do everything in your power to highlight this fact in all of your real estate marketing materials. Many potential buyers are parents of children currently in the school system, so be sure to get a word between neighbors and local friends. If you're buying a house, use a search tool that allows you to filter by school district, where the boundaries of the area don't always correspond to city, village and city lines. After all, you can't assume that your kids will be assigned to attend the same school as the kids down the block or even next door. H. Armstrong Roberts/ClassicStock/Photo Archive/Getty Images to find the school area associated with any home address in the United States, go to GreatSchools.org, and enter the address in the interactive school area and border map. Then, locate the name of the school area to get the area phone number, and contact the area for confirmation. After visiting GreatSchools.org to get the name of the area, visit the region's website. Many public school districts have interactive school finder applications that allow families to enter their home address and get a list of corresponding primary, middle and high schools. At the very least, most have maps showing area boundary lines. It is useful to take this step because attendance areas in school areas may change from year to year, so the information collected from neighbors, brokers and other local sources may not be accurate. In addition, most state education departments have lists of each region in the state alphabetically by name, or numerically by region, and often have maps showing the boundary lines of each province. Here, you may also find the demographics of the region, average test scores, school assessments, and other useful information. As a final confirmation step, contact the school. Office, request to speak to the registration specialist, who will help find the right school for every child in the family. The Maryland school district turned into a Grinch who stole Christmas -- or at least Grinch who removed Christmas from the school calendar. The Montgomery County Board of Education, whose district is bordered by the nation's capital, voted 7-1 this week to take advantage of christmas and all other religious holidays from its published school calendar. Today the move has been driven in part by requests from Muslim leaders who have asked schools to observe at least one of the holy Islamic days. The area is currently closed for several Jewish and Christian holidays, but next year, Eid al-Adha coincides with Yom Kippur on September 23, 2015, and Muslim leaders have also requested recognition in the school calendar. With the school board voting on Tuesday, students are still on vacation for the December winter break, or spring break around Easter, as well as Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, which will now be listed as days without a school. This decision was taken to emphasize that the decision to close the school on a given day was based on operational issues - such as high staff ingand student absenteeism - and not for religious or cultural reasons. The decision provoked a backlash in the Montgomery County school district among people who felt the school board had gone too far, or simply failed to handle the issue appropriately. Mary Eisner-Hedorn, who has two children at a high school in the area, described the situation as the latest absurdity from the school board. While there was value in the new calendar, the resolution had not been well addressed. The Muslim community has asked for fairness, she wrote in a Facebook post: Now there are people who use this decision to defame Islam and Muslims in America who have not been doing more or less than any segment of america's population -- calling for recognition. Kim Porter, whose three children attend Montgomery County schools, wondered why the council had so much one-way. I get academic calendars from Staples every year, and they list Christmas, Hannukah, Feast, Ashura, Kwanza, professional administrative day and mexican holidays assorted, she said today. I understand the idea of everything or nothing, but why not have it all? Reactions on Twitter were strong, but ranged widely across the political Members of the county school board noted that the nearby Fairfax County school system, the largest school district in neighboring Virginia, also does not mention religious holidays by name. Follow TODAY.com writer Yoon Kyung Kim on Twitter. Twitter.

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