

Broadcast Package Title: Possibility of a Modified School Year

Student's Name: Shelbie Spain

Link to the Video: <https://youtu.be/MuC6WLmkNbY>

OC Tease for story

At the first community forum meeting discussing the potential of a modified calendar, citizens, parents, and students had the opportunity to hear from our Superintendent Dr. Picou, and voice their thoughts on the best decision for Tupelo Schools.

NAT SOUND

Intro (OC)

Tupelo Public School district has discussed the possibility of a modified schedule.

(VO)

A modified calendar for tupelo schools will consist of a shortened summer with multiple breaks throughout the year. Dr. Picou says this will allow students to have personal remediation and catch up on classes.

Interview #1 (Dr. Picou)

"The intent of a modified schedule is to provide intersections throughout the school year, sessions of time where students can either have a break or participate in remediation or enrichment activities during the school year. So it takes the summer vacation and it's currently at 60 days and reduces it to 30 and then dispurses those days into different periods during the year to give more breaks during the school year."

(VO)

This could be a big change for Tupelo schools like Tupelo High School. THS principal Dr. Thomas believes that community forums are essential to make the best decision for students.

Interview #2 (Dr. Thomas)

"I think now, right now is a good opportunity to just start researching and see what would work best for tupelo public school district as well as tupelo high school. I am thankful that Doctor Picou and his staff are creating forums that can involve the community and parents and students so that we all can come together and see, get the information, and see what's best for our district."

(VO)

A modified schedule will not only affect students but teachers and staff of tupelo schools. Mrs. McCullough is a THS teacher who previously worked at a school that followed a modified calendar.

Interview #3 (Mrs. Mccullough)

The modified calendar, what it does, we are still in school the same amount of days, but our breaks are spread throughout the school year. We essentially get a break after every term. And it is awesome. I think for teachers and students it helps giving us those breaks just to breathe and recuperate and come back ready for the next term.

(VO)

Students are the main factor in the decision regarding a Modified calendar. The adjustment of a new schedule could affect them in many ways.

Interview #4

I feel like it will affect me positively because sometimes I don't come to school because I need a break. I feel like if the school would give us a break, my attendance would be better.

(VO)

The community forum meeting hosted by Dr. Picou and the school district allowed citizens to come out and get an idea of what exactly a modified calendar will look like.

Interview #5 & #6

I think it will give them a better school system because the students can progress at a faster pace, learn more and forget less. I think that's a good thing.

All of my children are out of school, but there's a concern for other parents who have children in the school system. And it can effect them in more ways than we know tonight, just getting them up and having to take them to a daycare if they're in that age group or having a teenager at home for three weeks.

(OC)

The decision of a Modified Schedule is still underway with the school board and a final decision is discussed to be made in the next two years. The community forums are set to continue to hear thoughts from citizens and updates are to come on the best decision for the schools of Tupelo. I'm Shelbie Spain, WTHS news.

