

10th June, 2021

EDU/A/323

CIRCULAR NO.: 08 /2021

LAST CIRCULAR NO.: 07/2021

DATED: 14th May, 2021

TO: ALL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS, PRINCIPALS OF GOVERNMENT AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS, HEADS OF INDEPENDENT EDUCATION AUTHORITIES, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE BAHAMAS (UB), THE PRESIDENT OF THE BAHAMAS TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE (BTVI), PRESIDENT, BAHAMAS EDUCATORS MANAGERIAL UNION (BEMU), PRESIDENT, BAHAMAS UNION OF TEACHERS (BUT), THE ROYAL BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE (RBPF), BAHAMAS INFORMATION SERVICES AND HEADQUARTERS STAFF (for information)

The days for school attendance in Ministry of Education schools each week during the term will be from **Monday to Friday** inclusive, unless otherwise directed by the Department of Education.

Hours of attendance for pupils shall be from **9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** provided, however, that there shall be a daily recess of one or more periods, which shall not in aggregate exceed one hour.

Morning Registration for schools shall be from 9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m. Students are considered late at 9:10 a.m. (the time Period One begins).

Working hours for **teachers** shall be from **8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.** inclusive of the lunch hour and as may otherwise be required for the purpose of staff meetings, curriculum development meetings, etc.

Working hours for **teachers' aides** shall be from **8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** inclusive of one (1) hour for lunch break.

Working hours for school **administrators** shall be from **8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** inclusive of one (1) hour for lunch break.

REVISED CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR

PARTICULARS	Term 1 CHRISTMAS TERM	Term 2 EASTER TERM	Term 3 SUMMER TERM
No. of Days (Teachers)	82	66	47
No. of Days (Students)	72	66	42
Open (Teachers)	23rd August, 2021	4th January, 2022	19th April, 2022
Open (Students)	30th August, 2021	4th January, 2022	19th April, 2022
Close (Students)	10th December, 2021 (3:00 p.m.)	8th April, 2022 (3:00 p.m.)	17th June, 2022 (3:00 p.m.)
Close (Teachers)	17th December, 2021 (12:00 p.m.)	8th April, 2022 (3:00 p.m.)	24th June, 2022 (12:00 p.m.)
Mid –Term Break	29th October & 1st November 2021	25th & 28th February, 2022	
Professional Development (PD) Days	16th & 17th Aug, 2021- Virtual Conclave for Administrators 18th & 19th Aug, 2021- Orientation for New Teachers 23rd & 24th Aug, 2021- Virtual Workshops for teachers facilitated at the national level		
End of Term Examinations - Primary Schools	6th -10th December, 2021		13th-17th June, 2022
End of Term Examinations -High Schools	1st-7th December, 2021 (Practical Exams Only) 8th-10th December, 2021 (Theory Exams Only)		8th -14th June, 2022 (Practical Exams Only) 15th-17th June, 2022 (Theory Exams Only)
Make-up Examinations/ Teachers' Work Day	13th December, 2021		20th June, 2022
Teachers' Work Days	14th & 15th December, 2021		21st & 22nd June, 2022
National Report Card Day	16th December, 2021		23rd June, 2022
Re-Open (Teachers)			22nd August, 2022
Re-Open (Students)			29th August, 2022

Opening and closing dates, as stipulated, **must** be strictly adhered to and permission to vary them will be granted only in exceptional circumstances. Should the need arise, permission **must** be obtained in writing from the Director of Education.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (January – December)

New Year's Day, Majority Rule Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Whit Monday, Randol Fawkes Labour Day, Independence Day, Emancipation Day, National Heroes Day, Christmas Day, Boxing Day.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (SUMMER)

Professional Development Activities are scheduled for 5th July to 13th August, 2022. District Superintendents and Curriculum Officers, in consultation with School Administrators, will organize SITE-BASED sessions to address training and upgrading needs of both New Providence and Family Island teachers.

CHURCH SERVICE and ADMINISTRATORS CONCLAVE 2022 (District Superintendents, District Education Officers and Public School Administrators)

Church Service 14th August, 2022 - Administrators Conclave 15th and 16th August, 2022

NEW TEACHERS ORIENTATION

17th and 18th August, 2022

STAFF MEETING (Faculty)

Staff Meeting is held once per month (usually on the **third or fourth Wednesday** in the month) at **2:00 p.m.** Students are to be dismissed at 1:45p.m. Dates are stipulated monthly. See dates on pages 3 to 5.

STAFF MEETING (Support)

Staff Meeting is held once per month (usually on the **third or fourth Thursday** in the month) at **9:30 a.m.** for one hour. Dates are stipulated monthly. See dates on pages 3 to 5.

PTA MEETING

PTA Meeting is held once per month usually during the fourth week in the month at 6:30 p.m.: **Monday** (Stand-Alone Pre-Primary Schools) **Tuesday** (Primary Schools) **Wednesday** (Junior High Schools) and **Thursday** (Senior High Schools). See dates on pages 3 to 5. Family Island Districts will coordinate according to the bussing schedule.

NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS - Grade Level Assessment Tests (GLAT), Bahamas Junior Certificate (BJC) and Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE)

GLAT are usually administered in the month of May to students in the third and sixth grades.

Third and sixth grade students will report to school as usual and sit examinations during specified times during the school day.

BJC EXAMINATIONS (PRACTICAL AND THEORY) usually begin in April and end in June.

Ninth grade students will remain at home during the BJC THEORY EXAMINATIONS, and will only report to school, in full uniform, to sit registered examinations. Ninth grade students will report to school for regular classes after the BJC Theory Examinations are completed.

All other students, (8th, 10th, and 11th graders) who have registered to sit BJC Examinations are to remain in school for the duration of the examinations and attend regular classes when they are not sitting examinations.

BGCSE EXAMINATIONS (PRACTICAL AND THEORY) usually begin in March/April and end in June

The final day for twelfth grade students shall be the day prior to the sitting of the first major (over half of the school registered) THEORY BGCSE EXAMINATION. Students will only return to school, in full uniform, to sit registered examinations or attend Graduation Rehearsal Sessions.

All other students (10th and 11th graders) who have registered to sit BGCSE Examinations are to remain in school for the duration of the examinations and attend regular classes when they are not sitting examinations.

SPORTS

INTERHOUSE SPORTS MEET - Competitions are held for two days during the month of January or February by individual primary and secondary schools in New Providence, Grand Bahama and the Family Islands. All students and teachers are expected to participate / attend the event which usually takes place on the school campus and or at an appropriate facility away from the school campus.

INTERSCHOOL DISTRICT SPORTS MEET –PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (Grand Bahama and Family Islands) Competitions are held for two days during the second term. Student athletes and selected teachers are expected to participate / attend the event which usually takes place on a school campus in the District or at an appropriate community facility.

GSSA TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS (New Providence)

Competitions are held for three days usually in the month of February or March at the Thomas A. Robinson Stadium.

Attendees:

- Day 1: Junior and Senior High School Athletes; selected Coaches and Teachers;
- Day 2: Opening Ceremony; All Junior High School Athletes and Coaches; Senior High School Athletes and selected Coaches and Teachers; all Junior High School Students and Teachers;
- Day 3: Senior High School Athletes and Coaches only; all Senior High Schools Students and Teachers.

NPPPSSA TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS (New Providence)

Competitions are held for three days during March or April. Primary School Student athletes and selected teachers are expected to participate / attend the event which usually takes place at the Thomas A Robinson Stadium.

FUN DAY – Two fun days are allowed per school year. Fun days are held the day before the Mid -Term Break in October and February.

**Term 1
CHRISTMAS**

OTHER DAYS (not holidays, but to be observed)

AUGUST 2021	OCTOBER 2021	NOVEMBER 2021	DECEMBER 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Administrators Virtual Church Service (15th) *Administrators Virtual Conclave (16th & 17th) *New Teachers Virtual Orientation (18th & 19th) *School Opens for Teachers (23rd) *Virtual Conference for Teachers (23rd – 24th) *Launch of Speech Therapy Webpage <p align="center">SEPTEMBER 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Adult Literacy Month *National Drill Day (2nd) * Suicide Awareness Week (5th -11th) *Orientation for New Counselors - Virtual (6th -17th) *International Literacy Day (8th) *Caribbean Wellness Day (11th) *Teacher Mentoring Afterschool Sessions Begin (14th) * Literacy Workshop (20th) *Numeracy Workshop (21st) *Staff (Faculty) Meeting for All Schools (22nd) *Professional Development Virtual Workshop "The Rights of Children" (22nd) *Staff (Support) Meeting for All Schools (23rd) * National Literacy & Numeracy Programme begins – Primary Schools (27th) * National Student Council Elections (27th – October 1st) *World Tourism Day (27th) *Observance of the 291st Anniversary of Parliamentary Democracy in The Bahamas (29th) * Bahamas National Screening Programme (BNSP) Begins Grade 1 School Based (School Psychological Services) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *PTA Meeting – Stand-Alone Pre-School (20th) *PTA Meeting – Primary (21st) *PTA Meeting – Junior (22nd) *PTA Meeting – Senior (23rd) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *National Careers Awareness Month * Career in Construction Month *Career in Automotive Month * National Art and Craft After-School Enrichment Programme begins (3rd) *World Teachers Day (5th) * Student Christian Movement Primary School Advisor’s Appreciation Awards Ceremony (7th) *World Sight Day (8th) *International Day of the Girl Child (11th) * National Heroes Day (12th) * NPPSSA Soccer Skills Competition (12th -15th) * SSS Staff Virtual Workshop on Counselling Techniques (13th) * BGCSE Religious Studies Examination Coursework Webinar (14th) * Spelling Bee Coaches Virtual Forum (14th) *World Food Day (16th) *Debate Coaches’ Virtual Workshop (20th & 21st) *Staff (Faculty) Meeting for All Schools (20th) *Staff (Support) Meeting for All Schools (21st) *United Nations Day (24th) *Visual Arts Week (25th -29th) *Fun Day for All Schools (28th) *Mid -Term Break (29th) * BASCD Conference (29th) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * SSS Launch of Virtual ‘Stay in School Tour’ for N. P. and F. I. Students and Parents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *PTA Meeting – Stand-Alone Pre-School (18th) *PTA Meeting – Primary (19th) *PTA Meeting – Junior (20th) *PTA Meeting – Senior (21st) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Geography Month * Religious Studies Month *Career in Automotive Month * Mid -Term Break (1st) * School Based Spelling Bee Competitions End (1st) *National Debate District Competitions end (5th) *Bahamas National Education Census Day (5th) *National Psychology Week (9th -12th) *A Spotlight on Special Services (9th -13th) *World Science Day for Peace and Development (10th) *Remembrance Day (11th) *Virtual Town Hall Meeting For Parents and Students Guidelines for local and International Scholarships (12th) *Religious Studies Virtual Prayer (13th) *BGCSE History Coursework Workshop (13th &14th) *World Diabetes Day (14th) * NPPSSA Tennis Competition (15th – 19th) *Teacher Mentoring Afterschool Sessions End (16th) * National Debate Officials Workshops (18th) *Universal Children’s Day Celebration (19th) *RS (JPR) Essay Competition (19th) *National Literacy & Numeracy Programme Ends (19th) *Staff (Faculty)Meeting for All Schools (24th) *Staff (Support)Meeting for All Schools (25th) * International Day of the Bible (28th) * Geography Bowl (TBA) *National High School Volleyball Championship to be held in N. P. (TBA) *Virtual ‘Stay in School Tour’ for High School Students – Special Services Section <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *PTA Meeting – Stand-Alone Pre-School (22nd) *PTA Meeting – Primary (23rd) *PTA Meeting – Junior (24th) *PTA Meeting – Senior (25th) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *World AIDS Day (1st) *Annual Festival of Carols (TBA) *17th Annual Art Exhibition- National Art & Craft Enrichment Programme (3rd October – 3rd December) *End of Term Practical Exams High Schools Only (1st-7th) *End of Term Exams – Primary Schools Only (6th- 10th) *End of Term Theory Exams – High Schools Only (8th -10th) *School Closes for Students(10th) * Make up Examinations (13th) *National Report Card Day (16th) *Staff (Faculty) Meeting (17th) *School Closes for Teachers(17th) *Wellness Seminar – Speech Therapy Staff (17th) * NCSS Annual Conference Minneapolis Minnesota (19th - 21st) *Staff (Support)Meeting for All Schools (20th) *Staff Social / Luncheon (TBA) *Christmas Day (25th) *Boxing Day (26th) *Christmas Day Holiday (27th) *Boxing Day Holiday (28th) *Bahamas National Screening Programme (BNSP) Ends Grade 1 School Based (School Psychological Services)

**Term 2
EASTER**

OTHER DAYS (not holidays, but to be observed)

JANUARY 2022

- *School Opens for the Easter Term – Students and Teachers **(4th)**
- * National Literacy & Numeracy Programme Winter Begins **(10th)**
- * National Art & Craft After- School Enrichment Programme Winter Term begins **(10th)**
- *Majority Rule Holiday **(10th)**
- *National Debate ZONE Competitions **(13th)**
- *Teacher Mentoring Afterschool Sessions Begin**(18th)**
- * National Debate ZONE Competitions **(19th)**
- *Staff (Faculty) Meeting for All Schools **(19th)**
- *Staff (Support) Meeting for All Schools **(20th)**
- *National Spelling Bee District Competition **(20th)**
- * Minister’s Cup/ School Beautification / Clean Campus Competitions begin **(24th)**
- *Social Science Majority Rule Bulletin Board & Video Competition **(28th)**
- * School Attendance Awareness Month (Final Two weeks)
- * BAAA High School Relays **(TBA)**
- *BAAA National Cross Country (TBA)
- *NPPSSA Annual Soccer Competition (boys and girls) (TBA)
- * SSS ‘Stay in School’ Tour for High School Students

- *PTA Meeting – Stand-Alone Pre-School **(24th)**
- *PTA Meeting – Primary **(25th)**
- *PTA Meeting – Junior **(26th)**
- *PTA Meeting – Senior **(27th)**

FEBRUARY 2022

- *Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month
- * NPPSSA Golf Tournament Primary **(7th -11th)**
- * Golf Interschool Championship **(7th - 11th)**
- * National Debate **QUARTER FINALS** Competition **(10th)**
- *Career Orientation- (Grades 10-12 and Tertiary students **(10th)**
- *Staff (Faculty)Meeting for All Schools **(16th)**
- *Staff (Support)Meeting for All Schools**(17th)**
- * SCM Empowerment Activity – Primary Schools **(17th)**
- * National Engineers Week Grades K- 12 **(21st - 25th)**
- *PD History Workshop- Doris Johnson Senior High School
- * Business Studies Speech Competition **(22nd)**
- * Fun Day for All Schools **(24th)**
- *Mid -Term Break **(25th & 28th)**
- * GSSSA Golf Tournament – High Schools (TBA)
- *Hugh Campbell Tournament **(TBA)**
- *BAISS Championships **(TBA)**
- *GSSSA Track and Field Championships **(TBA)**

- *PTA Meeting – Stand-Alone Pre-School **(21st)**
- *PTA Meeting – Primary **(22nd)**
- *PTA Meeting – Junior **(23rd)**
- *PTA Meeting – Senior **(24th)**

MARCH 2022

- *Natural Science Month
- *Agricultural Science Month
- *Bahamian History Month
- *National Nutrition Month
- *Modern Languages Appreciation Week**(1st -4th)**
- * National Spelling Bee Written Competition **(5th)**
- * National Spelling Bee Final Competition**(6th)**
- *International Women’s Day **(8th)**
- *Commonwealth Day/ Bahamian History Month Submission of Essays **(9th)**
- * Business Studies Virtual Entrepreneur Competition **(13th)**
- * National Debate Zone Semi- Final Competition **(17th)**
- *Business Studies Junior High Jeopardy Competition (**17th)**
- *Agricultural Science Youth Forum **(18th)**
- *World Agriculture Day **(20th)**
- *World Home Economics Day **(21st)**
- *International Day of the Forest **(21st)**
- *World Water Day **(22nd)**
- *Teacher Mentoring Afterschool Sessions End **(22nd)**
- *History Mania Week- GHS **(22nd- 26th)**
- * Inter- Junior High School Agricultural Science Quiz Competition **(23rd)**
- *Staff (Faculty) Meeting for All Schools **(23rd)**
- *Staff (Support) Meeting for All School **(24th)**
- * Individual Self-Esteem Program (ISEP) **(25th)**
- * Inter- Senior High School Agricultural Science Quiz Competition (**26th)**
- * Minister’s Cup/ School Beautification /Clean Campus Competition Ends **(28th)**
- * National Literacy & Numeracy Programme Ends **(31st)**
- *Science Extravaganza -Junior High **(TBA)**
- * Science Extravaganza Senior Schools **(TBA)**
- *National High School Track and Field Championships **(TBA)**
- * NPPSSA Track and Field Championship **(TBA)**
- *National Agricultural Science Exhibition Begins **(28th)**
- *Eureka Young Scientist Competition **(TBA)**
- *National Primary Science Talk Competition **(TBA)**
- *Accounting Bowl Competition **(TBA)**
- *NPPSSA Basketball Championship (boys and girls)
- *GSSSA Basketball Championship **(TBA)**
- *National High School Basketball Championship
- * Science Talk **(TBA)**
- * Sciencemania **(TBA)**
- *Build-A-Bridge Competition **(TBA)**

- *PTA Meeting – Stand-Alone Pre-School **(21st)**
- *PTA Meeting – Primary **(22nd)**
- *PTA Meeting – Junior **(23rd)**
- *PTA Meeting – Senior **(24th)**

**Term 3
SUMMER**

OTHER DAYS (not holidays, but to be observed)

APRIL 2022	MAY 2022	JUNE 2022
<p>*National Examinations Month *Mathematics Month * School Closes for Easter Break – Students and Teachers (8th) *National Agricultural Science Exhibition Ends (12th) *Good Friday (15th) *CARIFTA Track and Field – Guyana (15th-18th) *Mathematics Church Service (17th) *Easter Monday (18th) *School Opens for Students (19th) *School Opens for Teachers (19th) *Art Exhibition for Teachers –MOE Foyer (19th - 23rd) *National Debate FINAL Competition (21st) *World Earth Day (22nd) * NPPSSA Swimming Jamboree (25th- 29th) *Staff (Faculty) Meeting for All Schools(27th) * Staff (Support) Meeting for All School (28th) *Senior High Math Competition (27th) *Junior High Math Competition (28th) *Minister’s Cup/School Beautification Competition/ Clean Campus Awards Ceremony (TBA) *Preschool Week(TBA) *Teachers’ Appreciation, High Schools (TBA) *NPPSSA Volleyball *GSSSA Softball/Baseball *SSS Transition Programme for grade 6 students entering grade 7 (focus on preparing students for high school)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Stand-Alone Pre-School (25th) *PTA Meeting – Primary(26th) *PTA Meeting – Junior (27th) *PTA Meeting – Senior (28th)</p>	<p>*National Examinations Month *Teachers’ Appreciation - Primary Schools (6th) *Better Speech & Hearing Month -BSHM (Hosting Clients’ Drive-By Give Away) (18th) *Staff (Faculty) Meeting for Primary Schools Only (25th) *Staff (Support) Meeting for Primary Schools Only (26th) *World Tobacco Day (31st) *GLAT (See E&A Examination Calendar) *BJC & BGCSE Practical & Theory Examinations (See E & A Examination Calendar) *Social Studies Geography Bowl Competition (TBA) *GSSSA Soccer *National High School Soccer *National High School Baseball *Frank Rahming Primary Track and Field (TBA) * Scripps National Spelling Bee Competition (TBA)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Stand-Alone Pre-School (23rd) *PTA Meeting – Primary (24th) *PTA Meeting – Junior (25th) *PTA Meeting – Senior (26th)</p>	<p>*National Examinations Month *Randol Fawkes Labour Day Holiday (3rd) *Whit Monday Holiday (6th) *End of Term Practical Exams - High Schools Only (8th-14^h) *End of Term Exams - Primary Schools Only (13th - 17th) *End of Term Theory Exams – High Schools Only (15th - 17th) *School Closes for Students (17th) * Make up Examinations (20th) * National Report Card Day (23rd) * Staff (Faculty) Meeting All Schools (24th) *School Closes for Teachers (24th) Stepping Forward: A Resiliency Camp Programme (27th June – July 1st) * Staff (Support) Meeting All Schools(30th) *BJC & BGCSE Theory Examinations *School Attendance Unit -Special Services Section Virtual Street Patrols End</p> <p align="center">JULY 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art and Craft Enrichment Programme Summer Workshop (4th- 22nd) • Summer Speech Therapy Programme - Students on the Speech Therapy Wait List.(4th - 28th) • Literacy & Numeracy Facilitators Workshop (TBA) • MOE Professional Development Summer Workshops Begin

Note that the MOE/DOE reserves the right to make adjustments, as required, for the effective operation of the Government School System.

Please note also that this Circular supersedes Circular No. 08/2021, dated 3rd June, 2021.



**Marcellus C. Taylor
Director of Education**

MCT/