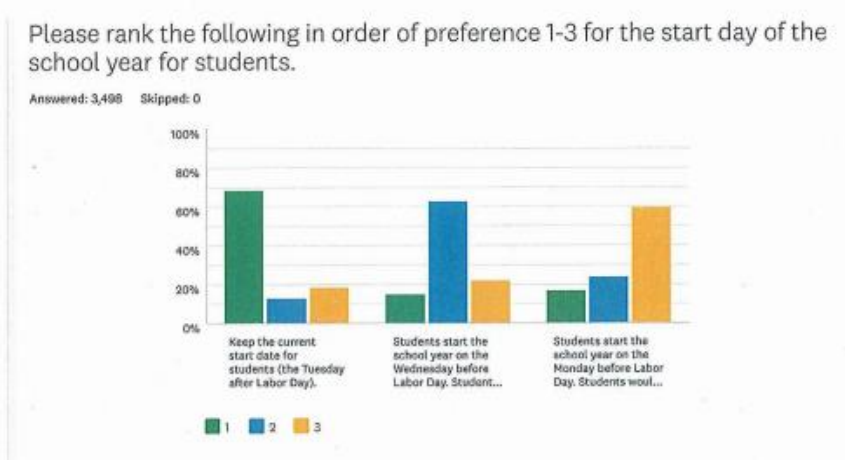


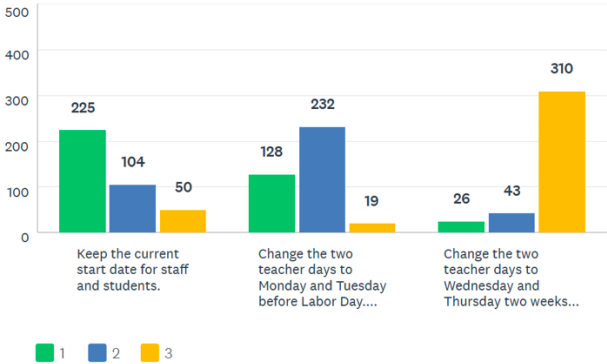
Calendar Survey

In October of 2018 the Arlington Public Schools sent a survey to teachers/staff and parents to ask how they felt about potential school calendar and start time changes. There were three issues for which we were interested in surveying opinions: 1) whether to start school before Labor Day, 2) whether school should start at 8:30 AM for middle and high school students, and 3) whether we should hold school during three of the four religious' holidays for which there is currently no school (we did not ask about Christmas Eve.). We asked about start times because there is evidence that student outcomes—academic, health, and social/emotional—improve when older students start school later. We asked about starting school before Labor Day and holding school on religious holidays because of concern for how late in June the calendar extends when Labor Day is late and we have snow days. About half of parents and a third of the teachers/staff filled out the survey (3498 parents and 379 teachers/staff).

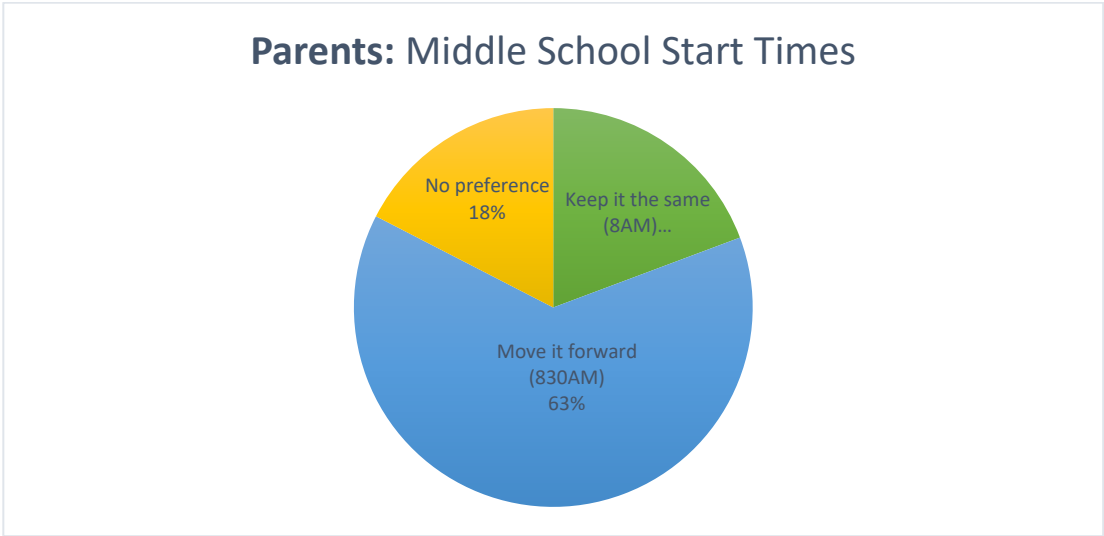
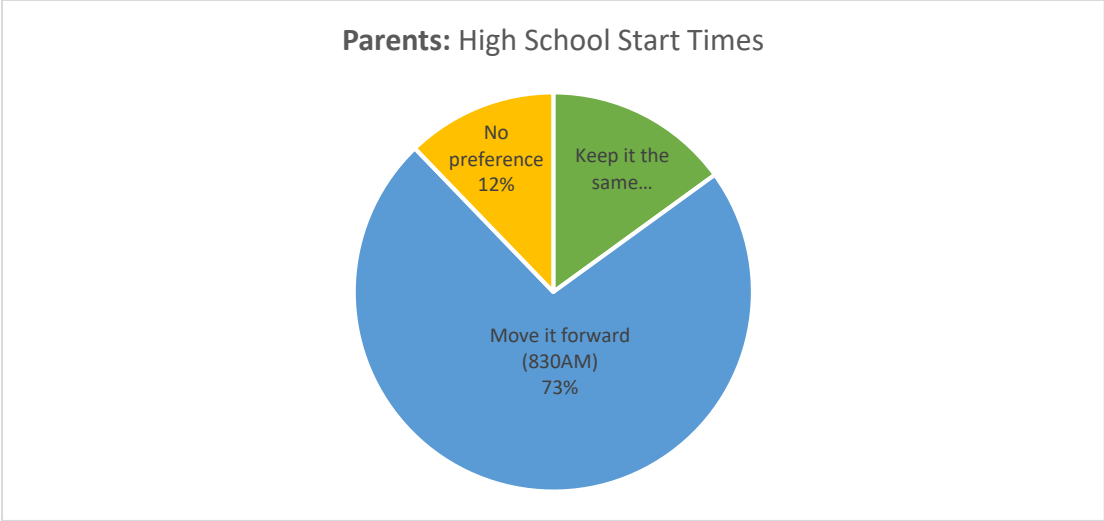
On the question of whether to start school before Labor Day, 68% of parents and 59% of staff said that their first choice would be to keep the current start date after Labor Day. Here are the results for parents.



And here are the results for teachers/staff:



On start time, 73% of parents were in favor of moving the high school start time to 8:30, 15% preferred the current start time, and 12% had no preference. Slightly fewer parents were in favor of moving the start time for middle school, with 63% in favor, 19% opposed and 18% having no preference.



Among teachers and staff 40% preferred to move the start time to 8:30, with 29% indicated that they prefer the 8:00 start time. Teachers and staff at Gibbs were unanimous in preferring a later start time. A much higher percentage of teachers and staff had no preference about school start times (31% at the high school level and 36% at the middle school level), likely because those respondents work at schools that would not be affected by a change at the secondary level.

On the question of whether to hold school during the religious holidays of Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah and Good Friday, the majority of parents (58%) were in favor of changing the calendar, but the majority of teachers/staff (61%) were not.

