

Cal Aero Preserve Academy's K-6 will go on year-round schedule in 2016-2017

In order to accommodate projected student growth, Cal Aero Preserve Academy's kindergarten through sixth grade students will be on a year-round schedule beginning in summer 2016.

The school board approved a resolution at its June 25 meeting to transition the younger students at the kindergarten through eighth grade school in south Chino on a four-track, continuous school program. Seventh and eighth graders will continue on the traditional schedule for school that typically begins in mid-August and ends in early June.

Under the four-track system, three-fourths of the kindergarten through sixth graders will be in class at any given time during the year. The other one-fourth will be off track.

Students will be assigned to one of four tracks and will be in class or off track, depending on that track's schedule. The year round schedule being considered would have students in class for 12 weeks, and on vacation four weeks throughout the year.

Cal Aero was designed to operate as a year-round campus serving approximately 1,200 students when it opened in fall 2009. However, the school opened with a traditional schedule because of lower than anticipated enrollment as a result of the economic downturn.

In recent years, the Preserve residential development surrounding the school has grown, along with student enrollment.

Chino Valley Unified School District recently added 10 portable classrooms on the campus to temporarily accommodate the growth.

A year-round schedule was proposed for Cal Aero when district officials projected there would be 1,400 students at the campus in the 2016-2017 school year.

School district officials met with more than 400 Cal Aero parents earlier this year to detail why year-round might be necessary, other options for handling school growth, and what year-round it like. Assistant Superintendent Pat Miller, who previously worked as a school administrator under the year-round program, shared her positive experience with the program.

Mrs. Miller said parents will discover that every track has its benefits.

Teachers who do not wish to be on the year-round program can apply for transfers, Mrs. Miller said.

A calendar for the year-round schedule has not yet been determined.

More meetings with parents and staff members are planned, Superintendent Wayne M. Joseph said.