
BUXTON SCHOOL

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Weekend Policy

Unlike many boarding schools, Buxton does not have an “open” weekend policy. We consider weekends to be an important part of the Buxton experience: we have “Rec Committee” on Friday nights, Work Program on Sunday afternoons, Kitchen Crew Saturday evening and Sunday morning, and a formal dinner and Senior Services on Sunday nights. Along the way, there are classes and workshops, walks into Williamstown, trips to the movies and thrift stores. And, maybe most important of all for this unprecedentedly plugged-in generation, down time.

Part of living your education at Buxton is learning how to make use of unprogrammed time. We believe strongly that the weekends have deep educational value. It is during these brief “empty” interludes that students can develop the necessary skills to make things happen on their own, collaborate with other people, have plans go well or awry—and then learn how to regroup and plan again. Kids who are scheduled every minute and/or are constantly entertained by electronic devices are deprived of the opportunity to develop the inner resources and bounce-back-ability they will need in adulthood.

In order for weekends to be fruitful and full, it’s important that all the students be here. As soon as weekends are seen as optional, they can quickly lose their importance. Plus, the more kids who are here, the more opportunities for collaboration and fun!

For all of these reasons, we ask that you NOT take your child out of school for weekends except when absolutely necessary. We understand that big family events—like a grandparent’s milestone birthday or a sibling’s graduation—are important, and we will happily make exceptions for those. Similarly for religious holidays not already accommodated by our calendar. Please be in touch with the school when these arise.

There are three specific weekends when student attendance and involvement is fully expected for all students: our Fall and Spring Arts weekends and graduation Saturday.

In the meantime, keep in mind that Buxton does have two “home weekends” and significant vacation time.

- Our Fall Home Weekend is October 19-22
(This is an excellent time for seniors to visit colleges they were not able to see over the summer.)
- Our Winter Home Weekend is February 14 (after the day ends at 3:30) - 18th.
(This is a great time for students to get clothes and supplies for the Urban Intensive Trip.)

Thank you for your help and understanding as we strive to make weekends at Buxton an important part of your student’s education.