

Parents say summer vacation matters too

Not everyone is pleased with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles' decision to extend the academic calendar by 20 days in its Catholic elementary schools.



Ava Baldwin, a former president of the Parent Teacher Organization at St. Joseph Elementary School, says any lengthening of the school year should be made after consulting with parents. "The vast majority of us don't see the need," she said. (Stephen Carr/Press-Telegram)

Nancy Brown, whose children attend St. Cornelius Catholic School, 3330 Bellflower Blvd., said time out of the classroom, for traveling, summer camp and family outings is just as important.

"The church has always said its focus is on the child as a whole," she said. "There's more to a child than just the academic production."

"We prize our time with our children," added dad Alex Fraga, whose two children attend St. Cornelius.

Paul Regan, whose children attend St. Joseph, said the diocese should consider adding 45 minutes to the school day, which would amount to the same time as a 20-day increase.

"Twenty days is too long; they're basically adding another month," he said. "There should be another way."

The tuition increase will vary from school to school and the diocese has said it would work with low-income families.

The increase from a 180-day to a 200-day academic calendar will affect most of the diocese's 210 elementary schools and more than 52,000 students in the archdiocese's area, which includes schools in Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa

Barbara counties.

Long Beach's Press-Telegram has more here.