**Mountain View
Whisman
School District**

Middle School Schedule Update

June 2019

Why a New Schedule

Strategic Plan Goal 2

Achievement gaps will be eliminated for all student groups in all areas.

Desired Outcome:

- All students will have access to electives

Actions

- Create middle school schedules that provide for equitable course offerings to all students

Strategic Plan Goal 2

Achievement gaps will be eliminated for all student groups in all areas.

Desired Outcome

- Increase the proficiency of students receiving special education services

Action

- Implement a co-teaching model with special education teachers and general education teachers at all schools.

The new schedule and co-teaching must be implemented at the same time to best meet the needs of students

Current Progress

New Schedule

In fall 2018, the District implemented an 8-period cascading schedule at both middle schools.

- The cascading schedule is an 8-period schedule
    - students have 8 classes
    - students have 6 classes a day
    - 1 morning class and 1 afternoon class are dropped (cascaded) each day except the late start day
    - all 8 classes meet on the late start day
    - Teachers see students 4 times per week, which is the same as the current schedule
    - Class periods are 58 minutes 4 days a week and 32 minutes on the late start day

8-Period Cascading Schedule

BELL SCHEDULE				Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Late Start - Day 1	Minutes	Days 2-5	Minutes	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Period 1	36	**SESSION 1**	60	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4
	3	**Passing**	3				
Period 2	32	**SESSION 2**	58	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 1
	3	**Break**	10				
Period 3	32	**Passing**	3				
Break	10	**SESSION 3**	58	Period 3	Period 4	Period 1	Period 2
Period 4	32	**Passing**	**3**				
	3	**SESSION 4**	58	Period5	Period6	Period5	Period5
Period 5	32	**Lunch**	40				
Lunch	40	**passing**	4				
Period 6	32	**SESSION 5**		Period 6	Period 7	Period 7	Period 6
	3	**passing**	3				
Period 7	32	**SESSION 6**	58	Period 7	Period 8	Period 8	Period 8
	3						
Period 8	32	DROPPED PERIOD		4, 8	1.5	2.6	3.7

8-Period Cascading Schedule

The schedule included:

- Co-taught periods in English Language Arts and mathematics
- Response to Instruction periods for students needing intervention or enrichment
- Expanded elective choices
- Enough periods so that all students get at least one choice elective
- Reduction in double periods of math for certain pathways based on student, staff, and parent feedback

New for 2019-20

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) - New requirements for courses and credentials

- Under the ESSA, the NCLB highly qualified teacher requirements were eliminated and replaced with applicable State certification and licensure requirements.
- In California that means that:
  - The current system used by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing to monitor teacher assignments needed to be modernized and streamlined.
  - The CTC is in the process of developing a new California State Assignment Accountability System (CalSAAS).
  - CalSAAS will use data from the CTC and the California Department of Education to identify potential teacher mis-assignments and provide a communication platform for counties and school districts to address and resolve them.
  - CalSAAS will be fully operational by fall 2019.

New for 2019-20

As part of the process in developing CalSAAS, the state realized that course codes in CALPADS needed to be revised in order for the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to have the necessary data to ensure that teachers are appropriately assigned to courses

- Content course descriptors were outdated
- Districts were using "other" to describe courses which made it difficult to monitor credentials
- Additional courses were added (engineering, robotics, world languages)
- Attributes were then added to further describe courses

New Course Approval System for MVWSD

- When adding a new course, principals went directly to the technology department to add to the master schedule
- There was no process to review elective course content or ensure that they were being taught by teachers with the appropriate credential
- Each middle school named courses differently creating confusion for staff, students, and parents
- The new middle school schedule and new requirements for teacher credentials and assignments gave the District the opportunity to develop a new course request system for middle schools

New Course Approval System

- Principals now use the District Service-Now system to create a new course.
- The name, description, and grade level of the course are entered.
- The Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment reviews the course for content and alignment to the new State Course Code descriptors and if appropriate assigns the CALPADS course code.
- Once a CALPADS course code is assigned, the Human Resources department reviews the description to determine the required credential for the course.
- If a CALPADS course is not able to be assigned, the course is sent back to the principal to make revisions, which could include eliminating the course.

New Course Approval System

Elective Catalogs were developed for both middle schools once all courses were approved

Catalogs included:

- Common naming conventions for electives
- Electives categorized into academic (mythology, coding through math etc.) and general (art, music etc.) in order to better gauge student interest
- Elective choices vary between sites due to teacher credentials

Courses and Electives for 2019-20

- For the 2019-20 school year each middle school will offer a variety of elective choices including:
  - Art, Music, Spanish, Robotics and Engineering, College Bound, Creative Writing, Leadership, and STEM
- Each middle school will be offering a content course in Spanish
  - Graham: Social Studies
  - Crittenden: Science
- Both middle schools have hired a Spanish teacher for 2019-20
- Both middle schools will offer coding classes through TechSmart
- Response to Instruction courses include:
  - Academic Intervention, Accelerated Math, Enrichment based on academic need and student interest
- Early results of student elective choices indicate that students are interested in the following academic elective options:
  - Crittenden: Coding through Math, Marine Biology, and Spanish
  - Graham: Coding through Math, Creative Writing and Journalism
- Students at both schools are most interested in Art as a general elective

Next Steps

Next Steps

- Review elective request counts and finalize offerings for the master schedule
- Create master schedules and audit student schedules
- Conduct Action After Review on middle school elective choice process and communication and make revisions for 2020-21
- Provide Interest surveys to students earlier in the year so that principals can begin the process of developing elective offerings and determining the staffing for the electives