

Mountain View Whisman School District

Agenda Item for Board Meeting of March 14, 2024

Agenda Category: Review and Discussion

Agenda Item Title: Middle School Schedule Committee Update

Person Responsible: Tara Vikjord - Chief Human Resource Officer
 Swati Dagar - Director Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Background: MVWSD’s work with middle school scheduling is aligned with Strategic Plan 2027 Goal #1 - Providing effective and consistent instructional practices for all students and Initiative 1a.3 - Develop programs to increase opportunities for underrepresented students to reach high levels of success. Work with middle school scheduling is also in alignment with the Board Goal of providing all middle school students the opportunity to have at least one choice elective in their schedule.

MVWSD’s middle schools had a 7-period schedule in 2017. The district had to move away from that schedule as students who were English Learners and had Instructional Support had no choice elective. Additionally, staff was directed to revise the schedule to ensure all students received at least one choice elective.

The 2017 middle school schedule is below:

| Monday, Tuesday, Friday (A Days) | | | | Wednesday (B Day) (Late Start) | | | | Thursday (C Day) | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------------|---------|--------------------------------|----------|----------------|---------|------------------|----------|----------------|---------|
| Period | Start | End | Minutes | Period | Start | End | Minutes | Period | Start | End | Minutes |
| 1 | 7:50 AM | 8:43 AM | 0:53 | 2 | 9:25 AM | 10:59 AM | 1:34 | 1 | 7:50 AM | 9:26 AM | 1:36 |
| 2 | 8:47 AM | 9:35 AM | 0:48 | Break | 10:59 AM | 11:14 AM | 0:15 | Break | 9:26 AM | 9:41 AM | 0:15 |
| Break | 9:35 AM | 9:50 AM | 0:15 | 4 | 11:18 AM | 12:42 PM | 1:24 | 3 | 9:45 AM | 11:09 AM | 1:24 |
| 3 | 9:54 AM | 10:42 AM | 0:48 | Lunch | 12:42 PM | 1:22 PM | 0:40 | Mini Break | 11:09 AM | 11:14 AM | 0:05 |
| 4 | 10:46 AM | 11:34 AM | 0:48 | 6 | 1:26 PM | 2:50 PM | 1:24 | 5 | 11:18 AM | 12:42 PM | 1:24 |
| 5 | 11:38 AM | 12:26 PM | 0:48 | | | | | Lunch | 12:42 PM | 1:22 PM | 0:40 |
| Lunch | 12:26 PM | 1:06 PM | 0:40 | | | | | 7 | 1:26 PM | 2:50 PM | 1:24 |
| 6 | 1:10 PM | 1:58 PM | 0:48 | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 2:02 PM | 2:50 PM | 0:48 | | | | | | | | |
| | | Passing Period | 0:04 | | | Passing Period | 0:04 | | | Passing Period | 0:04 |

In 2018, the Middle School Schedule Committee met for a year, reviewed options and recommended an 8 period cascading schedule. The Schedule was implemented in Fall 2018 and has been refined in recent years.

Why a new Schedule?

Teachers have expressed the desire for more core instructional time with students to address the student needs and to have consistency with classes. There is also a need for dedicated time for Social Emotional Learning and MVWSD is committed to providing all students with at least one choice elective. Additionally, all middle school students who are English Learners and/or need Instructional Support need to be provided the classes during the school day.

Current Work

A Middle School Committee composed of representatives from both middle schools was established at the start of 2024 calendar year. The Committee includes two teachers from Crittenden Middle School, three teachers from Graham Middle School, one Site administrator from each of the middle schools, and two District Office administrators. Committee members have had three meetings so far - February 13th, February 25th, and February 27th, 2024.

Committee Parameters

The Middle School Scheduling Committee agreed to the following parameters to guide their work

- English Language Learners must have ELD
- Students with IEPs will have an option for instructional support
- All students must have one choice elective during the regular school day
- PE minutes must be met
- Must be what is best for students

Summary of Meeting Discussions

February 13th, 2024 - The Committee discussed the concerns that had been shared and calibrated priorities for developing a middle school schedule. The Committee talked about how to best support students and discussed sample schedules.

February 26th, 2024 - The committee discussed the specific needs of our most at risk group of students and how we can best serve and support them. Pros and cons of two different schedules were discussed and a third schedule was offered for review.

February 27th, 2024 - The committee reviewed discussions from the first two meetings and agreed to the priorities and considerations for students. The Committee reviewed schedule options with those priorities and considerations in mind and considered impacts of each option as well as how to refine schedules to address the impacts.

Schedule Options

The Committee explored the following scheduling options and discussed pros and cons of each of the options.

Option 1 - 7-period day + One 65 min Advisory period once a week

| | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | | | Fri | | Mins/Period |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| 8:25-9:15 | Per 1 (48 +2 = 50) | Per 1 (48 +2 = 50) | Per 1 (48 +2 = 50) | 8:25-9:30 | Advisory (65) | 8:25-9:15 | Per 1 (48 +2 = 50) | | Per 1 = 192 + 31 = 223 min/week Announcements = 2 min/day |
| 9:19 - 10:07 | Per 2 (48) | Per 2 (48) | Per 2 (48) | 9:34-10:05 | Per 1 (31) | 9:19 - 10:07 | Per 2 (48) | | Per 2 = 192 + 31 = 223 min/week |
| Break - 10:07-10:20 | (13) | (13) | (13) | Break 10:05-10:18 | (13) | Break - 10:07-10:2 0 | (13) | | |
| 10:24-11:12 | Per 3 (48) | Per 3 (48) | Per 3 (48) | 10:22-10:53 | Per 2 (31) | 10:24-11:1 2 | Per 3 (48) | | Per 3 = 192 + 31 = 223 min/week |
| 11:16-12:04 | Per 4 (48) | Per 4 (48) | Per 4 (48) | 10:57-11:28 | Per 3 (31) | 11:16-12:0 4 | Per 4 (48) | | Per 4 = 192 + 31 = 223 min/week |
| Lunch 12:04-12:44 | Lunch (40) | Lunch (40) | Lunch (40) | 11:32 - 12:03 | Per 4 (31) | Lunch 12:04-12:4 4 | (40) | | |
| 12:48-1:36 | Per 5 (48) | Per 5 (48) | Per 5 (48) | Lunch 12:03- 12:43 | Lunch (40) | 12:48-1:36 | Per 5 (48) | | Per 5 = 192 + 31 = 223 min/week |
| 1:40-2:28 | Per 6 (48) | Per 6 (48) | Per 6 (48) | 12:47 - 1:18 | Per 5 (31) | 1:40-2:28 | Per 6 (48) | | Per 6 = 192 + 31 = 223 min/week |
| 2:32-3:20 | Per 7 (48) | Per 7 (48) | Per 7 (48) | 1:22- 1:53 | Per 6 (31) | 2:32-3:20 | Per 7 (48) | | Per 7 = 192 + 31 = 223 min/week |
| | | | | 1:57 - 2:28 | Per 7 (31) | | | | |

| Pros | Cons |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Very consistent ● All classes have the same number of instructional minutes ● Advisory takes place once/week | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Less instructional time with a longer advisory block ● Advisory is too long and is on a day that is short already ● Hard to do simulations/labs/projects without longer blocks |

Option 2 - Block Schedule: A/B day for periods 1-6. Period 7 meets daily. Most critical need for students is scheduled period 7. Advisory 1x/ week

| | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | | | Fri | | Mins/Period |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------|--|--|
| 8:25-10:05 (100 min) | Per 1 | Per 2 | Per 1 | 8:25-9:30 | Advisory (65) | 8:25-10:05 (100 min) | Per 2 | | Per 1 = 200 + 31 = 231 min/week Announcements = 2 min/day |
| 10:05-10:18 (13) | Break | | Break | 9:34-10:05 | Per 1 (31) | 10:05-10:18 (13) | | | Per 2 = 200 + 31 = 231 min/week |
| 10:22 - 12:02 (100) | Per 3 | Per 4 | Per 3 | Break 10:05-10:18 | (13) | 10:22 - 12:02 (100) | Per 4 | | Per 3 = 200 + 31 = 231 min/week |
| 12:02 - 12:42 (40) | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | 10:22-10:53 | Per 2 (31) | 12:02 - 12:42 (40) | Per 6 | | Per 4 = 200 + 31 = 231 min/week |
| 12:46-2:26 (100) | Per 5 | Per 6 | Per 5 | 10:57-11:28 | Per 3 (31) | 12:46-2:26 (100) | Lunch | | Per 5 = 200 + 31 = 231 min/week |
| 2:30 - 3:20 (50) | Per 7 | Per 7 | Per 7 | 11:32 - 12:03 | Per 4 (31) | 2:30 - 3:20 (50) | Per 7 | | Per 6 = 200 + 31 = 231 min/week |
| | | | | Lunch 12:03- 12:43 | Lunch (40) | | | | Per 7 = 200 + 31 = 231 min/week |
| | | | | 12:47 - 1:18 | Per 5 (31) | | | | |
| | | | | 1:22- 1:53 | Per 6 (31) | | | | |
| | | | | 1:57 - 2:28 | Per 7 (31) | | | | |

| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All classes have the same number of instructional minutes Allows students to have more than 1 day to complete homework assignments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student engagement is more challenging with longer blocks Behavior issues may increase with longer blocks No extra minutes for morning announcements Period 7 doesn't get the same opportunities as others Weeks with dropped Mondays would require an adjusted schedule Advisory feels too long |

Option 3 - 7-period day + Advisory 1x/week

| Totals | | Monday, Tuesday, Friday | | | Wednesday | | | Thursday | | |
|--------|---------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------|-----------|------------------|----------------|----------|------------------|----------------|
| 1 | 229 min | 1 | 8:25 - 9:13 AM | 48 min | 1 | 8:25 - 9:56 AM | 85 min + 6 min | 2 | 8:25 - 9:56 AM | 85 min + 6 min |
| 2 | 232 min | 2 | 9:17 - 10:05 AM | 48 min | Break | 9:56 - 10:11 AM | 15 min | Break | 10:00 - 10:15 AM | 15 min |
| 3 | 232 min | Break | 10:05 - 10:20 AM | 15 min | 3 | 10:15 - 11:40 AM | 85 min | 4 | 10:19 - 11:44 AM | 85 min |
| 4 | 232 min | 3 | 10:24 - 11:12 AM | 48 min | Lunch | 11:40 - 12:20 PM | 40 min | Lunch | 11:48 - 12:28 PM | 40 min |
| 5 | 232 min | 4 | 11:16 - 12:04 PM AM | 48 min | 5 | 12:24 - 1:49 PM | 85 min | ADV | 12:32 - 1:09 PM | 37 min |
| 6 | 232 min | Lunch | 12:04 - 12:44 PM | 40 min | 7 | 1:53 - 3:20 PM | 85 min + 2 min | 6 | 1:13 - 2:28 AM | 85 min |
| 7 | 232 min | 5 | 12:48 - 1:36 PM | 48 min | | | | | | |
| ADV | 37 min | 6 | 1:40 - 2:28 PM | 48 min | | | | | | |
| | | 7 | 2:32 - 3:20 PM | 48 min | | | | | | |

| Pros | Cons |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easier schedule for students to follow • Less adjusted schedule weeks/days • Allows more instructional minutes per period • Longer block days allow for simulations/labs/projects • Helps ease into block schedule for high school • Shorter advisory allows time for dedicated SEL while allowing more time for instruction in core subjects • Schedule allows teachers to start and end the week with their full group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shorter daily periods on M,T,F • Two long back to back blocks on Wednesday. Would need to build in some sort of brain break |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Counselors can present consistent SEL lessons to all students during advisory | |
|---|--|

Scheduling Considerations

Having a 7-period schedule for students provides more instructional time for core classes and makes the workload more manageable for students. It provides targeted support for our neediest students. It also builds in time for social emotional learning and provides the opportunity for students to better connect with a trusted adult. Additionally, not having double blocks of math allows for a 7-period schedule to meet students' needs.

Increasing the break from 13 minutes to 15 minutes allows students time for 2 chance breakfast and allows staff time to have a break as well. Having a few additional minutes provides an adequate brain break for students.

The addition of an Advisory class builds in time for students to engage in Social Emotional Learning weekly. Counselors will deliver simultaneous SEL instruction twice per month. The other two advisory periods in the month, teachers will conduct check-ins.

To address the concern of English Learners who also need Instructional Support are not demonstrating expected growth, the Committee discussed and considered the following:

- Combining the two classes into one strategically designed course co-taught by and ELD teacher and Educational Specialist
- Supporting language development while supporting students in learning content in a structured way
- Providing structures of English Language in ELD while providing the necessary skills identified in each child's IEP.
- Reducing the number of classes students have
- Supporting students on the path to reclassification

Changing the middle school schedule would ensure all students have access to a choice elective and receive more instructional time in core classes. No schedule will make all stakeholders happy but it shows the need for successful scheduling is clear communication and consistent support of process and decision making.

Next Steps

Staff will gather stakeholder feedback - DAC, DELAC, PTA Presidents, middle school teachers, and middle school parents. The Middle School Schedule Committee will meet again to review feedback and make a recommendation to Superintendent Rudolph.