



Mountain View  
Whisman  
School District

# Middle School Schedule Task Force Recommendation

January 4, 2018





Mountain View  
Whisman  
School District

# 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**

# Middle School Schedule History

2011-12: Each middle school had a different schedule

- Crittenden: 8-period day schedule with double blocks of ELA and Math
- Graham: 7-period day similar to current schedule

2012-13: Changed middle school schedules to be consistent at each site: 7-period day and removed double block of math and ELA at Crittenden

2014-15: Added a double block of math to compensate for change in math pathways and rigor of new California State Standards (2-year plan short-term)

2016-17: Kept double block of math to accommodate for Teach To One; Middle School Schedule Task Force convened

2017-18: Kept double block of math while Middle School Schedule Task Force continued work to find a better schedule

# Current Data

- All students have a double block of math which leaves one period for an elective
- 244 students are English Language Learners
- 192 students have Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)
- 88 students in middle school are English Language Learners and have Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)
- These students must have one period of English Language Development (ELD) and/or one period of instructional support
- These students do not get to choose an elective such as art or robotics in the current schedule

# Task Force Parameters

- English Language Learners must have ELD
- Students with IEPs will have an option for instructional support
- Math must be more than 47 minutes, but does not have to be double blocked
- Acceleration will continue in math
- All students must have one choice elective during the regular school day
- PE minutes must be met
- Must be what is best for students



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# Current Progress



# Thought Exchange

**Surveys conducted: September 21 - October 16**

## **Questions:**

- What are some elective opportunities you think would be important for us to offer in our middle schools?
- What are the most important things to consider as we adjust the scheduling of our middle schools?
- What questions or additional thoughts do you have for us at this time?

# Participation Numbers

| Group                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Participation | Thoughts Contributed | Stars Assigned |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Staff and Parents                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 427           | 1,275                | 23,885         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 38% participation from Crittenden</li> <li>• 58% participation from Graham</li> <li>• 6% families with an English Language Learner</li> <li>• 10% families with a students with an Individualized Education Plan</li> <li>• 32% 6th grade families</li> <li>• 26% 7th grade families</li> <li>• 15% 8th grade families</li> </ul> |               |                      |                |
| Students                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1,335         | 2,557                | 115,341        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 44% participation from Crittenden</li> <li>• 56% participation from Graham</li> <li>• 33% from grade 6</li> <li>• 36% from grade 7</li> <li>• 30.5% from grade 8</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                       |               |                      |                |

# Question 1 Results

- What are some elective opportunities you think would be important for us to offer in our middle schools?

| Adults                                                                                                                           | Students                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>STEM/STEAM</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coding/programming</li><li>• Robotics/engineering</li></ul>            | <b>Home Economics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cooking</li><li>• Baking</li></ul>                                           |
| <b>Foreign Languages</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Variety of languages</li><li>• Elective vs. mandatory</li></ul> | <b>Free Period</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More time to relax</li></ul>                                                    |
| <b>Fine Arts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Music</li><li>• Performing arts</li><li>• Creative writing</li></ul>    | <b>Athletics and Sports Programs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sports as an elective</li><li>• No more miles in PE</li></ul> |

# Question 2 Results

- What are the most important things to consider as we adjust the scheduling of our middle schools?

| Adults                                                                                                                                                     | Students                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Start school later each day <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tweens/teens need more sleep</li></ul>                                                 | Start school later each day <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sleep more/Wake up later</li></ul>                 |
| Elective Scheduling and Timetable <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Balance</li><li>• Two electives</li></ul>                                        | Prefer single math period <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One period of math</li><li>• Two electives</li></ul> |
| Variety of electives <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide lots of opportunities</li><li>• Woodshop, cooking, debate, foreign language</li></ul> | More break times <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Extend lunch, breaks, and passing times</li></ul>             |

# Question 3 Results

- What questions or additional thoughts do you have for us at this time?

| Adults                                                                                                                                                         | Students                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More communication before the survey</li></ul>                                                    | <p>Facilities and Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lockers</li><li>• Heavy backpacks</li></ul>                |
| <p>Facilities and technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lockers</li><li>• Heavy backpacks</li><li>• Overcrowding - residency checks</li></ul> | <p>Homework and assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Less homework</li><li>• Stress (grades, homework)</li></ul> |
| <p>Teachers and staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hiring and retaining quality teachers</li></ul> <p>Mountain View Whisman School District</p> | <p>Lunch program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shorter lunch lines</li><li>• Don't split the lunch period</li></ul>   |

# Staff Feedback

- Staff feedback was collected on the two potential schedules.
  - 31 staff members responded from Graham
  - 17 staff members responded from Crittenden
- The themes that emerged included:
  - Can every student have a choice elective and get the support they need in the 7 period schedule?
  - Can English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities have English Language Development, instructional support, and elective in the 7 period schedule?
  - the number of days per week students are with teachers in the 8 period block schedule
  - the length of the periods in the 8 period block schedule

# 7 Period Day

| 48-minute periods | Student 1                  | Student 2<br>English Learner    | Student 3<br>Student with<br>Special Needs         | Student 4<br>English Learner with<br>Special Needs |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Period 1          | ELA                        | ELA                             | ELA (with co-teaching)                             | ELA (with co-teaching)                             |
| Period 2          | Math                       | Math                            | Math (with co-teaching)                            | Math (with co-teaching)                            |
| Brunch            |                            |                                 |                                                    |                                                    |
| Period 3          | Science                    | Science                         | Science                                            | Science                                            |
| Period 4          | Social Studies             | Social Studies                  | Social Studies                                     | Social Studies                                     |
| Period 5          | PE                         | PE                              | PE                                                 | PE                                                 |
| Lunch             |                            |                                 |                                                    |                                                    |
| Period 6          | Elective                   | Elective                        | Elective                                           | Elective                                           |
| Period 7          | Response to<br>Instruction | Response to<br>Instruction(ELD) | Response to Instruction<br>(Instructional Support) | Response to<br>Instruction(ELD)                    |

# 7 Period Day - Pros and Cons

| Pros                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Cons                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• same number of periods as current schedule</li><li>• less disruption</li><li>• would give all students a choice elective</li><li>• everyone understands the system</li><li>• equity to all curriculums</li><li>• more variety in elective choice</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• most students would not have double math</li><li>• an English Language Learner who also has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) will not be able to have an extra support class (must rely on co-teaching model)</li></ul> |
| <p><b>Things to consider:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use Response to Instruction block for extra math time for students</li></ul>                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |



# 8 Period A/B Day (single math)

|          | Student 1                  | Student 2<br>English Learner | Student 3<br>Student with<br>Special Needs | Student 4<br>English Learner with<br>Special Needs |
|----------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Period 1 | ELA                        | ELA                          | ELA (with co-teaching)                     | ELA (with co-teaching)                             |
| Period 2 | Math                       | Math                         | Math (with co-teaching)                    | Math (with co-teaching)                            |
| Brunch   |                            |                              |                                            |                                                    |
| Period 3 | Science                    | Science                      | Science                                    | Science                                            |
| Period 4 | Social Studies             | Social Studies               | Social Studies                             | Social Studies                                     |
| Period 5 | PE                         | PE                           | PE                                         | PE                                                 |
| Lunch    |                            |                              |                                            |                                                    |
| Period 6 | Elective                   | Elective                     | Elective                                   | Elective                                           |
| Period 7 | Elective                   | ELD                          | Support                                    | ELD                                                |
| Period 8 | Response to<br>Instruction | Response to<br>Instruction   | Response to Instruction                    | Response to Instruction                            |

# 8 Period A/B Day (single math)

| Mon/Thurs | Min. | Tues/Fri | Min. | Wed      | Min. |
|-----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|
| Period 1  | 92   | Period 2 | 92   | Period 1 | 69   |
| Passing   | 4    | Passing  | 4    | Passing  | 4    |
| Period 3  | 87   | Period 4 | 87   | Period 3 | 63   |
| Break     | 15   | Break    | 15   | Break    | 15   |
| Passing   | 4    | Passing  | 4    | Passing  | 4    |
| Period 5  | 87   | Period 6 | 87   | Period 5 | 63   |
| Lunch     | 40   | Lunch    | 40   | Lunch    | 40   |
| Passing   | 4    | Passing  | 4    | Passing  | 4    |
| Period 7  | 87   | Period 8 | 87   | Period 7 | 63   |
|           | 420  |          | 420  |          | 325  |

# 8 Period A/B Day - Pros and Cons

| Pros                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Cons                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• all students have a choice elective</li><li>• all students have the support they need</li><li>• could provide an extra preparation period, which is necessary for co-teaching</li><li>• students only need to prepare homework for 4 classes a night</li><li>• teachers see students every other day</li><li>• students in accelerated math classes can have double math</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• teachers see students every other day</li><li>• increases the need for staffing longer periods of instruction<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ teachers may need training on block instruction</li><li>○ will require teachers to revise current plans</li></ul></li><li>• The addition of an 8th period decreases the total number of instructional minutes per content area approximately 20 minutes per week</li></ul> |
| <p><b>Things to consider:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teachers will have two preparation periods</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

# 8 Period Cascading Schedule

|          | Student 1                  | Student 2<br>English Learner | Student 3<br>Student with<br>Special Needs | Student 4<br>English Learner with<br>Special Needs |
|----------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Period 1 | Math                       | Math                         | Math (with co-teaching)                    | Math (with co-teaching)                            |
| Period 2 | Response to<br>Instruction | Response to<br>Instruction   | Response to Instruction                    | Response to Instruction<br>or Support              |
| Brunch   |                            |                              |                                            |                                                    |
| Period 3 | Elective                   | Elective                     | Elective                                   | Elective                                           |
| Period 4 | Science                    | Science                      | Science                                    | Science                                            |
| Period 5 | PE                         | PE                           | PE                                         | PE                                                 |
| Lunch    |                            |                              |                                            |                                                    |
| Period 6 | ELA                        | ELA                          | ELA(with co-teaching)                      | ELA (with co-teaching)                             |
| Period 7 | Social Studies             | Social Studies               | Social Studies                             | Social Studies                                     |
| Period 8 | Elective                   | ELD                          | Support                                    | ELD                                                |

# What is a Cascading Schedule?

- 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

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

# 8 Period Cascading Schedule - Late Start

| 32 minute periods | Student 1               | Student 2<br>English Learner | Student 3<br>Student with<br>Special Needs | Student 4<br>English Learner with<br>Special Needs |
|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Period 1          | Math                    | Math                         | Math (with co-teaching)                    | Math (with co-teaching)                            |
| Period 2          | Response to Instruction | Response to Instruction      | Response to Instruction                    | Response to Instruction/Support                    |
| Brunch            |                         |                              |                                            |                                                    |
| Period 3          | Elective                | Elective                     | Elective                                   | Elective                                           |
| Period 4          | Science                 | Science                      | Science                                    | Science                                            |
| Period 5          | PE                      | PE                           | PE                                         | PE                                                 |
| Lunch             |                         |                              |                                            |                                                    |
| Period 6          | ELA                     | ELA                          | ELA(with co-teaching)                      | ELA (with co-teaching)                             |
| Period 7          | Social Studies          | Social Studies               | Social Studies                             | Social Studies                                     |
| Period 8          | Elective                | ELD                          | Support                                    | ELD                                                |

# 8 Period Cascading Schedule - Day 2

| 58 Minute periods | Student 1               | Student 2<br>English Learner | Student 3<br>Student with<br>Special Needs | Student 4<br>English Learner with<br>Special Needs |
|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Period 1          | Math                    | Math                         | Math (with co-teaching)                    | Math (with co-teaching)                            |
| Period 2          | Response to Instruction | Response to Instruction      | Response to Instruction                    | Response to Instruction or Support                 |
| Period 3          | Elective                | Elective                     | Elective                                   | Elective                                           |
| Period 5          | PE                      | PE                           | PE                                         | PE                                                 |
| Period 6          | ELA                     | ELA                          | ELA (with co-teaching)                     | ELA (with co-teaching)                             |
| Period 7          | Social Studies          | Social Studies               | Social Studies                             | Social Studies                                     |



# 8 Period Cascading Schedule - Day 3

| 58 minutes periods | Student 1               | Student 2<br>English Learner | Student 3<br>Student with Special Needs | Student 4<br>English Learner with Special Needs |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Period 2           | Response to Instruction | Response to Instruction      | Response to Instruction                 | Response to Instruction or Support              |
| Period 3           | Elective                | Elective                     | Elective                                | Elective                                        |
| Period 4           | Science                 | Science                      | Science                                 | Science                                         |
| Period 6           | ELA                     | ELA                          | ELA(with co-teaching)                   | ELA (with co-teaching)                          |
| Period 7           | Social Studies          | Social Studies               | Social Studies                          | Social Studies                                  |
| Period 8           | Elective                | ELD                          | Support                                 | ELD                                             |

# 8 Period Cascading Schedule - Day 4

| 58 minutes periods | Student 1      | Student 2<br>English Learner | Student 3<br>Student with Special Needs | Student 4<br>English Learner with Special Needs |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Period 1           | Math           | Math                         | Math (with co-teaching)                 | Math (with co-teaching)                         |
| Period 3           | Elective       | Elective                     | Elective                                | Elective                                        |
| Period 4           | Science        | Science                      | Science                                 | Science                                         |
| Period 5           | PE             | PE                           | PE                                      | PE                                              |
| Period 7           | Social Studies | Social Studies               | Social Studies                          | Social Studies                                  |
| Period 8           | Elective       | ELD                          | Support                                 | ELD                                             |

# 8 Period Cascading Schedule - Day 5

| 58 minute periods | Student 1               | Student 2<br>English Learner | Student 3<br>Student with<br>Special Needs | Student 4<br>English Learner with<br>Special Needs |
|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Period 1          | Math                    | Math                         | Math (with co-teaching)                    | Math (with co-teaching)                            |
| Period 2          | Response to Instruction | Response to Instruction      | Response to Instruction                    | Response to Instruction or Support                 |
| Period 4          | Science                 | Science                      | Science                                    | Science                                            |
| Period 5          | PE                      | PE                           | PE                                         | PE                                                 |
| Period 6          | ELA                     | ELA                          | ELA (with co-teaching)                     | ELA (with co-teaching)                             |
| Period 8          | Elective                | ELD                          | Support                                    | ELD                                                |

# 8 Period Cascade- Pros and Cons

| <b>Pros</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Cons</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• all students have a choice elective</li><li>• all students have the support they need</li><li>• provides two preparation periods, that are necessary for co-teaching</li><li>• teachers see students 4 days each week</li><li>• students can have an additional math block during the response to instruction period</li><li>• period length is long enough for deeper learning, not long enough to cause fatigue</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• increases the need for staffing (same as 8 period A/B day)</li><li>• will require students and teachers to adjust to new, rotating schedule</li><li>• fewer instructional minutes per class (same as 8 period A/B day)</li><li>• having short periods on Wednesday creates inconsistency for lesson planning</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Task Force recommends that the late start day be moved to Monday to increase consistency in instruction across the week</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

# Current Status

- Team met on 12/4 and 12/11 to do a final review and make recommendation
- 8-period cascading schedule was shared with both middle school staffs on Wednesday, December 6th
- Reviewed schedules with cabinet on December 11th

# Recommendation to Superintendent

## Task Force

- 8-period cascading schedule

## Cabinet

- 8-period cascading schedule

## Middle School Administrators

- 8-period cascading schedule

**Final Recommendation**  
8-period Cascading schedule



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School District

# Next Steps

# Communication

## What we know

- All students will have access to one choice elective

## What we have learned

- No schedule will make everyone happy

## What we need

- Clear communication
- Consistent support of process and decision



# Next Steps

- Communicate final decision to staff and parents
- Convene work groups at each middle school to begin implementation of new schedule
- Work with math departments to determine which students will get an additional period of mathematics
- Determine electives and staffing needs
- Work with MVEA on issues related to the new schedule - extra preparation period etc.