



MILLBURN MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dear Parents & Guardians,

As part of the Challenge Success initiative, the middle school has been examining alternative bell schedules that will provide increased scheduling flexibility and instructional time while reducing the hurried pace of the school day. We have identified the Modified Rotating Block Schedule as a potential option for the middle school that is worth further consideration. As a result, we will conduct a two-day trial of this schedule on Wednesday, May 15, 2019, and Thursday, May 16, 2019. Our goal is to expose our faculty, staff, and students to this type of creative scheduling and solicit their feedback to help inform decisions moving forward.

We have been preparing both the teachers and students for this two-day trial to enable us to have a successful trial of the Modified Block Schedule. On Tuesday, May 8th, students were introduced to the Modified Rotating Block schedule and were informed about the two-day trial. On Thursday, May 9th, in homeroom, students transposed their existing schedule into a Modified Rotating Block Schedule. On Tuesday, May 14, 2019, Students will be given their schedules, that reflect the rotating block.

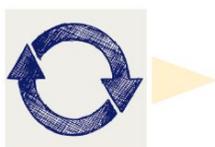
Some Information About the Modified Rotating Block Schedule

The Modified Rotating Block Schedule runs an 8-period schedule in 6 blocks plus a lunch block for each grade. The 8-period day rotates period 1-4 in the morning and periods 5-8 in the afternoon. Each day one period will drop out from each of the two rotations respectively. Each block of the day will be lengthened from 41-minutes to 55-minutes. In this model, teachers will pick up an additional 14 minutes per instructional period which will allow for more student-centered lessons, more in-depth discussions, differentiated instruction, and project-based learning opportunities. The increase in instructional time is achieved by reducing the number of transitions from class to class and dropping two of the eight periods from each school day. As you can see in the template below, each period rotates the block of time in which it meets each day and one time out of every four days each period will drop out of the rotation and not meet. Below is a template for the two-day trial for grades 6, 7 and 8.

Name:					6th Grade Schedule		7th Grade Schedule		Grade 8th Schedule	
Block	Time Slot				"A" Day Drop 4 & 5	"B" Day Drop 1 & 6	"A" Day Drop 4 & 6	"B" Day Drop 1 & 7	"A" Day Drop 4 & 7	"B" Day Drop 1 & 8
	Start	End	Duration	Passing	Wednesday, 5/15/2019	Thursday, 5/16/2019	Wednesday, 5/15/2019	Thursday, 5/16/2019	Wednesday, 5/15/2019	Thursday, 5/16/2019
Block 1	7:40 AM	8:36 AM	0:56:00	0:04:00	1	2	1	2	1	2
Block 2	8:40 AM	9:35 AM	0:55:00	0:04:00	2	3	2	3	2	3
Block 3	9:39 AM	10:34 AM	0:55:00	0:04:00	3	4	3	4	3	4
Block 4	10:38 AM	11:33 AM	0:55:00	0:04:00	Lunch 6 1/2 Cafe/1/2 Aud	Lunch 6 1/2 Cafe/1/2 Aud	5	6	5	6
Block 5	11:37 AM	12:32 PM	0:55:00	0:04:00	6	7	Lunch 7 1/2 Cafe/1/2 Aud	Lunch 7 1/2 Cafe/1/2 Aud	6	7
Block 6	12:36 PM	1:31 PM	0:55:00	0:04:00	7	8	7	8	Lunch 8 1/2 Cafe/1/2 Aud	Lunch 8 1/2 Cafe/1/2 Aud
Block 7	1:35 PM	2:30 PM	0:55:00	0	8	5	8	5	8	5

For the purpose of the trial, we are running two of the four days (four days constitutes a full cycle). I have provided you a sample for the full 6th-grade schedule as templates for what the full cycle of days looks like when carried through from Day “A” through Day “D”. Please note that each grade will have a slightly different schedule during this trial period due to the need to adapt our current schedule to fit the Modified Rotating Block Schedule. In the event that we move to this schedule, the rotations would be the same for each grade.

Name:		6th Grade Schedule							
Block	Time Slot				"A" Day Drop 4 & 5	"B" Day Drop 1 & 6	"C" Day Drop 2 & 7	"D" Day Drop 3 & 8	
	Start	End	Duration	Passing					
Block 1	7:40 AM	8:36 AM	0:56:00	0:04:00	1	2	3	4	
Block 2	8:40 AM	9:35 AM	0:55:00	0:04:00	2	3	4	1	
Block 3	9:39 AM	10:34 AM	0:55:00	0:04:00	3	4	1	2	
Block 4	10:38 AM	11:33 AM	0:55:00	0:04:00	Lunch 6 1/2 Cafe/1/2 Aud.				
Block 5	11:37 AM	12:32 PM	0:55:00	0:04:00	6	7	8	5	
Block 6	12:36 PM	1:31 PM	0:55:00	0:04:00	7	8	5	6	
Block 7	1:35 PM	2:30 PM	0:55:00	0	8	5	6	7	



We will return to our regular 9-period bell schedule on Friday, May 17, 2019. Please rest assured that teachers will help coach students through the school day and remind them where they are going. We will also make announcements to help guide students and to avoid any confusion. Like with anything new and different there will be students (and teachers) that need assistance, we are prepared to assist everyone to ensure a successful trial on May 15th and 16th. In closing, we are excited for the next few days and to learn more about how this scheduling template might work in our school and benefit our students and teachers. Thank you for your continued support of the Millburn Middle School.

Warm regards,

John Connolly
Principal
Millburn Middle School