

# Middle Schools Block Scheduling

A Re-imagined Middle School Experience  
2021-2022 School Year

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# Current Middle School Schedule

Period	Time	Sample Student Schedule
Homeroom AM	8:05-8:18	AM HR
1	8:20-9:05	ELA
2	9:07-9:52	ELA
3	9:54-10:39	PE
4	10:41-11:26	Lunch
5	11:28-12:13	Math
6	12:15-1:00	Science
7	1:02-1:47	Social Studies
8	1:49-2:34	World Language/Related Arts
Homeroom PM	2:36-2:40	PM HR

- Components of Current Schedule:
  - Eight, 45-minute periods
  - Two minutes of Transition time between classes
  - AM and PM Homeroom
  - 45-minute lunch
  - World Language and Related Arts Share a period
    - 18 and 23-day rotations for World Language and Related Arts (Grades 6 & 7)
    - Grade 8- Student Choice of elective/World Language

What was the  
“WHY” for this  
schedule  
change?

- Additional Math Time
  - Current Schedule:
    - 45-minute periods (Math, Science, and Social Studies)
    - 90 minutes of ELA
- Longer periods to integrate technology and project-based learning
  - District moved to a 1:1 Device Distribution in 2020-2021
- Maintaining RTI Program (specifically Tier II)
- Reduction of overall number of hallway transitions
- Address lunch schedule (specifically length)
- Eliminate the 18-day and 23-day rotation for Related Arts and World Language

# *Important Components of Middle School Block Schedule*

- Components of new Block schedule:
  - Four (4) 75-minute Blocks per day
  - Three (3) minutes of passing time per class except before and after the lunch block (Block 3)
  - Continuation of AM and PM Homerooms
  - Change of start of day by five (5) minutes change at beginning of day (Starts at 8:10 am)
  - End of day remains the same
  - All teachers instruct three (3) blocks per day for 225 total minutes (no change in current contractual language)
  - Math and ELA teacher teach same students on A-Day and B-Day.
  - Science, Social Studies, PE, and Related Arts teachers instruct three different blocks on A-Day and B-Day
  - Teachers receive 37-minute lunch, 50 minutes of prep per day (minimum), and three (3) duties per week at 25 minutes

# *Middle School Block Schedule for 2021-2022*

Block	Start Time	End Time	Total Time
Homeroom	8:10	8:25	15 minutes
Block 1	8:28	9:43	75 minutes
Block 2	9:46	11:01	75 minutes
Block 3 /Lunch	11:06	1:03	111 mins (75 mins + 37 Mins + passing time)
	Lunch A- 11:06-11:43	Block 3 Classtime- 11:46-1:03 (77 mins)	
	Block 3 Classtime- 11:06-11:43 (37 minutes)	Lunch B- 11:46-12:23	Block 3 Classtime- 12:26-1:03 (37 minutes- 74 total mins)
	Block 3 Classtime- 11:06-12:23 (77 mins)		Lunch C- 12:26-1:03
Block 4	1:08	2:23	75 minutes
Homeroom	2:26	2:41	15 minutes

# *SAMPLE: Middle School Student Schedule*

Block	Start Time	End Time	Total Time
Homeroom	AM Homeroom	AM Homeroom	15 minutes
Block 1	Math	Math	75 minutes
Block 2	English	English	75 minutes
Block 3 /Lunch	Science	Social Studies	111 mins (75 mins + 37 Mins + passing time)
	Lunch A- 11:06-11:43 (37 Minutes)	Block 3 Class time- 11:46-1:03 (77 mins)	
Block 4	Physical Education	World Language/Related Arts	75 minutes
Homeroom	PM Homeroom	PM Homeroom	15 minutes

# *SAMPLE: Middle School Math Teacher Schedule*

Block	Start Time	End Time	Total Time
Homeroom	AM Homeroom	AM Homeroom	15 minutes
Block 1	Math (6-1)	Math (6-1)	75 minutes
Block 2	Math (6-1)	Math (6-1)	75 minutes
Block 3 /Lunch	Lunch/Prep/Duty	Lunch/Prep/Duty	111 mins (75 mins + 37 Mins + passing time)
	Lunch A- 11:06-11:43 (37 Minutes)	Block 3 Class time- 11:46-1:03 (77 mins)	
Block 4	Math (6-1)	Math (6-1)	75 minutes
Homeroom	PM Homeroom	PM Homeroom	15 minutes

# *SAMPLE: Middle School Social Studies Teacher Schedule*

Block	Start Time	End Time	Total Time
Homeroom	AM Homeroom	AM Homeroom	15 minutes
Block 1	Social Studies (6-1)	Social Studies (6-3)	75 minutes
Block 2	Lunch/Prep/Duty	Lunch/Prep/Duty	75 minutes
Block 3 /Lunch	Social Studies (6-1)	Social Studies (6-3)	111 mins (75 mins + 37 Mins + passing time)
	Block 3 Class time- 11:06-11:43 (37 minutes)	Lunch B- 11:46-12:23	Block 3 Class time- 12:26-1:03 (37 minutes- 74 total mins)
Block 4	Social Studies (6-1)	Social Studies (6-3)	75 minutes
Homeroom	PM Homeroom	PM Homeroom	15 minutes



# *Formula for Success:*

## What does good instruction look like in a Block Model?

- **Skill/Concept Review.....10 minutes**
  - Great time for a quick formative assessment: Quick write, Cloze activity.
  - Take attendance and collect homework during this time
  - Review prior lesson/concept/homework
- **Direct Instruction.....30 minutes**
  - Interactive lecture
  - Lecture with notetaking (with discussion during or afterward)
  - Shared reading or Read aloud of text
  - Introduction of new concept or skill
- **Shared practice.....10 minutes**
  - Small groups work collectively on task to practice skill or concept presented during Direct Instruction time
  - Strategies, Guided Reading, [Numbered heads](#), Writing task, Jigsaw
- **Individual Practice.....15 minutes**
  - Standards-based assignment work time
  - Opportunity for individual conferencing/practice
  - Opportunity for students to clarify progress on tasks
- **Closure/ Reflection/ Assessment.....10 minutes**
  - Metacognitive Journal, (What did I learn/ How did I learn it? / How will I use it?)
  - Reflection on a reading completed in class
  - Review of lesson

# Advantages for Students in Middle School Block

- Increase Math time (30 minutes per day)
  - Potential need to increase math teachers
- Maintain the current double period of ELA (albeit 15 minutes less of ELA per day)
  - No need to reduce the total number of ELA teachers
  - No ELA classes would be split between teachers
- RTI Program can still be scheduled during related arts/world language period
  - RTI Periods would be 37 minutes long
- Improve instructional time during the day
  - Additional time to integrate technology (HP Streams)
  - Fewer subjects and classes per day allow for exploration of materials
  - Number of total classes that teachers and student must prepare for on a daily basis is significantly less

# Additional Improvements to Middle School

- Adopting of Effective School Solutions (ESS) Tier 2 Services at both Salk and Sandburg Middle School
  - Tier 2 students have social, emotional, behavioral, and/or family-related issues that are negatively impacting their school and/or social functioning, however, the student is attending school regularly, *does not* require a higher level of care, but would benefit from additional supports at this time.
  - Provide **direct clinical treatment** to students exhibiting mild to moderate mental health challenges, carrying a concurrent caseload of up to 12-15 students, and most often support students in 6-8 week increments of care (up to 48-60 students can be supported annually).
- Exploring Alternative Discipline opportunities in both Middle Schools to work in conjunction with ESS
  - Developing Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) structure to ensure students re-entering in September 2021 will have success
- World Language and Related Arts Schedule will be scheduled for a Marking Period each year
  - Two (2) Languages during grade 6, Two (2) Related Arts
  - Two (2) Language during grade 7, Two (2) Related Arts
  - Eighth grade students will have choice between World Language (Level 1) and Related Arts course

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# Questions?

