

Advantages and Concerns of a Unified Schedule for the Hanover Elementary Schools and the Hanover Middle School  
January 22, 2014

<b>School:</b>	<b>Advantages:</b>	<b>Supported by Entry Findings?</b>	<b>Key Abrahams Finding?</b>
	<b>Approximate Hours with Unified Schedule: 7:45 AM to 2:05 PM</b>		
Hanover Middle	Provide a safer school environment and be more accountable for students entering and leaving school. Will allow for improved campus security protocols.	Yes	
Hanover Middle	Instill a one school mentality and enhance unified school culture and climate.	Yes	Yes
Hanover Middle	Improve the overall efficiency and alignment of our special education services and schedules. Allows for greater oversight and evaluation of programs, services, and staffing requirements.	Yes	Yes
Hanover Middle	Leverages unified professional development time and department meetings to focus on vertical curriculum alignment, student transitions, best teaching practices, data analysis, and technology integration.	Yes	Yes
Hanover Middle	Overall operational efficiency for communication, announcements, special events, etc. Will significantly reduce interruptions during the school day for students and staff.	Yes	
Hanover Middle	Incorporate more effective peer mentoring/peer tutoring opportunities between students from upper and lower grades.	Yes	
Hanover Middle	Bus stop, drop-off, and pick up time consistency for students, staff, and families with students at multiple grade levels. Consistency of teacher availability before and after school.	Yes	
Hanover Middle	Increase and better align after school enrichment opportunities for student and staff participation. More secure and efficient operations for before and after school care program.	Yes	
	<b>Challenges:</b>	<b>Past Experience?</b>	<b>Response?</b>
Hanover Middle	Introduction of all grade levels on school busses at the same time.	Yes	Attached
Hanover Middle	Campus operational issues: traffic patterns, orderly drop off and dismissal procedures.	Yes	Attached

**Community and Parent Forums to Discuss Scheduling Issues:**

- Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>                      6:00 to 7:00 PM                      Hanover Middle School
- Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>                      4:00 to 5:00 PM                      Hanover Middle School
- Appointments with Mr. Colantuoni available upon request.

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**Addressing Concerns of Schedule Unification at Hanover Middle School**  
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**All Students Riding the Same Bus:**

- I have previous leadership experience at a 5-8 middle school with all students bused together and I can anticipate potential challenges and issues.
- We currently work very closely with the bus company and will continue to do so even more to monitor behavior and routines. We recently met with all drivers to get their feedback to improve operations.
- Clear expectations will continue to be communicated to students that the bus ride is an extension of the school day and all rules/consequences are applied including harassment and bullying policies.
- Evaluate and incorporate a seating policy (i.e., 5<sup>th</sup> graders in front) and conduct spot checks on the bus.
- In the limited bus referrals we have had this year, our admin team has responded immediately and effectively.
- There are many successful times that we bring our school together and they are great opportunities for all students without incident.
- Opportunity to build leadership capacity with our older students. This has been a consistent message this year to our upper grade students – leadership and positive role modeling - and they have risen to the challenge.

**Campus Operations:**

- Currently our buses are not filled to capacity during either drop off or pick-up.
- 170-200 cars a day dropping students off is routine.
- I don't envision a significant increase in traffic given the current rate of drop off.
- Currently, between 7:00 and 7:30 many 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are already being dropped off for various reasons – older siblings at HMS or HHS, extra help, parent work schedules, etc.
- By the time the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade buses arrive at 7:45 there is little traffic at the school
- Many of the vehicles in the traffic line between 7:00 and 7:30 are teachers who are on the second schedule and are often unable to get into their classrooms as early as they would prefer.
- On one schedule, all teachers would arrive and be out of the traffic pattern before student drop-off and arrival.
- One schedule will not increase the interactions of grades any more than it currently does.

**Ongoing Evaluation:**

- A school wide scheduling committee has been formed to look at current schedule and proposed one schedule model.
- We are researching examples from other 5-8 middle schools on one schedule.
- Parent forums are scheduled for the week of January 27<sup>th</sup>.