

May 2025

- A lot of what we discussed at the last student forum meeting was related to ideas for the intra-city student council. I was able to share that feedback with Mr. Magas a few weeks ago, and I believe that the details of what we came up with will be shared this evening!
- Yesterday, student government hosted a tailgate prior to the girls lacrosse game. It was held in the parking lot. Many students showed up with cars and friends, and many more came from track practice and lacrosse. The event featured grilling, club info tables, live music from a student performer, yard games, and an excellent turnout. We are excited to start a tradition of real tailgates before football games in the fall, and we'll just hope for warmer weather next time!
- Tomorrow is our last PAWs day of the school year, and it will be jam packed with yearbook distribution setting up at 7 am, cap and gown distribution, our spring sports assembly, and a new event in the afternoon: a yearbook signing and social.
- Students are definitely finding it difficult to make up any missed tests while still having time to be involved with clubs, so we are hopeful that some schedule changes next year will accommodate some of those concerns.
- I know that schedules and class requirements are something that I bring up a lot, but I do so because they are what I hear the most comments on and concerns about. I want to go a little more in depth about how we've been impacted because as the end of the year approaches, questions about next year are at the front of students' minds.
- Last spring, students were called to class meetings in order to hear about the new district required classes: Freshman Futures for 9th graders, Computer Science for 10th graders, and College Career Life Ready for 11th graders. While each of these classes seem like they would have benefits to students, the way that the new requirements were implemented caused a lot of issues. At class meeting roughly two weeks before the year ended, we were given a slip of paper and were told we had the next 20 minutes to decide which of our other classes to drop in order to accommodate the new requirements.
- A year after our schedule was changed, here's the most common feedback that I have heard from other students:
 - According to freshmen, 9th grade futures is a poor use of time...we already have high school orientation programs (Hound Pack/Link Crew) at the high schools, and freshmen would be much better served with time for another elective or a study hall. It's actually very unclear to me what is taught in that class because any freshman that I ask gets caught up telling me how frustrating it is.
 - As for 10th grade computer science, the feedback that I have heard the most is that the curriculum taught doesn't align with what students are tested on and that the class would be received much better if it were an elective. As it stands, most of the students in the class don't really want to be there, which makes the environment worse for the students who really are interested in the class.

- From personal experience, I can say that although College Career Life Ready 11, or CCLR, does offer a select few useful lessons, most students find themselves in a class that feels like a study hall with busy work.
- The continuity across all of these added district requirements is that they seem like an afterthought. Students lost opportunities, and the rushed nature of the decision to implement schedule changes created a lot of student resentment, and I get the sense that my teachers are really frustrated as well. Students' learning conditions are teachers' working conditions, and vice versa.
- Students will engage with decision making regarding their schedules more than almost any other issue. There wasn't student engagement last spring because we didn't know that any changes were being considered. While I do believe that these classes were added with the intention of aiding students, the most common effects of the choice were a loss of electives and frustration among students.
- On a more positive note, the overall reaction to having seven hours has been really positive. I know that personally, I wouldn't be able to take all of the classes that I do without seven hours, and more time has opened a lot of opportunities.
- We still miss WIN and aren't sure what to do about it. It's difficult to make up missed tests, and a lot of clubs have died out.
- I am hopeful that there will be conversations with students about how some of these concerns can be addressed.
- We are currently in our last full week of the school year, and the anticipation is obvious. I have seen a ton of engagement from students this year, and I'm hopeful that we will finish the year strong!