



Start and End Time
Survey Data
&
Recommendation
April 8, 2021



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History of School Start and End Time Changes at Mahtomedi

Year	Schedule at the Time	Proposed Changes	Outcome
2005	Wildwood: 8:35 am O.H.A: 8:50 am MMS/MHS: 7:30 am	Wildwood: 8:55 am O.H.A: 9:10 am MMS/MHS: 8:00 am	Approved Implemented 2005-2006 school year
2017	Wildwood: 8:55 am O.H.A: 9:10 am MMS/MHS: 8:00 am	Considered starting secondary students at 9am and elementary students earlier starting in the 2018-19 school year. Reviewed impacts and wellness issues.	Tabled to 2019-20



2020-21 School Start and End Times

About the 2020-21 Operational Change

The 2020-21 school start and end times were made when the 2020-21 learning models were being developed during the summer of 2020. The time changes were made to eliminate extensive morning cleaning at our elementary schools and support our elementary families who were returning to work allowing them to drop off their children earlier. This time adjustment allowed us to maximize the number of days we could have our elementary school students in person and provide valuable staff preparation time.

2020-21 School Year

- O.H. Anderson Elementary School drop off begins at 7:35 am and the school day is from 7:45 am until 1:15 pm.*
- Wildwood Elementary School drop off begins at 7:45 am and the school day is from 7:55 am until 1:25 pm.*
- The Secondary school day is from 9:00 am-2:45 pm.*

* A shortened in-person day was used in the base Hybrid learning model in order to maximize elementary in-person learning days and support the distance learning needs at the secondary. A shortened day continues to be used during the in-person model because as a district we must continue to implement the Safe Learning Plan which includes staff preparation time, and we must offer families a distance learning choice option and offer distance learning for students who are quarantining.



Background of 2021 Discussion

Some families, staff, and students asked the district to consider continuing the 2020-21 start and end time changes during the 2021-22 school year.

On February 11, 2021, the Superintendent and principals gave an update to the School Board at a study session meeting about some of the operational changes that have been made this year including the 2020-21 time changes.

At that meeting, the School Board requested that the district survey staff, families, and students about their experience with the school start and end times this year and ask about future impacts if the time changes were to be made in a future year.

At today's study session we'll review the survey summary information and the 2021-22 start and end time district recommendation.

Highlights of Survey Data: Family

- During the fall of 2021: 45% of our families will have a hybrid work situation, 39% will work in-person, 9% are unknown, and 7% will work from home.
- 56% of our families rated their experience with the 2020-21 start end time changes as Excellent or Good. 5% indicated there was no impact.
- When comparing schools, Mahtomedi Middle School and Mahtomedi High School noted the highest ratings for rest and wellness for their students associated with the start and end time changes.
- Elementary family comment concerns regarding the example future schedule focused on general family wellness and stress, childcare needs, and early and long bus routes. Families were split on the positive/negative impacts (more energy/more sleep were both mentioned).
- Secondary family comment concerns regarding the example future schedule focused on sibling childcare responsibilities, transportation to and from school, access to school buildings, and the impact on activities/employment/passions. Families were split on potential sleep (more sleep/less sleep were both identified).



Highlights of Survey Data: Staff

- 74% of our staff rated their experience with the 2020-21 start end time changes as Excellent or Good.
- 87% of our elementary staff strongly agree or agree that during a typical school year they choose to teach specific subjects in the morning to correspond with students' attention and engagement.
- 58% of our staff strongly agree or agree that their students are more engaged with their classes and coursework due to the start and end time changes.
- Staff comment concerns regarding the example future schedule focused on personal and family wellness, commuting, reporting times, coaching commitments, and childcare. Staff also noted the potential of students leaving school early during periods five and six.



Student Survey: O.H. Anderson Elementary

At O.H. Anderson, one of the tactics of the school building strategic plan is to create opportunities for student voice and self discovery. A survey is one tool for students to engage their voice.

O.H. Anderson Student Comment Topics

- Sleep/Rest and Readiness for School
- Childcare Before and After School/ Missing Bus
- Family Wellness

"I like getting up earlier and starting the day earlier. I feel ready to learn and more prepared. When you get up earlier then you don't have to much more time to spend to do stuff in the morning so you have a fresh brain. Then when we get to school we just have to listen to announcements and slowly get into reading."

"i love the time stats right now but its hard for my mom to work she hardly gets anytime to work because i get picked up so early, and she has no time to go in person in the office because its in st.paul minnistota."

"I think we should not have to wake up so early I am not physacly prepared for school when I wake up so early."

"I would like to start later so I have more sleep, and sleep is good for my health, that's why I disagreed."

Highlights of Survey Data: Secondary Students

- 65% of our secondary students rated their experience with the 2020-21 start end time changes as Excellent or Good.
- 66% of our secondary students strongly agree or agree that they are more rested due to the start and end time changes.
- 50% of our secondary students strongly agree or agree that their general wellness/mental health improved with the start and end time changes.
- 66% of students believe the example schedule for future years would negatively impact their activities schedule.
- Secondary student comment concerns regarding the example future schedule focused on personal wellness, activities/employment/passions, childcare of sibling or other children, transportation, and leaving school for activities.



How the Surveys Informed the Start and End Time Recommendation

- It is important to note that there are many factors that may be impacting families, staff, and students during the 2020-21 school year.
- We know from this unique experience that we can make a large operational change with a good experience for our families, staff, and students when interrelated district operations are thoughtfully implemented alongside the change.
- Personal and family wellness and mental health are very important to our district. Our families, staff, and students also identified this as an important impact to consider when making start and end time changes.
- Our strategic plan calls us to support our students to discover and pursue their passions. Our families, staff, and students also identified the importance of considering the impact on student activities and employment (including sibling childcare).

The survey data reiterates the importance of interrelated operational impacts such as childcare, transportation, school day schedule, activities schedule, and facilities. These types of operational changes need additional considerations.

There are specific operational changes like changing the secondary daily schedule that align to our district and school-level strategic plans that should be a higher priority for our district at this time.

Start and End Time Recommendation for the 2021-22 School Year (Return to pre-COVID-19 schedule)

O.H. Anderson Elementary School: 9:05 am-3:25 pm

Wildwood Elementary School: 9:15 am-3:35 pm

Mahtomedi Middle School, Mahtomedi High School, and Passages Transition

Program: 8 am-2:30 pm



Next Steps

- We will share the 2021-22 school start and end times with families, staff, and students.
- We will begin work on a new secondary daily schedule.
- The school start and end time discussion may resume again for future school years based on our strategic planning work.

