

Middle School Master Scheduling Initiative

2020-2021 School Year



Why this initiative?

1. Improve the middle school student experience to better align with our district vision - providing a positive learning environment for all D97 students that is equitable, inclusive, and focused on the whole child.
1. Enrich learning opportunities for students in literacy, math, science and the arts while preserving collaborative time for staff and co-teaching partnerships.
1. Align middle school schedules to IB course requirements.

Change in Timeline

- The planning team did not meet the deadline for 2019-2020 and will be implementing the Master Schedule in 2020-2021
- We apologize for the delay in timeline, the team is confident that by providing additional time for the process, we are more likely to be successful in achieving the goals of the new schedule.

Communication with Stakeholders

- February 2018: Began working with consultant Furman Brown
- March 2018: Focus group and visioning session with staff
- April & May 2018: Staff visits to other middle schools in the area to learn about their master schedules
- May 2018: School Visit Recap Session before school for all MS Teachers to attend
- Summer 2018 - Present: Drafting of numerous potential schedules

Communication with Stakeholders, Cont.

- October 2018: Parent/community focus group
- October 2018: Student focus groups
- January 2019: Staff Update
- February 2019: Established staff committee to provide feedback and input on supports needed to implement new schedule
- February 2019: Update to Board of Education

Considerations and Goals for the New Schedule

- Ensure that all students receive a minimum of 50 hours in the following subjects per year: Language A, Individuals & Societies (Humanities), Math, Science, Design, PE, Arts while maintaining the excellence of existing programs
- Ensure that all students receive a minimum of 50 hours in visual AND a minimum of 50 hours in performing arts at some point during their 3 years in D97 middle schools which will provide additional opportunities for student exploration, especially in the arts
- World Language courses must be “sustained across the entire year”, over the 3 years
- The State of Illinois requires daily PE for all students
- Lengthen class periods, especially for literacy instruction, math and science labs
- Preserve common plan time for departments/teams
- Preserve the middle school teaming structure
- Maintain Advisory course to support social/emotional learning
- Continue to support the implementation of district co-teaching initiative
- All classes will be offered between 9:00 am-3:30 pm

Successful Implementation

- We will know the success of this initiative based on the number of goals we were able to accomplish.
- Teachers will have more opportunity to differentiate their instructional practices to meet the learning needs of our students.
- Once a professional learning plan is in place, the planning team can track progress against that plan.
- Successful meeting of technical deadlines for PowerSchool implementation will provide another marker for success.
- The planning team will also track completion of the communication plan.

Resources

- Potential shifting of teacher positions to remain as staff neutral as possible.
- Some additional FTEs may be needed to support additional time in literacy and the arts.
- Curriculum planning for departments to prepare for the schedule changes in 2020-2021 will incur costs for paying teachers for additional time, along with the investment of time.
- Professional development related to changes in the master schedule, including potentially bringing in outside partners for learning.
- Potential need to reorganize classrooms spaces to accommodate the additional course opportunities, which may require materials, instructional supplies, and furniture.

Next Steps

- Spring 2019 - Present - A working draft to staff committee for feedback & plan with departments to identify needs related to curriculum development and professional learning needed to enact new schedule
- Summer 2019 - Professional learning and summer work to support new schedule implementation as identified by departments
- School Year 2019-2020 - Implement support plans identified by departments to prepare for implementation of new schedule in 2020-2021