



LBMS Schedule

Changes for 2025-26

Board Presentation - March 18, 2025

Some History

- Our current master schedule was adopted for the 2013-14 school year. While we've had some changes the primary format has remained the same.
 - Morning Advisory
 - 39 minute class periods (Science, Social Studies, World Language, Fine Arts)
 - 1 1/2 periods of blocked English Language Arts and Math (60 minutes)
 - Afternoon Advisory/XBlock
- Teaching, learning, and students have all evolved over the past 10+ years. We took a close look at our practices and evaluated our schedule.
- In April of 2023 our Scheduling Committee was formed to evaluate our current schedule and recommend possible adjustments.

Identified Goals

1. Aligned to our Strategic Plan
2. Balanced class sizes
3. Embedded department plan time
4. Flexibility for students' needs and support

Additional Priorities

- Consistent bell schedule across all 3 grade levels
- Schedule framework that includes 9 periods in the school day, with 1 reserved for lunch.
- Literacy and supporting literacy in all subject areas
- A focus on continued growth in reading, writing, and math since we are directly accountable for those subjects on state assessments
- Maintaining World Language as a core academic class
- Maintaining our commitment to fine arts and wellness and keeping those classes blocked together
- Maintaining a schedule where all teachers will have 6 instructional periods, 2 planning periods, and 1 lunch period.

What we learned

- There is not a uniform or common middle school building schedule. Every middle school we learned from had different schedules that served different purposes.
- Many area schools have greater limits on student choice and opportunities
 - For example, choosing to take a World Language or a Chorus/Band class
- Many aspects of our current schedule are good (that's why we've had this format for so many years) but we need greater flexibility to meet students' needs

Schedule Framework

- Students will have 6 academic classes each day
 - In 6th grade - Math, ELA, Communications, Science, Social Studies, and World Language
 - In 7th grade - Math, Math Practical Applications, ELA, Science, Social Studies, and World Language
 - In 8th grade - ELA, Writing, Math, Science, Social Studies, and World Language
- Students will have a Fine Arts class and a Wellness class each day.
 - Fine Arts and Wellness classes remain blocked together at each grade level and the rotation mirrors the current practice
- Lunch is 44 minutes
- All teachers will have 6 sections of classes and 2, 44 minute plan periods per day
- MTSS Intervention periods are embedded in the day for students needing targeted support in reading, writing, or math. This will replace 1 academic course and will be an individual discussion for each student.

6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade
1st 8:30-9:14		1st 8:30-9:14		1st - Fine Arts 8:30-9:14
2nd 9:17-10:01		2nd 9:17-10:01		2nd - Fine Arts 9:17-10:01
3rd 10:04-10:48		3rd - Fine Arts 10:04-10:48		3rd 10:04-10:48
Lunch 10:51-11:35		4th - Fine Arts 10:51-12:35		4th 10:51-11:35
5th 11:38-12:22		Lunch 11:38-12:22		5th 11:38-12:22
6th 12:25-1:09		6th 12:25-1:09		Lunch 12:25-1:09
7th 1:12-1:56		7th 1:12-1:56		7th 1:12-1:56
8th - Fine Arts 1:59-2:43		8th 1:59-2:43		8th 1:59-2:43
9th - Fine Arts 2:46-3:30		9th 2:46-3:30		9th 2:46-3:30

Priorities Addressed

- Unblocking ELA and Math classes within the schedule provides more opportunities to balance class sizes and prevent students from being tracked together throughout the day
- A consistent bell schedule across all 3 grade levels allows for greater flexibility for staff and students to help support growth and achievement
- Provides improved opportunities for staff to collaborate across curriculum areas
- Literacy and Math maintain an enhanced emphasis, through the redistribution of instructional minutes and redesign of curriculum/class offerings.
- The commitment to World Language instruction and Fine Arts programming remains in this schedule
- Allows for a reduction of staff (not rehiring to replace a retiring teacher) by 1 FTE without triggering a RIF situation and the contractual implications that come with it
- This framework allows for flexibility in the future without a significant change to the overall schedule
- Provides flexibility to adjust a student's schedule when the need arises.

6th Grade Class Offerings

- In addition to Math, English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, World Language, 6th grade students will also be enrolled in a Communications Class.
- The Communications class is designed to support students' writing and communication.
- Taught by our Science and Social Studies teachers, this will provide students with important middle school writing, communication, and executive functioning skills, and also provide unique opportunities for the integration of writing across curricular areas.

7th Grade Class Offerings

- In addition to Math, English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, World Language, 7th grade students will also be enrolled in an additional math class called Math Practical Applications.
- Math Practical Applications is a project-based math course where students will apply their mathematical skills to real world situations. This class combines problem solving, creative thinking, and collaboration to deepen students' mathematical abilities while still advancing their work with the probability, statistics, and some geometry standards from grades 7 and 8.
- The incorporation of an additional Math class in 7th grade provides LBMS students with the unique opportunity to learn the core standards in a more hands-on way while also experiencing some "life math."

8th Grade Class Offerings

- In addition to Math, English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, World Language, 8th grade students will also be enrolled in an additional writing course.
- The 8th grade writing course will be taught by ELA teachers.
- The writing course is designed to reinforce and extend upon the students' foundation in narrative, argumentative, and informational writing, and prepare our 8th grade students for the academic rigors of writing as rising high school students.

Additional Classes

- Resource and Academic Enrichment
 - We also offer classes to meet students' individual needs. Currently, these include Resource and Academic Enrichment.
 - Resource is a special education class that focuses on students' individualized goals and executive functioning.
 - Academic Enrichment is a general education class that focuses on executive functioning strategies.
- We continuously monitor and adjust these supportive classes to meet the needs of students.

Advisory / Tier 2 MTSS Intervention

- Students will continue to have an assigned advisory session. Advisories will meet in single class groups next year. Advisory groups will likely meet every day for the first weeks of school and eventually meet 2-3 days per week.
- X-Block (formerly PM Advisory) will not have the same format. Tier 2 support can take place in the classroom and we are exploring adding a “Flex Block” once the year is underway. This is a flexible period where every teacher will be working with students in an area where they need additional support.

MTSS - Tier 3 Intervention

- Tier 3 interventions currently take place during the end of day X-Block period, 4 days per week.
- In our new schedule, Tier 3 interventions will take place during the school day. Students will receive targeted support for a longer period of time each day, every day of the week.
- With this model, more students should be able to graduate from interventions in a shorter period of time.

Overall Themes

- Flexibility
 - In next year's schedule
 - In future years
- New opportunities at each grade level
- Continues our commitment to provide students with a well-rounded experience of academic and fine arts opportunities