



Land O' Lakes High School

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May 1, 2017

Dear LOLHS Parents and Guardians:

I am excited to let you know that we are about a month away from the kick-off to the renovation of our high school! Planning has continued at a rapid pace during the last several months with meetings between the architect, construction managers, district staff, and school stakeholders. We have come up with an incredible plan that will modernize our facilities into a world-class learning environment.

From our earliest communications with you, it was apparent that keeping our students here during this project was extremely important to the community. The School Board and Superintendent pledged their support by agreeing to keep the school open during the renovation. In doing so, the project was extended from 1 to 2 years. We all knew and agreed that sacrifices would have to be made during the scope of the work being completed. There is no way to expect normal operations to continue while 25% of the main building is shut down during each phase of construction. One of these changes came last week when I announced to our staff that we would be changing our bell schedule from a 7-period day back to a more traditional 6-period day. This model is being used by most secondary schools in the district and is very popular across the country.

After the decision was made to remain on campus, the construction firm asked me to look at ways to limit student movement throughout the building and on the property. While the areas being worked on will be completely enclosed, they stressed the importance of limiting movement because there will be times when equipment and supplies will be brought through the campus. Because student safety is of the utmost importance, my staff began looking at alternative ways to limit travel on the campus while maximizing student learning experiences during the school day.

Just a few weeks later, the architect made some adjustments to spaces that limited my ability to provide a location for some of our classes that rely on technology. Because of this, I was compelled to convert space in the school's media center to house two classes next year. This decision causes a strain in the ability for students to use it during their lunch break, and at times before and after school. It will be completely closed during the 2018-2019 school year for at least 7 months.

Finally, in late April our school received our staff allocations for the 2017-2018 school year. There is a reduction in the school's workforce that will impact our ability to provide the same level of supports during the current bell schedule. This, coupled with the items listed above, led me to make the decision to change to the 6-period bell schedule that we created. It is like a previous schedule used at the school.

Here is information related to the change:

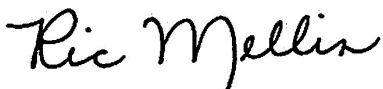
- Movement on the campus will be limited by dropping a class period and reducing time for lunches.
- Students still take 6 classes. There is no interruption to their graduation plan.
- Classes are 54 minutes long, except for 5th period. It is 6 minutes longer to accommodate lunches.
- Over 70 hours of instructional time is added to the school year.
- Teachers receive a 12-hour increase to their instructional planning period during the school year.
- Students receive a 30-minute lunch break, a reduction of 20 minutes; there is passing time on both sides of lunches.

- The cafeteria can accommodate and feed students during a 30-minute lunch break.
- The 7th period lunch option is eliminated; however, other educational options still exist to leave early.

Period	Class Start	Class End	Lunch	Class Time
1	7:25	8:19		54
2	8:24	9:18		54
3	9:23	10:17		54
4	10:22	11:16		54
5A	11:56	12:56	11:21-11:51	60
5B	11:21 12:26	11:51 12:56	11:53-12:23	60
5C	11:21	12:21	12:26-12:56	60
6	1:01	1:55		54

Many students have contacted me regarding their unhappiness with this change. I am proud that they are exercising their right to be heard and using student voice to have dialogue. There will undoubtedly be other changes that we will face during the renovation to the school. My hope is that we can persevere through these challenges to create a pathway that maximizes student learning opportunities while limiting disruptions. Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns that you have at any time.

Sincerely,



Ric Mellin
Principal