

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Randall Booker, Superintendent

SUBJECT: Piedmont Middle School Recommended Bell Schedule for 2016-17

I. **SUPPORT INFORMATION**

During the 2014-15 school year, Piedmont Middle School initiated a process to develop a new bell schedule that promotes student and staff health by starting school later in the morning (currently PMS starts school at 7:55am). Unfortunately, the PMS staff did not find consensus on any one new prototype and needed to continue their work into the 2015-16 school year.

As part of their process this year, the middle school piloted a prototype bell schedule in the early spring, with both the students and community showing little favor. As communicated via a survey, most were concerned with the later end time (3:30pm) as it conflicted with extra-curricular activities.

The PMS bell schedule committee continued to research a different schedule that would still meet the school's interest of starting school later than the current 7:55am.

The PMS bell schedule committee drafted the attached bell schedule as a recommendation to all PMS teachers and staff. After a vote by teachers in late April, the new schedule was approved with 90% of the PMS staff voting in favor.

The major components of this schedule are the following:

- School starts at 8:20am each day (as opposed to the current 7:55am)
- School ends:
 - 3:13pm on Monday and Fridays (as opposed to the current 3:05pm)
 - 3:12pm on Tuesday and Thursdays (as opposed to the current 3:05pm)
 - 1:58pm on Wednesdays (as opposed to the current 1:48pm)
- The new schedule reduces 3 minutes from the 1st period announcements (1st period is currently scheduled with 5 additional minutes to accommodate the daily announcements over the PA system).
- Classes would each be reduced by 2 minutes each on Mondays and Fridays (from 50 min to 48 min)
- Classes would each be reduced by 3 minutes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (from 72 min to 69 min).
- Finals week bell schedule (both in the 1st and 2nd semesters) are eliminated. In the past, this week was slated as minimum days, with school ending at around noon each day.

- The California Department of Education requires that students in grades 6-8 attend a minimum of 54,000 instructional minutes per year. PMS currently hosts 65,070 instructional minutes. The new schedule will provide students with 62,193 minutes.

The PMS bell schedule committee reviewed many comparable middle schools during their efforts. The recommended bell schedule falls within the same range as many comparable schools when examining the average daily instructional minutes over a 5-day period (average of 353 minutes a day over the 5-day week). Click on the following link to review a table of comparable schools and their bell schedules:

<https://goo.gl/DEa3zU>

II. **RECOMMENDATION: ACTION**

Approve the recommended Piedmont Middle School Bell Schedule, beginning 2016-2017.

PMS Bell Schedule Details

Piedmont Middle School 3-DAY MODIFIED BLOCK SCHEDULE 8:20 Start

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Period 1 8:20 – 9:08	Period 1 8:20 - 9:29	Period 2 8:20- 9:29	Period 1 8:20 - 9:29	Period 1 8:20 – 9:08
Period 2 9:13 – 10:01	Period 4 9:34 - 10:43	Period 3 9:34 - 10:43	Period 2 9:34 - 10:43	Period 2 9:13 – 10:01
Period 3 10:06 - 10:54				Period 3 10:06-10:54
Brunch 10:54 -11:04	Brunch 10:43 -10:53	Brunch 10:43 - 10:53	Brunch 10:43 - 10:53	Brunch 10:54-11:04
2 Minute Announcements				
Period 4 11:09 – 11:59	Period 5 10:58 -12:09	Period 4 10:58 – 12:09	Period 3 10:58– 12:09	Period 4 11:09 – 11:59
Period 5 12:04 - 12:52				Period 5 12:04 - 12:52
Lunch 12:52 - 1:27	Lunch 12:09- 12:44	Lunch 12:09 - 12:44	Lunch 12:09 - 12:44	Lunch 12:52 - 1:27
Period 6 1:32 - 2:20	Period 6 12:49 - 1:58	Period 5 12:49 - 1:58	Period 6 12:49 - 1:58	Period 6 1:32 - 2:20
Period 7 2:25 - 3:13	Period 7 2:03- 3:12	2:03 - 3:12 Early Release Common Planning Time	Period 7 2:03 - 3:12	Period 7 2:25 - 3:13
368 Inst. Mins	367 Inst. Mins	293 Inst. Mins	367 Inst. Mins	368 Inst. Mins
48 Min Periods	69 Min Periods	69 Min Periods	69 Min Periods	48 Min Periods