

Parents and Guardians of Indian Hills Middle School Students,

There will be two major changes to Indian Hills Middle School in the 2017-2018 school year. The first is a change to the number of daily class periods and meeting patterns. The second is our move to the Crescent View Middle School facility during our school's remodel.

In an effort to meet state requirements that would extend the number of course requirements in middle school, a task force was established to look at possible schedule changes that would accommodate the state requirements. The task force began meeting in early September and was comprised of teachers from each school, teacher representation from each curriculum area and middle school principals. The meetings were conducted by Mike Sirois, the Canyons School District Director of School Performance. During the meetings, middle level priorities were set and over the course of three months, possible schedules were studied and eliminated or kept as possibilities.

Our current 6 period day has many advantages. It has allowed us to provide students 60-minute class periods which have had a positive impact on our rising standardized test scores. It has allowed students to have a year long experience in elective classes on the A/B schedule, giving more continuity to those curriculums. Students in intervention classes have been able to receive their support class while maintaining an elective option on the A/B schedule. PE has been part of the students' schedule throughout the year, giving them the benefit of activity.

However, as a result of the schedule study, it was realized that each school had distinct and unique needs that were not always realized on a single, district-wide schedule. Indian Hills has a population of approximately 1,100 students. We have a demographic that requires fewer intervention classes than some schools. Under the current 6 period A/B day, we are able to meet the current state requirements, but other issues are evident.

The first issue is teaming. Our grade level core teachers are teamed together to address the curriculum and social needs of their common students. As a result, students are supported by multiple teachers who are able to better understand the student and their individual situations. On a 6 period day, we have the need for 1.5 teams in each grade level. This means that one group of teachers straddles two grade levels and are not able to meet as regularly with both teams.

The second issue is elective teachers. Under the 6 period day elective teachers have 10-12 classes each week. This requires these teachers to teach 350-450 different students each week. For some elective classes this is not an issue; for others it is overwhelming. Changing in or out of elective classes that continued for the full year under the A/B schedule made it difficult for students to transition smoothly when changes were necessary.

The third issue with the 6 period day is students who do require intervention classes receive few or no elective classes due to their unique needs. These students must take all the state required classes and then are required to take additional classes to help in their learning.

With all of this and additional information in mind, Indian Hills teachers voted on three different occasions to move to a schedule that would help with teaming, choice electives and flexibility in timely schedule changes. The faculty, supported by the School Community Council, settled upon a 7 period semester schedule to meet our unique school needs. We are the only school in the district where a 7 period day gives an advantage of two teams per grade level without the need for split teams. Other schools would have to split teams to move to a 7 period day, thus negating a critical component to effective teaming.

You will see all of these changes reflected in the registration material your student will be bringing home over the next few weeks.

The other major change occurring next year is the remodel of Indian Hills Middle School. We are moving ever closer to the beginning of our remodel. Construction on the two new additions to the existing building will begin in the spring before the end of the 2016-2017 school year. At the conclusion of the school year, the major renovation and remodel of our current structure will begin! The remodel is scheduled throughout the 2017-2018 school year. We will resume occupation of the newly-remodeled Indian Hills Middle School in the summer of 2018, just prior to school starting for the 2018-2019 school year.

For the 2017-2018 school year, Indian Hills Middle School will be housed in Crescent View Middle School, located at 11150 S. 300 E. in Sandy. This school has been used as a transition school for many schools over the last 5 years. We will be packing throughout the year as we prepare to move just after summer break begins.

While at the Crescent View facility, bussing eligibility will be determined based on the state requirements as measured from Crescent View. This will require approximately 100 more students to be bussed to the school during the remodel year. Most of the students east of 1300 E. will be provided transportation. Bus stops will be provided approximately every 1/3 mile along main roads. The Indian Hills website will be updated periodically with information. Once safe walking routes and bus routes are established, they will be posted as well.

Indian Hills Middle School is looking forward to the new facility, which will become home to our wonderful community for many future students.

As always, if you have questions regarding these changes, please contact the school and we will provide you with as much information as we can.

Thank you for your support of Indian Hills Middle School,

Doug Graham
Principal