

Pierce Middle School Scheduling Pilot

November 16, 2017

“If we choose to take just a few well-known, straightforward actions, in every subject area, we can make swift, dramatic improvements in schools.”

Rick Dufour

Pierce Plan for Improving Student Learning

- ▶ 1) Ensure that a guaranteed and viable curriculum is implemented with fidelity.
- ▶ 2) Sound lesson design with high quality instructional strategies provided to every student every day.
- ▶ 3) Authentic literacy with integrated reading and writing instruction in every ELA class.
- ▶ 4) High-quality, relevant professional development to improve staff practice.

New Schedule Model

6TH GRADE SCHEDULE

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	6th Lunch	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	Period 7	Period 8
M-T-W-F	8:05-8:50	8:55-9:40	9:45-10:30	10:35-10:57	11:02-11:47	11:52-12:37	12:42-1:27	1:32-2:17	2:22-3:08
Thursday	8:05-8:43	8:48-9:26	9:31-10:09	10:14-10:36	10:41-11:19	11:24-12:01	12:06-12:43	12:48-1:25	1:30-2:08
Shelton, Michael - Room 210	Adv LA 6 G		Adv LA 6 I	Lunch	Adv LA 6 I	LA 6 H		SS 6 H	Conference
Stover, Angela - Room 204	Math 6 H Co		Adv Math 6 G	Lunch	Adv Math 6 G	Adv Math 6 I		Conference	Science 6 H
McLaren, Beth - Room 212	LA 6 C Co		SS 6 C	Lunch	SS 6 D	LA 6 D Co		SS 6 G	Conference
Nowaczyk, Carolyn - Room 201	Science 6 D	Math 6 D Co		lunch	Math 6 C Co		Science 6 C	Conference	Science 6 G
Wilcox, Deneb - Room 207	LA 6 E		SS 6 E	lunch	SS 6 F	LA 6 F		SS 6 I	Conference
Chapman, Laura - Room 202	Math 6 F		Science 6 F	lunch	Science 6 E	Math 6 E		Conference	Science 6 I
Poll, Kristi - Room 209	Conference	SS 6	SS 6 A	lunch	SS 6 B	Reading 7	Reading 6	SS 6 J	Reading 6
Orlowski, Heather - Room 205	Math 6 B		Science 6 B	lunch	Science 6 A	Math 6 A		Conference	Science 6 J
Heckler, James - Room 213	LA 6 A		LA 6 J Co	lunch	LA 6 J Co	Math 6 J Co		Math Lab 6 208	Conference

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McLaren, Beth - Room 212	LA 6 C Co	SS 6 C	Lunch	SS 6 D	LA 6 D Co	SS 6 G	Conference
Nowaczyk, Carolyn - Room 201	Science 6 D	Math 6 D Co	lunch	Math 6 C Co	Science 6 C	Conference	Science 6 G

Logistical Benefits of New Structure

- ▶ Restores a sense of teaming to personalize the experience for students
- ▶ Restores grade level hallways and sense of community
- ▶ Common Conference Periods
- ▶ Reduced Teacher Daily Load
- ▶ Teachers focus on one grade level
- ▶ Creates a common grade level lunch
- ▶ Increases direct instruction time by 26 minutes per day

Curriculum and Learning Benefits

- ▶ Improvements in literacy impact student learning in all content areas
- ▶ Writing and Reading can be taught in an integrated approach
- ▶ Teachers can differentiate for each student each day
- ▶ Teachers have time to respond to formative assessment to inform instruction during the same class period.
- ▶ Student groups are able to explore more inquiry based tasks in mathematics
- ▶ Student reading fluency and stamina are promoted
- ▶ One-on-one conferencing with students may occur daily
- ▶ Student discourse and content discovery can develop more consistently.
- ▶ More time to implement district initiatives with integrity.

Quotes from ELA teachers

- ▶ “The new schedule allow for additional time for independent learning, on-one conferencing with students, and small group instruction.”
- ▶ “ The additional time allows teachers to really know readers on a personal level and provide individualized assignments based on their abilities.”
- ▶ “ Teachers can now look for gaps in fluency, vocabulary and comprehension on a consistent basis to improve reading skills.”
- ▶ “ There is time for reading and writing everyday! It is important for students to see how these activities are linked.”

Quotes from ELA teachers

- ▶ “Multiple support systems can be in place to assist those who require minimal support and intensive intervention.”
- ▶ “The extra time allows students who are advanced and those who need support to get what they need on a daily basis.”
- ▶ Students in the inclusion setting transition easier because teachers are able to differentiate assignments daily.”
- ▶ “Extra time allows teachers to hold students accountable for the reading and writing that is expected. “

Quotes from Math Teachers

- ▶ “If students need more time on a concept, there’s more freedom to take the time to try to present the concept differently. I don’t feel as stressed about pacing.”
- ▶ “ I am enjoying the daily math routines. It is a good way to get the students to talk about math and seems to be boosting the confidence of some of the struggling learners.”
- ▶ “It’s nice to have more time for independent learning.”
- ▶ “ I can accomplish more during the class period in terms of interventions. I am able to work with small groups of students and differentiate during the class.”

Quotes from Math Teachers

- ▶ “We have more time for interventions, greater depth, more inquiry, more in-class guided practice, and building stronger relationships.”
- ▶ “ More students are completing their independent practice because we have time for direct instruction, checking their understanding and working independently.”
- ▶ “There is much more time in class for student collaboration and for detailed explanations of examples.”
- ▶ “ There is more time for students to complete complex tasks, discover patterns and develop understanding on their own. I am loving it!”

Quotes from Students

- ▶ “ I have more time to understand and ask questions about difficulty assignments.”
- ▶ “I think the extended time for math was a good idea because we get to learn more in the year.”
- ▶ “ My grades went up and I get more help.”
- ▶ “ The longer period helps kids that need help in math, like me.”
- ▶ “I get more work done, have more time to learn and can ask questions.”
- ▶ “I have more time in Language Arts to read and write.”
- ▶ “I get more time to ask questions on math work when confused and now have an ‘A’ when last year I had a ‘B’.”
- ▶ “I like having help with my work instead of messing it up at home and having no one to ask.”

Next Steps

- ▶ Data gathering and analysis to evaluate the effectiveness of the change
- ▶ NWEA Data
- ▶ Student Grades
- ▶ Behavior/Discipline Data
- ▶ K-12 Perception Surveys from Staff, Parents, Students