

Changes to CCSD's Middle School Programming Beginning SY 2020-21

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Why Make Changes?

- ▶ As a District, we want to further student academic progress at the middle school level
 - ▶ Data shows increases in some content areas but lagging in other areas
 - ▶ Trends show that overall progress and growth in student achievement has flatlined
- ▶ Middle school teachers and administrators want to enhance instructional practices
- ▶ Prepare students for career, college, life



Current CCSD Practice

7 period balanced schedule

- 5 core academic courses: Lit/Comp, Lit Workshop, Math, Science and Social Studies
- 2 connections courses
- All courses are approximately 50-52 minutes in length minus transition time
- Varying implementation of Advisement sessions at each school

Identified needs

- Additional academic time, particularly in Math, Science and Social Studies
- Opportunities for real-world problem solving and hands-on learning
- Streamlined academic program in the area of English/Language Arts
- Ability to embed Social-Emotional Learning

Scheduling Changes

- ▶ Move to a 6 period unbalanced hybrid schedule
 - ▶ 4 core academic courses – time flexes from approximately 52 minutes to 65 minutes per course (minus transition time)
 - ▶ 2 Connections – time remains the same at approximately 50 minutes per course
 - ▶ Students meet with all core academic classes on Monday, Tuesday and Friday
 - ▶ Students meet in an extended instructional time for core classes on Wednesday and Thursday (A day and B day)
- ▶ Daily Extended Learning Time (ELT)
 - ▶ Approximately 30 minutes per day
 - ▶ Encompass varying activities such as Social-Emotional Learning and career exploration
 - ▶ Utilize team concept and student support

	M	T	W	TH	F
Period 1	Core 1	Core 1	Core 1	Core 2	Core 1
Period 2	Core 2	Core 2			Core 2
Period 3	Core 3	Core 3	Core 3	Core 4	Core 3
Period 4	Core 4	Core 4			Core 4
Period 5	Connections 1	Connections 1	Connections 1	Connections 1	Connections 1
Period 6	Connections 2	Connections 2	Connections 2	Connections 2	Connections 2

Base model for 6 period unbalanced hybrid schedule. Individual school and grade level schedules will vary within the model.

Academic Program Changes

- ▶ Core academic courses to include Math, Science, Social Studies, and Lit/Comp
- ▶ Core academic courses no longer include Literature Workshop
 - ▶ Language Arts and Reading standards are merged in GA
 - ▶ Separate standards exist for 4 core courses rather than 5
 - ▶ Other metro districts carry same set of core academic offerings
- ▶ World Language high school credit opportunities will still exist for students in Grade 8
- ▶ No impact is expected on any other high school credit courses
- ▶ Increase in overall academic minutes
- ▶ Increase impact of English/Language Arts curriculum
- ▶ Increase opportunities to promote and embed Social-Emotional Learning



Impact on Connections



No change to connections structure: students still meet with each Connections course daily



No impact to CTAE courses: students will have the same opportunities to experience Career, Technical and Agricultural Education



No impact on HS credit courses taught during connections time: middle schools will continue to offer high school credit Connections opportunities to 8th grade students

Additional Information

- ▶ Each principal will implement and personalize programming changes in a way that works best for the school
- ▶ Course placement information will go home with 3rd Quarter Report Cards and will include four core course placements rather than five
- ▶ 8th grade HS Credit World Language placement will replace a Connections slot rather than a core academic slot
- ▶ Specific questions should be directed to your school