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

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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.