

## **Schedule Proposal FAQ's, March 2021**

### **When did this process start? Who was a part of this process?**

The schedule review process was initiated after the Reimagining WL Schools Committee recommended specific action steps in the fall of 2019. The school created a study committee that met in March of 2020 before the Covid shutdown. Input from teachers, students, and parents has been invaluable in the process as several draft schedules have been reviewed.

### **What if Covid is still impacting the school in 2021-22?**

The proposed schedule assumes some of the current distancing and capacity guidelines will be reduced or eliminated. If Covid is still impacting the school schedule, it is likely the school will continue the 2020-21 schedule.

### **What are the priorities when creating a schedule?**

Considerations of an ideal schedule include: maintaining our vast and diverse course offerings, common meeting time for clubs and activities, safe/efficient breakfast and lunch, opportunities for social interaction at lunch, down time in the middle of day, later arrival and/or earlier dismissal, academic intervention supports, and professional collaboration opportunities.

### **Why three lunch periods rather than two or four?**

The cafeteria and food court can accommodate approximately 450 students. When all students are onsite, enrollment is approximately 1,100. Two lunches would not be feasible. Four lunches, as we have in this Covid year, would significantly reduce the opportunities for social interaction. Three lunches will allow for a dedicated junior high lunch period and two lunch periods for high school students.

### **Why close lunch?**

Safety and equity are two of the primary benefits of a closed lunch policy. The newly completed food court and cafeteria also allow for quicker service and increased capacity.

### **How does this proposal address safety?**

WL was one of the last schools in Indiana to allow an open campus at lunch. We understand that this was a unique feature of WL schools and we were fortunate our students generally made good choices when they left campus. However, it is hard to maintain a safe and secure school environment if we unlock our doors for two hours each day. Now that the cafeteria and food court allow us to serve lunch to a larger group, the time is right to move forward with closing campus.

### **How does this proposal address equity?**

While many of our students left campus at lunch before this school year, many others stayed behind because they were not able to spend money, go home, or go to a friend's house. A closed lunch ensures that students will have a shared experience at school. As one faculty member wrote, "open campus lunch creates a real, practical barrier for friendships to form across socioeconomic lines during the only real social time of the day." The schedule also

affords all students, regardless of how they get to school, an opportunity to get academic support that may be needed, during the teachers' contracted school day.

### **Why is there a later start time in the morning and earlier dismissal in the afternoon?**

The subtle differences in start and dismissal allow for common club time and/or academic support time in the morning. Students who are not in clubs or in need of academic support may begin their day at 8:20. The 3:09 dismissal will allow students to get to activities, jobs, and home earlier than the 3:20 dismissal we have had for many years.

### **Why are there seven periods?**

WL Jr/Sr HS has had a seven period day with one period dedicated to lunch. The proposed schedule maintains a seven period day and therefore the extensive elective class selections. A seven period day also maintains lower class sizes.

### **What other options were considered?**

Class periods of 45, 47, 48, and 50 minutes were considered. A four minute passing period rather than the current five minute passing period was considered. A six period day was also considered.

### **Why no survey?**

As you can see, this is a complex proposal with many different considerations. We know that the shorter lunch and closed campus may not have unanimous support, but we also know this is a community that values equity and fairness for all students. Each issue has an effect on several other issues. There is no perfect schedule that will please all parties, but this proposal is a combination that will strive to address the many priorities of the ideal schedule mentioned above.

### **What if my child has specific dietary needs?**

This is an area we can improve in at WL. Our Food Service director, Courtney FitzSimons, welcomes communication from students and parents regarding dietary needs/requests.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the Jr-Sr High School administration directly. We are happy to speak with anyone.

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