



Frequently Asked Questions re: 19-20 Bell Schedule Change

1. Why do teachers need time to collaborate?

- National research supports that teachers working in collaboration with one another to improve student learning results in more learning for all students. Teachers work in grade level or content teams by subject area to identify common agreements on what all students should know and be able to do as a result of a class or course; develop common assessments to measure student progress on those standards; identify students that need additional time and support; and identify options for students that have already met the standards.

2. What do teachers do in collaborative planning time?

- Discuss and identify essential standards.
- Engage and maximize grade level/department/subject matter collaboration.
- Develop common assessments and analyze student data/data systems.
- Discuss and strategize interventions for our at-risk students as well as support students in need of academic enrichment opportunities.
- <http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/may04/vol61/num08/What-Is-a-Professional-Learning-Community%C2%A2.aspx>

3. What evidence is there that shows school restructuring works?

- <http://www.allthingsplc.info/>

4. Why can't teachers meet after school?

- It is not possible to require teachers to meet before or after school and many have additional committee meetings or responsibilities outside of contracted school hours.

5. What are the drop off options for working parents?

- The Boys & Girls Club will be working with the school in providing site-based programming which may include French, Spanish, ASL, Sports & Fitness, Art, STEM & HW Support. Hours for B&G drop off begin as early as 7:00 am.
- Mamba Sports Academy will also offer sport activities at a nominal fee for the season. Flyers are included on the website

6. Will there be an increased cost for parents to join the B&G Club for programming?

- The B&G Club currently has a fee structure in place for programming before school and is looking to augment their program with a plan specific to the late start days. The cost for Tuesdays only will be \$30.00 a month and it includes breakfast.

7. If parents will be looking to the Boys and Girls club because they cannot alter their work schedule, is there an offset in costs if it proves to be a hardship?

- The Boys and Girls Club offers scholarships and works on a sliding scale. Families could also consult their tax professional as the cost is tax deductible.

8. What time will the gates be opened on Tuesdays?

Redwood Middle School

- Gates will be opened with free access to supervised campus grounds at 7:45am in the quad area. Students can access the library (open at 8:15am). Students will not be allowed to roam campus unsupervised.

9. What is the primary reason for late start vs. not early out (minimum days)?

- The cost of busses and changing bus routes to support ridership for weekly minimum days proved to be cost prohibitive, as bussing serves students from multiple school sites (elementary and secondary).

10. Where does the time come from to support the collaborative planning day?

- Redwood exceeds the annual required instructional minutes as outlined by the California Department of Education. The late start schedule combines the banked time from teachers and augmented with the necessary minutes the school is over annually. With this change and the elimination of early release, Redwood's loss of minutes is very small. Under 400 for the extent of the year and we are still over in minutes by almost 3000.

11. Who monitors the programs to ensure that the meeting time used for this program and not for unrelated business?

- The administration attends and keeps record of agendas/minutes from each of the team meetings. These documents are made available to district level administration and discussed as a system for measuring progress.

12. Can school sports team practices be conducted before school on the late start Tuesdays?

- The Gym will be open and can host school sport teams, it would depend greatly on the availability of our coaches to be there in the morning vs after school.
-

13. What classes will be held during A period?

- Currently, Redwood offers PE, Orchestra, and Leadership only. Depending on master schedule needs, this could change for the 19-20 school year.

14. Why is there no A period on Tuesdays?

- To facilitate collaborative planning time with the entire staff we needed to release all teachers to attend grade level/department/cross curricular and content specific meetings; A period will be taught 10 minutes longer each day.

15. How many parent information nights did you hold? What types of communication did you send out and how many?

- Redwood held **four** parent informational meetings:
 - Monday, February 25th (8:00am and 9:00am)
 - Thursday, February 28th (8:00am and 6:00pm)
- Parent link Communications:

Redwood Middle School

- Communications regarding the schedule and weekly late start was sent out via email with a copy of the bell schedule draft for 19-20 attached.
- This communication was also shared with all feeder elementary schools for 5th grade (rising 6th grade students)
- Presented at Site Council, ELAC, and PTSA meetings.
- Proposed bell schedule on the website

16. Will traffic be an issue on the late start days at drop off?

- Traffic is always a concern Redwood. We will monitor late start Tuesdays and if changes to traffic flow need to be addressed, we will do so.