

Dear Samohi families,

During our WASC visit for accreditation, it was recommended that we consider a change to our bell schedule. The report stated the following:

Key issues for Standards-Based Student Learning: Instruction (if any):

2. *Samohi should explore ways to provide academic support within the bell schedule (either current or another format) prescribed for those struggling students who need targeted instructional support.*

One of the wonderful features of a comprehensive high school is the ability to provide varied and plentiful offerings. But this presents a problem as well, where do we find enough time in the day to meet the needs of each of our students. We set out to find a way to provide intervention, enrichment and tutorial during the structured day.

Knowing that we had a problem and needed some solutions, our Samohi Site Leadership Team began a discussion concerning our current schedule in the spring of 2017. Which ultimately led to our WASC visiting committee bringing to our attention in February of 2018 the very issue that we knew we had to problem-solve. With this issue highlighted in our WASC report, it was important that we began to address the concerns considering an alternative to our current schedule.

We are in midst of constructing and completing a proposed pilot of a period-by-period schedule change for the upcoming school year. This possible change will not go into effect until next school year (2019-20). The proposal has to be voted on by our teachers in order for us to proceed, therefore we feel it is in our best interest to pilot a rendition of the two-day block schedule.

The week of Nov. 19th and Nov. 26th we will conduct a pilot of the Blue and Gold Flex-Time bell schedule. During this time we will offer students the opportunity to sign-up to get academic assistance from their teachers. The Flex-Time pilot is just the beginning of what we see this opportunity becoming.

Our teachers and I will share a presentation covering the proposed change to our current period-by-period schedule. We will provide for you, the journey that we have taken to begin the conversation about a possible period-by-period bell schedule change.

On Monday, November 5th, some of my Site Leadership Team and I will share our process for implementation and provide answers to questions to the best of our ability. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. in the Samohi Cafeteria.

Sincerely,

Antonio M. Shelton, Ed.D.
Principal