



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope your child has had a wonderful start to the new school year! Your child's learning, growth, and overall school experience are at the heart of the decisions we make each day. As we continue to examine how best to meet the needs of every student, we want to share an update to our daily school schedule. This change is designed to strengthen the academic support and enrichment we provide to students, particularly in reading, while preserving the important experiences students receive through PE, Art, Computers, Media, and Music. The change also supports our response to recent state legislation, Senate Bill 241, and its expectations related to student literacy.

What is changing?

We are moving from a traditional specialist schedule to a more flexible model that allows us to use portions of our school day, our staff, and their expertise more intentionally based on students' learning needs.

Students will continue to participate in specialist classes, and classroom teachers will continue to receive dedicated planning time. We recognize how important these experiences are to a well-rounded elementary education and remain committed to providing them. The updated schedule will also create dedicated opportunities during the school day for students to receive instruction based on their current learning needs. Depending on the student, this may include additional support with essential reading skills, reinforcement of grade-level learning, or extension and enrichment opportunities.

What will this mean for students?

Targeted Support, Reinforcement, and Enrichment: Students learn at different rates and have different needs. This model provides greater flexibility to respond to those needs. Teachers will use classroom performance, assessment information, and their knowledge of individual students to determine the most appropriate learning opportunities. These groupings will be flexible and will change as students grow and their needs change.

Greater Support for Literacy Across Our School: Literacy development is a shared responsibility. Our specialist teachers will continue to build their understanding of the Science of Reading and evidence-based instructional practices. This will help create greater consistency in how we support reading, vocabulary, comprehension, and communication across learning experiences throughout the school.

Opportunities to Learn With Other Students: The flexible schedule will also provide opportunities for students to work and collaborate with grade-level peers beyond their

traditional homeroom classroom. This allows us to create learning groups based on student needs while also strengthening connections among students across the grade level.

A Continued Commitment to the Whole Child: While strengthening literacy and academic learning is an important priority, we also believe strongly in the value of art, music, physical education, media, creativity, collaboration, and other experiences that contribute to a rich elementary education. Our goal is not to choose between these experiences and strong academics, but to use our available time and resources thoughtfully so that students benefit from both.

How Will We Know if This Approach is Working?

This is a new and responsive approach, and we are committed to evaluating it carefully.

Throughout the year, we will monitor student learning and literacy growth, gather feedback from teachers and students, and examine how effectively the schedule is meeting the needs of all learners. If something is not producing the results we expect, we will adjust it. Our commitment is not to a particular schedule; our commitment is to finding the best ways to help our students learn and thrive. We will continue to refine the model based on the evidence and will keep families informed as we learn more.

We understand that changes to a child's school day can naturally generate questions. We want to be transparent about both the reasons for this change and what it will mean for students. Most importantly, this change is intended to strengthen, not diminish, your child's overall elementary experience. We value your questions, concerns, and feedback. If you would like additional information about the schedule or how it may affect your child, please reach out to me directly.

We are committed to keeping families informed as we implement and refine this approach. Thank you for your partnership, flexibility, and trust. We are grateful for the opportunity to work alongside you in supporting your child's learning, growth, and success.

Warm regards,

Lisa Flinders, Principal