

**Palo Alto High School Innovative Schedule Committee**  
**SCHEDULE CONSIDERATIONS & DESIRED OUTCOMES: SYNTHESIS DETAIL**  
**Chalk Talk Protocol Part 2 – 10/3/17**

**Schedule Considerations & Desired Outcomes:** *On October 3, 2017, ISC members participated in a Chalk Talk Protocol that addressed the following questions:*

- *Schedule Considerations: What specific needs, interests or activities, should be highest priority in developing our schedule recommendation?*
- *Desired Outcomes: What are the outcomes for students, parents and staff that we want the recommended schedule to contribute to, promote, and support?*

*There were 262 responses. Desired Outcomes were synthesized by the facilitator and listed in **bold**. The actual responses written by ISC members to the two questions above are listed under each Desired Outcome. The number of ISC members expressing agreement with a check mark is indicated (in parentheses). Relevant sections of the ISC Charge and Required Criteria were mapped onto the synthesis charts after the activity.*

***Innovative Schedule Committee believes that any schedule decision we make should promote, support and contribute to the following prioritized outcomes for the Palo Alto High School community:***

**1. The schedule should help OPTIMIZE STUDENT AND STAFF WELL-BEING by... (182 total)**

**a. minimizing potential stress, anxiety, and negative health consequences linked to the structure of the school day. (129)**

*Relevant Chalk Talk Schedule Considerations & Outcomes:*

- Reduced student anxiety (6)
- Reduced stress and anxiety (5)
- Stress of students is reduced (5)
- Ability to learn and grow into an adult without stress (4)
  - No stress? (1)
  - Maybe manageable stress. Learn how to deal with it well? (3)
  - Besides from social/emotional learning, how can we help kids deal with it (1)
- Avoid test stacking (7)
  - C days don't cause test stacking as much as vacations
- Impact on homework load (7)
- Having classes 2 days in a row means that you'll be forced to do homework that night (3)
  - Is that a bad thing?
- Less homework stress (2)
- Rethink the concept of homework vs schoolwork (1)
- At least one homework free day per week – real downtime
  - But then would homework be condensed?
- More, better, sleep (5)

- More sleep (3)
  - 11am-8am?
  - We can't control when kids go to bed ... we can try to encourage it, but that is all
    - Agreed!
- Student awakesness (3)
- Start/end time (9)
- Later start (4)
  - Consider (1)
  - Like Gunn?
- Commuting (6)
- Minimal conflict between academics and athletics (5)
- Impact on athletics
- Passing period time (long enough to get across campus) (6)
  - On C days 1→2, 3→4, 5→6, 6→7 are tough
  - + subsequent tardies
- Impact on student's daily lives (7 checks)
  - & families
- Simplicity (1)

Relevant sections of the ISC Charge and Required Criteria:

- ISC is charged with investigating, analyzing, and making a consensus decision on a new Palo Alto High School bell schedule that will optimize student learning and well-being.
- Any schedule selected by ISC must:
  - Be supported by current research and evidence about student learning and well-being
  - Enable a reasonable pace and homework load for students and teachers by minimizing potential stress and anxiety linked to the structure of the school day
  - Start classes no earlier than 8:15 a.m. and offer no 0 period
  - Include a brunch period of no less than 15 minutes

**b. ...allocating time to personalize student support, deepen student-teacher relationships, and build a strongly connected school community. (53)**

Relevant Chalk Talk Schedule Considerations & Outcomes:

- Improved student-teacher relationships/connections (5)
- Relationships, relationships, relationships (1)
- Need more time for Flex and SEL (8)
  - Who uses and who "misuses" 'Flex'?
- A Flex time most students value (4)
- More shorter Flex periods throughout the week (2)
  - Longer Flex periods for productivity, hard to get started
  - Or several shorter ones? (1)
- Increase time for students to get individual assistance from teachers (Flex) (1)
- Create a true Vikings community where all feel connected (4)
- Strengthen school culture and climate (4)
- Culture – school, community, home
  - Or address lack of norms and expectations on how they are used (1)

- Tech norms
- Times where the entire student body is together
- InFocus (2)
- Impact on Palo Alto as a whole (3)

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- Any schedule selected by ISC must:
  - Be supported by current research and evidence about student learning and well-being
  - Dedicate the time needed to deliver curriculum for social-emotional learning (SEL) and college/career planning.

**2. The schedule should help OPTIMIZE STUDENT LEARNING by contributing to a productive learning environment where ... (80 total)**

**a. teaching and learning are well supported by the ways time is allocated within the schedule. (45)**

Relevant Chalk Talk Schedule Considerations & Outcomes:

- Number of class meetings per week (5)
- Do not forsake our current schedule (3)
- Revisit the concept of C days (2)
- Block periods (2)
  - Agree, but pretty sure this is required ☺ (2)
  - 90 min isn't the requirement
- Keeping blocks (1)
- Keeping equal meeting time (1)
- Maintain frequency of certain subjects – e.g., language class everyday even if shorter (1)
- Effectiveness of the learning process (5)
- Takes into account research and evidence on how high schoolers operate and learn (3)
- Optimal learning environment (3)
  - How?
- More time to absorb info/review
- Innovative scheduling (1)

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- Any schedule selected by ISC must:
  - Be supported by current research and evidence about student learning and well-being
  - Include block class periods of sufficient length to support project-based learning, authentic assessment, and instruction aligned with the Common Core State Standards
  - Meet state requirements, including requirements for total instructional minutes.
  - Offer instructional time that will be reasonably comparable at both high schools and a calendar in sync with Gunn's academic eligibility reports (e.g., no trimesters)

**b. .... teachers have dedicated time and opportunities to develop professionally, collaborate, and share best practices. (24)**

Relevant Chalk Talk Schedule Considerations & Outcomes:

- Increase teacher collaboration time (PLC) (per WASC)
- Maintain/increase teacher collaboration time (2)
- Keeping teacher meetings (PLC) outside of prep and school meetings (1)
- More student engagement in class/students look forward to the school day! (3)
  - Quality teaching/learning across school
    - maybe PLC, but specify ☺
  - Increases productivity
- Has to conform to teacher's contract (3)
  - What limitation does this place?
- Part-time teachers (2)
- Quality part-time teachers (2)

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- ISC is charged with investigating, analyzing, and making a consensus decision on a new Palo Alto High School bell schedule that will optimize student learning and well-being.
- Any schedule selected by ISC must:
  - Be supported by current research and evidence about student learning and well-being
  - At least maintain current weekly time for teacher collaboration (PLCs) to align and enhance curriculum, instruction, and assessment
  - Be consistent with the contract language of the collective bargaining agreements of all school employees

**c. ...time is allocated to personalize learning and address the needs of different types of learners. (11)**

Relevant Chalk Talk Schedule Considerations & Outcomes:

- Needs of different types of learners are addressed (5)
- How do we personalize learning? (3)
  - Innovation

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