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April 4, 2008

Arnold Adair
Superintendent

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Currently, our district administration is considering ways to help our students meet recently-increased state and federal requirements. The most important of these changes is the new graduation requirements for students entering high school in 2007-08.

Beginning with this year's freshmen, all students must graduate with 26 credits: 4 each of English, math, science, social studies; 2 foreign language; 1 ½ physical education; 1 each of technology and fine arts; ½ each of speech and health; and 3 ½ required electives. This high school graduation plan is referred to as "4x4." With our current seven-period schedule, students only have 28 credits from which to complete the required 26, leaving little room for flexibility. For many students, just meeting the 4x4 requirements will restrict their options and choices. Our desire is for students to be able to select programs and classes that support their interests and enrich their high school experience.

One thing is clear; our current high school schedule will not meet the needs of our students who face these new requirements. Thus, we are considering several different options for changing the high school schedule. There are many rumors being discussed in the community regarding this issue, but I want to emphasize that we have not decided on a single plan. However, it is likely that the length of the school day will increase, and both the starting time and ending time could be changed. There is also a possibility that changing the high school schedule could affect the junior high and elementary schedules.

We certainly realize that each family's situation is different and will be impacted uniquely by any proposed change. However, the one thing I can assure you is that we would never consider change for the sake of change. I wish I could tell you that the plan we choose will receive every family's approval, but that is something I cannot do. As superintendent, I must look at each of our over 12,000 students as if they were each my own and seek solutions that best meet the needs of as many of them as possible. Once we choose the option that is best for the majority of our students, we will send additional information home with children and make it available on the district website.

Sincerely,

Arnold Adair
Superintendent of Schools