



Greetings Parents/Guardians,

As we continue to plan for students return to in-person learning, we have many elements to consider. We are facing the realities of COVID-19 and its impact on instruction. We are focused on tackling the challenges and opportunities regarding the social emotional wellness of students, parents, and teachers. We know some of the challenges, but what about the opportunities?

SCPA is truly a unique learning community. We do not fit into the traditional K-6 or 7-12 CPS School model. Since we are K-12 world class public arts school where students prepare for a lifelong involvement in scholastic and artistic pursuits, we are dedicated to our mission and vision when operating and making decisions.

An opportunity has presented itself to transition our 7th & 8th grade students to the high school start time. We are excited about this opportunity; it has been a long time coming. Please see the benefits of having our 7th & 8th grade students transitioning to the high school start time (8:30 a.m. – 3:30 pm.).

Benefits of a 7-12 shared start time.

- Aligning with CPS 7-12 HS Model.
- A common start time 7-12 will alleviate the overloaded class bells 2 and 9.
- Orientation towards high school would be beneficial for grades 7 and 8. It is a challenging time developmentally, and this would more clearly link them to an upward path.
- Rehearsals and Shows/Performances- Grades 9-12 would not need to wait around for an hour for teachers and seventh and eighth graders to be available.
- After school programs and clubs, more students 7-12 would have access to more opportunities.
- No weather delays for 7 and 8.
- Scheduling- exams and testing could be more streamlined especially for students taking advanced courses in grade 7 and 8.
- Department meetings after school will allow grade 7 and 8 teachers full participation in content meetings.
- More opportunities for foreign language/advanced classes at grades 7 and 8.
- IEP meetings- often scheduled during bells 1 or 9, so not all teachers can attend.
- District meetings involving 7 – 12 teachers.
- Support social distancing on CPS Yellow buses with the elimination of grade 7 and 8.



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Seventh and Eighth grade students will begin riding Cincinnati Metro buses when in-person learning begins. In-person blended learning is tentatively scheduled to begin September 28th. Information about Metro bus cards will be forthcoming from the CPS transportation department in the coming weeks to support this transition.

There is little to no impact on current 7th & 8th grade schedules. In most cases their 9th bell course will become their 1st bell course.

In closing, this transition will truly support the growth of our 7th & 8th grade students at SCPA with aligning them to the CPS HS model. We are looking forward to finally welcoming them into the high school division at SCPA. If you have any questions that I can answer to support you in this transition, feel free to reach out.

Thank you in advance for your support with this new transition!

Respectfully,

Michael D. Owens
Principal



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