



May 26, 2017

To: Earl Marriott Secondary Community

**RE: Bell Schedule - Update**

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We are very pleased and excited to be able to share with you that, after a comprehensive review the District has approved us to return to a four-block bell schedule at Earl Marriott Secondary beginning September 2017.

Once again, we wish to thank parents, staff, students and community members for their feedback and questions. We have worked with the District and staff to develop a four-block bell schedule that will take into account the feedback received regarding the start time and will take into account bussing schedules and after school extra curricular activities.

As previously communicated, below are the specifics regarding challenges that have been addressed which will allow the school to return to the preferred four block rotation:

1) Bussing – School District and BC Transit

The District has now reviewed scheduling/routing and capacity requirements for a new bussing plan which will allow students to arrive to school safely, at an appropriate time, and which would account for parking lot traffic patterns. The District has a plan deploy extra buses, all with drop-off times no earlier than 40 minutes prior to the start of the school day. This would reduce the current wait time for many of our bussed students.

The district is committed to student safety and is currently developing a plan that includes:

- Additional supervision staff at drop-off and pick-up times;
- New signage;
- Comprehensive communication plan of drop-off /pick-up zones; and
- The District will also be liaising with BC Transit to determine possible options for adjustments to local transit (bus) capacity.

2) Lunch Time

The school has reviewed the cafeteria space and additional spaces available as well as connected with the catering company regarding logistics.

- The school will be opening some classrooms and the Multi-Purpose room at lunch break to provide additional space for our students.
- Approval for additional hallway benches and additional cafeteria tables for the multi-purpose room have been received from the District.
- Approval for additional supervisory staff to help with lunch hour supervision and additional custodial staffing has been received from the District.
- The kitchen catering company has indicated it is able to adjust their serving capacity for a single lunch.

3) Later Start Time

The school and District considered input regarding requests for a later start time along with the need to have a dismissal time that would not create conflict with after-school commitments. With this, we will begin our day at 8:35am. This will result in a 2:44pm dismissal time. We believe this will provide a balance to both issues.

We again thank all members of our EMS community for your engagement in our Bell Schedule Review and trust that you find the additional information helpful. We have worked to listen to staff, students, parents and community.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lynda Reeve  
Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Ken Hignell  
Principal