



5400 South Jay Circle
Denver, CO 80123
Main Line: 720-424-6880
Attendance Line: 720-424-6961

November 7, 2017

Dear Families of Grant Ranch Students,

Thank you for all of your support this year with the policies and procedures in the Student Handbook and the cell phone policy. We are seeing improvement in the upper grades every day and are working toward becoming the best school in the Denver Public Schools! We have already moved from Not Meeting Expectations (Red) status to Accredited on Watch (Yellow) on the School Performance Framework. In an effort to continue this improvement, student and staff interviews have been conducted to determine the next steps in our journey.

I have heard from students, staff, and parents that our instructional blocks are too long. To remedy this situation, we will shift to four 1-hour blocks on the first day of Trimester 2, Tuesday, November 14, 2017. Below you will see the daily schedule. Content classes will not change. We will continue to include Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. Every student will receive one hour of each course. Ms. Burger will teach Social Studies, Ms. Dekker will teach Science, Ms. Farris will teach Language Arts, and Mr. Burns will teach Mathematics. This allows each teacher to utilize his or her strengths and dedicate themselves to one content area. Along with this change student report cards will move from standards based grading (trimester 1) to the tradition A-F grading scale in grades 6-8 only for Trimesters 2 and 3.

Passing periods will be 2 minutes long. This is enough time for students to get from one class to the next. Our teachers and other staff members will remind your child that they need to be on time to each class while walking quietly in the halls. Electives and Selectives will change for some students based on students' needs and requests. We will meet each request to the best of our ability. The teachers will continue to implement the Random Acts of Kindness curriculum during the advisement period and our mental health team will provide socio-emotional support to students as needed.

7th/8th Grade Schedule

Period	Time	Block
1	7:40-8:56	Breakfast in the Classroom and Content (Math, Science, Social Studies, or Language Arts)
2	8:58-9:58	Content (Math, Science, Social Studies, or Language Arts)
3	10:00-11:00	Content (Math, Science, Social Studies, or Language Arts)
4	11:05-11:50	Lunch
5	11:55-12:07	Advisement (socio-emotional learning)
6	12:07-12:56	Selectives
7	12:58-1:58	Content (Math, Science, Social Studies, or Language Arts)
8	2:00-2:45	Electives (Tech, Art, Music, PE)

Please call the school or come and visit with me if you have any suggestions or questions. I would love to have you come, visit our classrooms, and learn more about what your child experiences every day. I will check in with students and teachers at the end of two weeks to see how the changes have helped and to see if any adjustments are needed.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Patricia Hurrieta, Principal