



# Monday Memo

From Supt. Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams

*April 26, 2021*

## [Click here for the up-to-date calendar](#)

A reminder that we've changed the order of A/B days during the Bridge Week, May 24-27, so students have a day with each of their teachers. You can always find the link to the calendar under Quick Links at [oprfs.org](http://oprfs.org). The most recent revision is dated April 19; if you land on an older version, refresh the page to clear your computer's cache.

## **Update on potential for block scheduling and a later start time**

In our [most recent Thoughtexchange](#), we asked students, faculty/staff, and families what we should prioritize as we plan for a post-pandemic future. Both students and faculty/staff identified implementing a block schedule and moving to a later start time as top recommendations. To make sure we've considered all of the ramifications of such changes, an internal team will take the next several months to study the options. The soonest we might possibly be able to make these changes would be the 2022-2023 school year; that decision would need to be made this coming fall, before students start course selection for 2022-2023. Stayed tuned for an update on our research sometime in the fall.

## **Attendance change**

Due to state-mandated changes to how we must record student attendance during hybrid learning, the *Hybrid Absent* notation will no longer be used. Whenever your student is attending remotely, even if it is on a day they are scheduled to be in person, you will see the *Remote Learning* notation on their attendance record. This notation does not count as an absence, and there is no need to contact the school if your child will be attending remotely on a day they are scheduled to be in the building. Their teachers will "see" them online in the remote classroom.

## **Bringing back a principal position**

Two years ago, we eliminated the position of principal and folded those responsibilities into the roles of associate superintendent and directors of student learning and student services. This organizational structure allowed us to introduce the position of executive director of equity and student success, which better aligned the work of the strategic plan to our leadership structure without incurring additional staffing costs.

We need and will keep the equity director position. However, not having a principal has proved to be the challenge that many predicted. It has created stakeholder confusion by eliminating the "face of the school," reduced hands-on building leadership that is essential to the student experience, and created an unsustainable role for the associate superintendent.

Thus, we have posted a new position for next school year: assistant superintendent/principal. We are adding *assistant superintendent* to the title for two reasons: (1) We want to attract principals with experience leading comprehensive high schools like ours, and given that we are late in the hiring season, this title will help. (2) It better characterizes the unique expectations of this position. Usually, principals do not have the

district-level responsibilities that are unavoidable in this single building district, and the title provides for a transparency in the posting that we think is important to convey. As we did two years ago, we are able to keep this organizational change cost neutral through attrition and reassignment of some job responsibilities.

### **Cause for applause!**



Our very own OPRFHS Best Buddies has been chosen to be Best Buddies Illinois Chapter of the Year! Best Buddies is an organization dedicated to creating opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Congratulations to club sponsors **Fawn Joyce, Rashad Singletary,** and **Employee of the Month Meghan Kennedy** and the 150+ members whose hard work and dedication made this honor possible.

### **Keep following the three W's!**

Though vaccination is becoming more widespread, public health officials are clear that safety precautions should still be followed: Wear a mask. Watch your distance. Wash your hands. Together, we can continue to keep all in our community health and safe.