

District 97 Middle School Master Schedule Redesign Update

Board of Education Meeting
March. 18, 2025





2024-25 District 97 Transformation Goals

We Learn, Lead and Celebrate Together

Our District Culture
ALL Employee Professional Learning

We Design for ALL

Elementary Core Instruction Foundations
Middle School Redesign

We Align Resources

Master Facilities Plan
Comprehensive Safety Plan

We Learn Everywhere

Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate
Early Childhood Education



Middle School Schedule Redesign

March 2025

DR. LUIS FERNANDO DE LEON
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
MIDDLE SCHOOLS

MR. NICK FILIPOWSKI
PRINCIPAL
JULIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

MS. APRIL CAPUDER
PRINCIPAL
BROOKS MIDDLE SCHOOL

MS. SAM TRACY
SPED TEACHER
JULIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

MS. MALLORY MOWERY
ELA TEACHER
BROOKS MIDDLE SCHOOL



Meet the MS Schedule Redesign Team

Jen Baldassarre - Julian ELA Teacher
Yael Berenson White - MTSS Teacher
Abby Berman - Social Worker
Cate Brinkman - Julian PE/Health Teacher
Michele Capio - Director of UDL
April Capuder - Brooks Principal
Fernando Carrillo - Julian/Brooks Orchestra Teacher
Rahwa Casselle - Julian MTSS Teacher
Emilie Creehan - Director of UDL
Adrienne Court - Julian Associate Principal
Angelica Degante - Brooks Multilingual Teacher
Dr. Luis Fernando De León - Assistant Superintendent of Middle Schools
Quinn Ebert - Brooks Math Teacher
Nick Filipowski - Julian Principal
Dr. Dawanda Fountain - Julian Associate Principal
Dr. Denise Gildon - Brooks MS Associate Principal
Tracy Hamm - Director of UDL
Liz Hill - Brooks Special Education Teacher

Katie Kelly - Julian World Language Teacher
Anna Kinnaman - Social Science Teacher
Dr. Tawanda Lawrence - Senior Director of Teaching and Learning
Casey Leiby - K-8 Science, Social Science and Special Areas Curriculum Coordinator
Donna Middleton - Senior Director of Student Services
Mallory Mowery - English Language Arts Teacher
Jennifer Nelson - Teacher Librarian
Veena Rajashekar - 6-8 ELA/Math Curriculum Coordinator
Raul Reynoso - Julian Social Science Teacher
Patrick Robinson - Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools
Courtney Southward - Julian Math Teacher
Laura Stamp - Science Teacher
Nichelle Stigger - Student Success Coach
Sergio Torres - Julian Student Success Coach
Samantha Tracy - Julian Special Education Teacher
Lawrence Vincenti - Julian Science Teacher



Our Vision for Middle School Transformation

Tier 1 Practices/Behavior Expectations

Create alignment and clarity in social, emotional, and behavioral support systems across both middle schools.



School Improvement Logic Models

Engage school-level teams in identifying resources, adult practices, and professional learning opportunities that lead to high-quality core instructional practices.



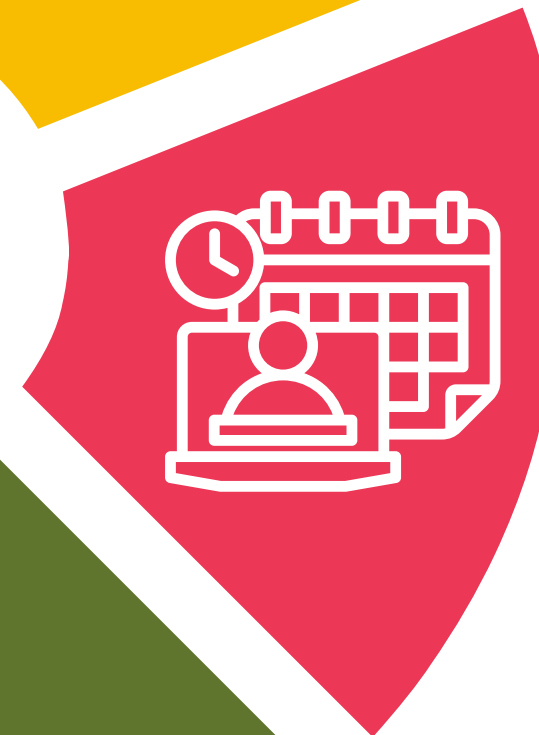
Supportive Transitions

Ensure students are prepared for transitions to and from middle school (e.g., Middle School Connection).



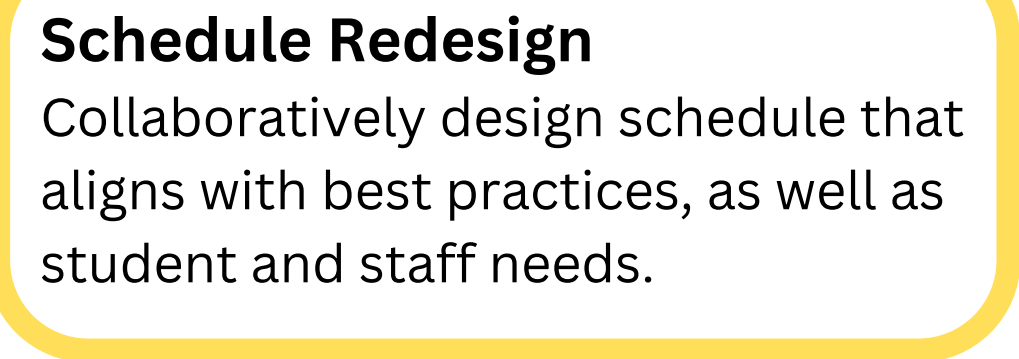
Schedule Redesign

Collaboratively design schedule that aligns with best practices, as well as student and staff needs.



Staffing

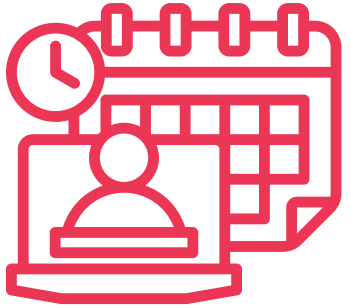
Align resources to better support student success.



Tonight's Update



Middle School Schedule Redesign



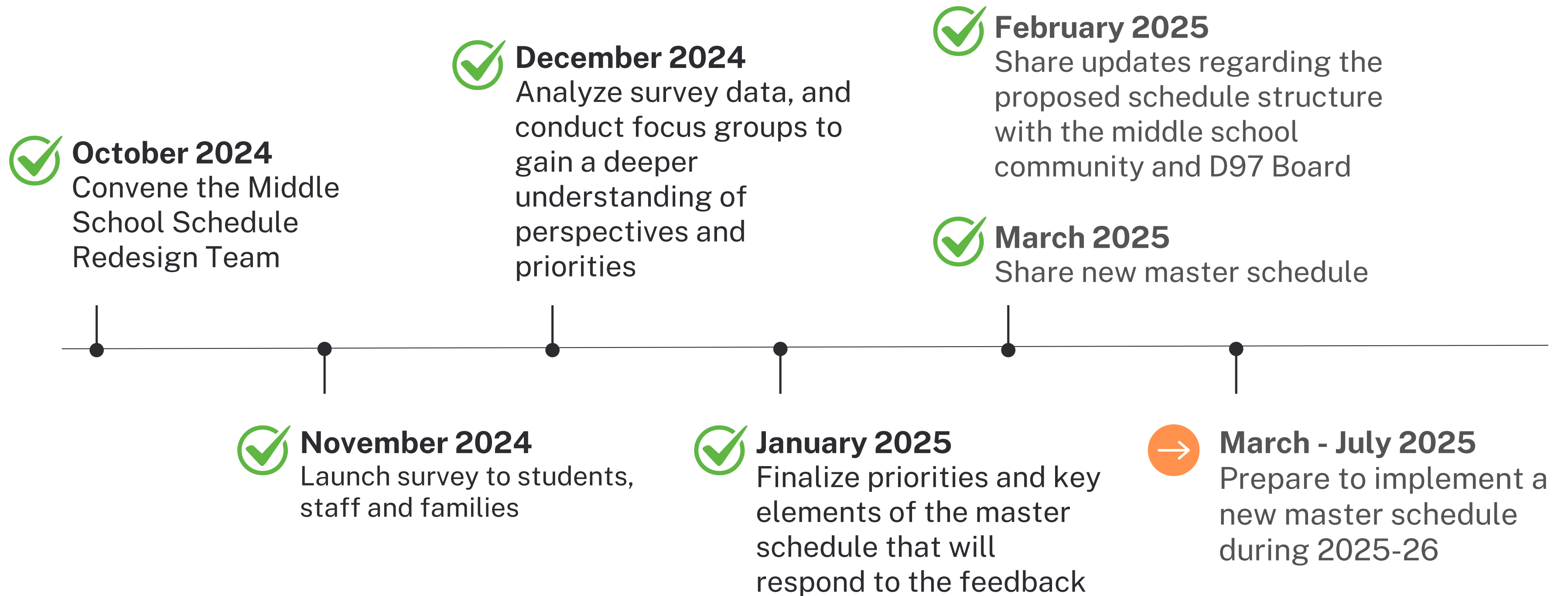
Our Guiding Principles for the Redesign

Guided by the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE), D97's equity policy and Illinois State Board of Education standards, this project is based on creating a school experience that is:

- **Responsive:** Centered on students' unique needs, identities, and voices.
- **Challenging:** Setting high expectations to support each student's growth.
- **Empowering:** Providing opportunities for students to take ownership of their learning.
- **Equitable:** Ensuring inclusive, just learning opportunities for every student.
- **Engaging:** Fostering a relevant, interactive environment that motivates and inspires.



MS Schedule Redesign Timeline

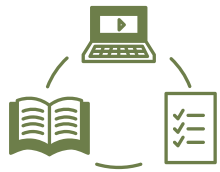




Logistical Complexity of Scheduling



Time: Balancing instructional minutes, passing periods, and additional activities within the school day.



Classes: Organizing course offerings to align with curriculum priorities and student interests.



Staffing: Allocating sufficient personnel to meet student needs, ensuring appropriate class sizes and support staff coverage.



Teacher Assignments: Assigning teachers to courses that align with their expertise and maintaining equitable workloads. Ensuring 300 minutes weekly, including 30 consecutive minutes daily, with planning time aligned to elective schedules.



Special Populations: Supporting the unique needs of special education, English learners, and gifted students through inclusive scheduling practices.



Lunch: Coordinating schedules to provide adequate lunch periods for all students while managing space and supervision needs.



Space: Maximizing classroom and common area usage to accommodate all students and programs effectively.



Mandates: Ensuring compliance with state and federal requirements, including physical education, health, and advisory programs.



Community Priorities (Based on Feedback)

- **Adjusting the length and structure of class periods**, with an emphasis on daily schedules for core subjects.
- **Expanding elective opportunities to better meet diverse student needs**, including cross-team or mixed-grade level options and unique offerings.
- **Exploring options for a soft start to mornings**, including social-emotional learning.
- **Designing a lunch experience** that is more structured and supportive.
- **Consistency and alignment** across both middle schools.
- **Re-evaluating and clearly defining the purpose and goals of SOAR and Advisory** to maximize their impact.
- **Smoother transitions** between fifth to sixth grade and 8th to high school to ensure alignment and continuity.

March - July 2025

*Prepare to implement a new
master schedule in 2025-26*





Identifying the SY25-26 Master Schedule: *A Collaborative Process*

Sample D97 Middle School Student Schedule

Period #	Course	Length (Mins)	Start	End
1	Mathematics	50	9:00	9:50
2	English Language Arts	50	9:53	10:43
3	Science	50	10:46	11:36
4	Social Science	50	11:39	12:29
5	Lunch/WIN (SOAR)	72	12:32	1:44
6	Elective 1 *Year-Long Class	50	1:47	2:37
7	Elective 2/Physical Education *A/B Rotation	50	2:40	3:30

The new master schedule for SY25-26 is the result of a robust and collaborative process that included student, staff and family input:

- 1)** We used community feedback and our D97 priorities to develop multiple sample schedules aligned with our shared goals, and determined the final schedule after review of different possible models.
- 2)** Three viable sample schedules were presented to the Middle School Redesign Team, each reflecting aspects our identified priorities.
- 3)** Input from the Middle School Redesign Team determined the new schedule.



Community Priorities:

SY25-26 Implementation Targets

- ✓ **Adjusting the length and structure of class periods**, with an emphasis on daily schedules for core subjects.
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Identifying the SY25-26 Master Schedule:

Classes/Components of the School Day

- **Core Subjects**
 - English Language Arts (ELA)
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - Social Science

- **Electives**

- **Physical Education**

- **Lunch/"What I Need" (WIN) - formerly known as SOAR**
 - **WIN:**



SY 25-26 Master Schedule: *Increased Time for Core Subjects*

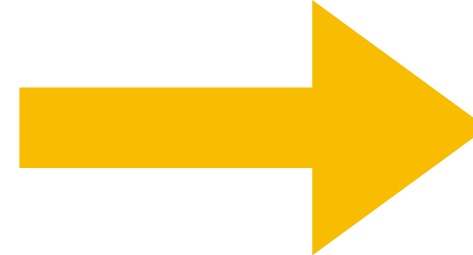
SY25

CURRENT SCHEDULE

Class Length: 75 mins

A/B Schedule (every other day):

- Core Subjects (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Science)
- World Language
- Physical Education
- Elective



SY26

NEW MASTER SCHEDULE

Class Length: 50 mins

Every Day:

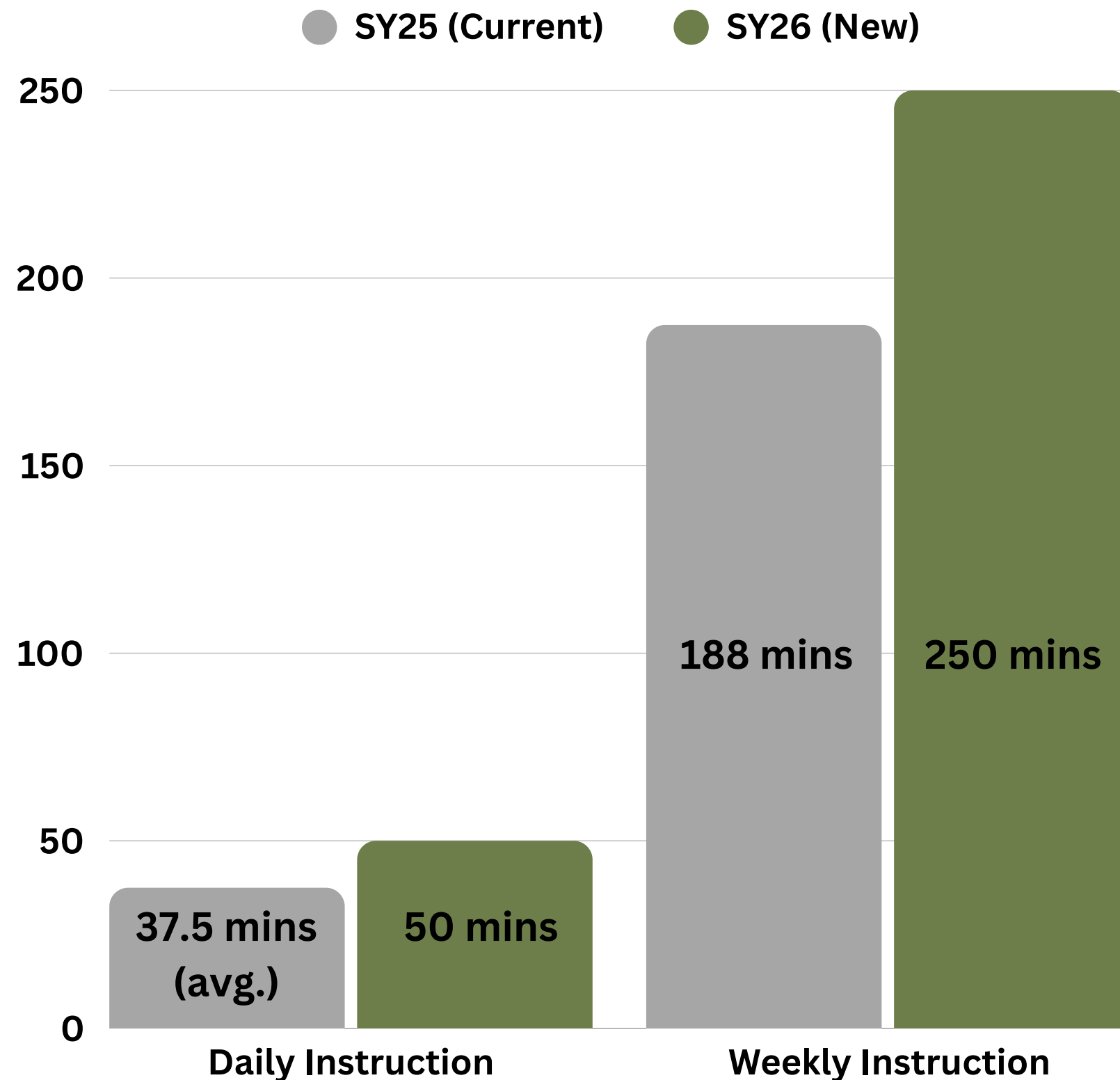
- Core Subjects (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Science)
- Elective 1 (Year-Long)

A/B Schedule (every other day):

- Physical Education
- Elective 2 (Trimester-Long or Year-Long)



SY 25-26 Master Schedule: *Increased Time for Core Subjects*



The new schedule will result in significantly more instructional time in ELA, Math, Science and Social Science for all D97 middle school students.

BY THE NUMBERS: Increase in Time per Core Subject:

1.04 hours more each week

36.7 hours more each year

110 hours more over middle school years



Community Priorities:

SY25-26 Implementation Targets

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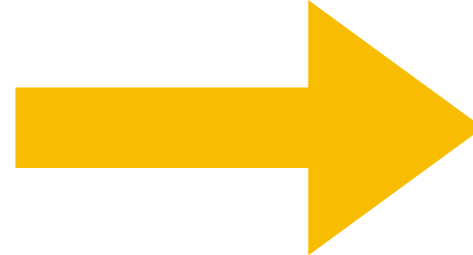
SY 25-26 Master Schedule: *Expanded Elective Opportunities*

SY25

CURRENT SCHEDULE

Student choice is limited.

- World Language (required)
 - Spanish
 - French
- Elective choice (1)
 - Performing Art
 - Visual Art



SY26

NEW MASTER SCHEDULE

More opportunities for student choice and exploration.

Electives:

- Elective 1 (Daily)
 - Year-Long Course
- AND**
- Elective 2 (A/B Rotation - every other day)
 - 3 Trimester-Long Courses **OR**
 - 1 Year-Long Course



Priority Trend: *Expanded Elective Opportunities*

Expanding elective opportunities to better meet diverse student needs, including cross-team or mixed-grade level options and unique offerings.

SY26

NEW MASTER SCHEDULE: ELECTIVE CHOICES

All students will select ONE year-long elective to take every day. The second elective course will be taken on an A/B schedule (every other day); students can choose THREE trimester-long courses or ONE year-long course.

Elective 1: Daily

Duration: Year-Long

Course Options:

Band
Orchestra
Choir
World Language
(Spanish or French)
Art
Speech Drama and Debate

Elective 2: A/B Rotation

Option 1

Duration:
Trimester-Long
(3 per year)

Course Options:

Art
Design
World Cultures
Speech Drama and Debate

OR

Option 2

Duration:
Year-Long

Course Options:

Choir
World Language
General Music



SY26 - SY28

1) Evaluation of electives

2) Design of new electives

- Course Selection
- Writing curriculum
- Professional development
- Implementation of new electives



Community Priorities:

SY25-26 Implementation Targets

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- ✓ **Consistency and alignment** across both middle schools.
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- ✓ **Smoother transitions** between fifth to sixth grade and 8th to high school to ensure alignment and continuity.



SY 25-26 Master Schedule: *Improved Lunch and Social Time*

SY25

CURRENT SCHEDULE

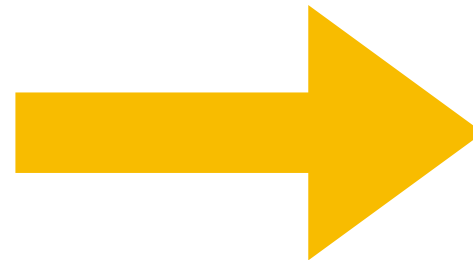
There are currently differences between lunch/social time structures at our two middle schools.

Brooks:

- Lunch/SOAR
- Social time on the field

Julian:

- Lunch/Advisory
- Social time in the front of the building



SY26

NEW MASTER SCHEDULE

For both Brooks and Julian:

Lunch:

- Lunchtime will be paired with WIN (changing from SOAR to "What I Need")

Social Time:

- Both schools will have social time on the field



Community Priorities:

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SY 25-26 Master Schedule: *Two Schools with Consistent Schedules*

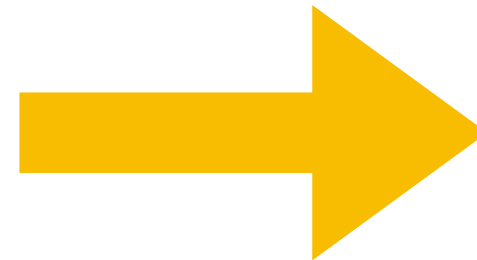
SY25

CURRENT SCHEDULE

Differences between Brooks and Julian:

- Bell schedules
- Differences in SOAR and Advisory
- Team collaboration scheduling

Same core and elective course offerings.



SY26

NEW MASTER SCHEDULE

Creating Alignment:

- Same bell schedule
- WIN/Advisory is the same
- Team times at the same time
(Increase opportunity for cross-site planning, professional learning communities - PLCs)

Same core and elective course offerings.



Community Priorities:

SY25-26 Implementation Targets

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SY 25-26 Master Schedule: *Preparing Students for High School*

Smoother transitions between fifth to sixth grade and eighth grade to high school to ensure alignment and continuity.

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Oak Park and River Forest
High School

District 200

Quick Links

Back-to-School Packet

Bell Schedules

Calendar

Skyward

Academics

Student Activities

Athletics

Families

Students

About

Bell Schedules

Mondays, Regular Wednesdays, and Fridays

2024-2025 regular arrival Wednesdays:

- August 21, 28
- March 19
- May 7, 14, 21

Period	Time
Period 1	8:00-8:49
Period 2	8:54-9:47
Period 3	9:52-10:41
Period 4	10:46-11:35
Period 5	11:40-12:29
Period 6	12:34-1:23
Period 7	1:28-2:17
Period 8	2:22-3:11

Tuesdays and Thursdays

A 15-minute Advisory period for all students takes place between periods 2 and 3. Please note: There will be no passes issued to students during the 15-minute Advisory period.

Period	Time
Period 1	8:00-8:47
Period 2	8:52-9:39
Advisory	9:44-9:59
Period 3	10:04-10:51
Period 4	10:56-11:43
Period 5	11:48-12:35
Period 6	12:40-1:27
Period 7	1:32-2:19
Period 8	2:24-3:11

OPRFHS Bell Schedule



Community Priorities:

On Our Radar for the Future

- ✓ **Adjusting the length and structure of class periods**, with an emphasis on daily schedules for core subjects.
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Priority Trend: “What I Need” (WIN) - formerly known as SOAR

Re-evaluating and clearly defining the purpose and goals of SOAR and Advisory to maximize their impact.

SY25 CURRENT SCHEDULE

- Both schools provide SOAR
- Middle school course offerings are not aligned

SY26 NEW MASTER SCHEDULE

- Both schools provide WIN model
- Courses offered at both middle schools (trimester)
 - Special education services*
 - African American Studies
 - Access to Algebra
 - Creative Writing
 - MTSS Reading*
 - MTSS Math*
 - Executive Functioning (new)
 - Book Club (new)
 - SEL/Advisory (once per week)

**may require more than one trimester*

SY27 FUTURE WORK

- Evaluation of WIN courses
- Design of WIN courses
 - Selection
 - Writing curriculum
 - Professional development
 - Implementation of new electives
- Explore making African American studies and elective module



Priority Trend: *Redefining Advisory to Increase Connection*

Re-evaluating and clearly defining the purpose and goals of SOAR and Advisory to maximize their impact.

SY25 CURRENT SCHEDULE

- No soft start in the middle schools
- SOAR offerings are not consistent
- Inconsistencies in use of resources

SY26 NEW MASTER SCHEDULE

- Change SOAR to WIN
- Same course offerings at both middle schools
- Interventions and enrichment
- Development and advisory structure and resources revision/adoption process

SY27 FUTURE WORK

- Implementation of advisory structure
 - Structure
 - Resources
 - Professional development
- Collection of feedback to inform adjustments
 - Students
 - Families
 - Staff

Next Steps





April to May: *Prepare to Implement*

- **Course Selection and Scheduling**
 - Collect and input course selections for rising middle school students
- **Prepare Student and Staff Schedules**
 - Generate student schedules and ensure courses and classes are balanced effectively



April to May: *Prepare to Implement*

Projected Timeline

Week of April 14	Course selection letters sent home	Students and Families of rising 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students
Week of May 12	6th Grade Student Panels will visit each Elementary school for Q&A about the Middle School Experience	Rising 6th grade students
Week of May 12	Virtual orientation	Families of rising 6th grade students + any new students to Oak Park D97
Week of May 12	Student-Led Brooks/Julian Building Tours for Students and Families	Families of rising 6th grade students + any new students to Oak Park D97
August 12-14	Middle School Connection August 12-14,2025	Rising 6th graders
August 12 - 19, 2025	Host site-based “Welcome Back” events to build community and provide an overview of the new schedule.	Families of rising 6th grade students + any new students to Oak Park D97



SY26: Evaluate and Improve

- **Collect feedback**
 - Collect SY26 mid-year feedback from students, families and staff
 - Use insights to make adjustments and ensure continuous improvement.
- **Ensure consistent access to learning experiences between Brooks and Julian**
 - Equitable course offerings and access for all our students in both middle schools
 - Increase and improve instruction and curriculum alignment through teacher collaboration across both middle schools



Thank you!
Any Questions?