

PMSS Bell Schedule with a Common Lunch For 2009-2010

FAQs –Frequently Asked Questions

As you know, discussions have been held regarding a “new” bell schedule that will include a common lunch. Here is some information to further address frequently asked questions.

1. How did the discussion start regarding changing the bell schedule and introducing a common lunch?

From December 2007 though to October 2008, the school began a Vision process to investigate our school’s strengths, areas that need improvement, barriers, future student needs, future career opportunities, global issues and the development of the PMSS Graduate Profile. We involved Vision Groups of students (vision team Grades 9 to12 -30 students, Dare to Care Program Grade 9 to12 students -125 students), staff, parents, Parent Advisory Council and School Planning Council. In October 2008, Vision Themes with Focus Areas were identified. The four Theme areas are Personal Wellness, Structures of Learning, Inclusive Programs of Excellence and Socially Responsible Behaviour.

Our school lens is around “Balance for our Learning Community”. From our conversations came the sense that as a school, we need to model balance, personal wellness and connecting opportunities for “students with students”, “staff with staff” and “students with staff”. The focus on **common time together** for everyone became clear.

In the Structures of Learning Theme, one of the Focus Areas is “Building a School Timetable” that would meet the needs of the Learning Community. The result was a common lunch with considerations regarding the whole school community, not just one group.

Currently we have built a new timetable that houses the majority of the students in a four block day. We will always have courses running outside the timetable such as some music courses and some IB Grade 11/12 courses. We have always run Grade 11 and 12 IB (International Baccalaureate) courses in blocks 0, 6 and in the evening for music. This use of blocks outside the timetable will continue to occur, in order to accommodate music and IB courses where appropriate. The new timetable allows the majority of the students to have a four block day with a 55 minute lunch in the middle of the day.

2. What are the blocks on the new bell schedule?

Blocks	Time	Length	Information
0 Before school	7:10 am – 8:25 am Warning Bell: 8:25 am	75 mins.	<p>Courses traditionally scheduled during block 0 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concert Choir • Vocal Jazz Choir • IB Math 12 (HL) • IB Math 12 (SL) • IB English 12 <p>The new courses added are IB Biology 12A and IB English 11/ IB TOK 11</p>
1	8:30 am- 9:45 am	75 mins.	
2	9:50 am– 11:10 am	80 mins.	75 minute class and 5 minute announcements
3 Lunch	11:10 am-12:05 pm	55 mins.	<p>Courses scheduled during block 3/lunch are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band 9/10 • Jazz Band 9-12 • SOAR Leadership 10-12 • Peer Tutoring 10-12 • Athletic Leadership/DPA 10-12
4	12:10 pm- 1:25 pm	75 mins.	
5	1:30 pm- 2:50 pm	80 mins.	75 minute class and 5 minute announcements.
6 Afterschool	2:50 pm- 4:05 pm	75 mins.	<p>The classes traditionally scheduled in block 6 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Cheer and Dance 9-12 • Jazz Band 11/12 • Peer Tutoring 10-12 <p>A new course added is IB Physics 11</p>
Evening	Tuesday and Thursday evenings	Time varies per course over the week.	<p>The classes traditionally scheduled in the evening are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Band/Band 11/12 • Strings Orchestra 9-12

3. How will the new timetable impact the Ministry of Education (MOE) Dogwood Certificate students?

MOE students represent 66 % of the student body. Students who are completing the MOE Graduate Program from Grade 9-12 will complete a minimum of 8 courses each year from Grade 9 to 12. Students may choose to take a ninth course such as music (choir, vocal jazz choir, concert band, jazz band or strings orchestra), peer tutoring, SOAR leadership and Athletic Leadership. The ninth course could be scheduled in block 0, lunch or after school. So this additional course that the students selected will be programmed at a special time in the day and therefore may extend their day. But the majority of the students will take four classes each semester and eight classes over the year. This new timetable schedule will allow the majority of these students to begin school at 8:30 am and end at 2:50 pm.

4. How will the new timetable impact the IB (International Baccalaureate) Diploma Students?

The International Baccalaureate students, Grade 9-12, represent 34% of the student body. The IB Program students select this “**Program of Choice**” over other educational programs in our district. This program is a World IB Program that offers a course of study. The IB Program syllabus is different from the BC Ministry of Education Program and therefore the content and number of courses required to earn an IB Diploma or IB Certificates varies.

IB Grade 11 and 12 student (16 % of the student body), in particular, have additional courses added to their program to meet the IB Diploma requirements. Therefore, due to the nature of the IB Program, these students' courses will extend beyond the regular 4 block day (8:30 am to 2:50 pm). Grade 12 IB students take 5 to possibly 6 courses over the semester and therefore require more blocks over the day. If these students have added a music course to their daily program, as their 5th or 6th course, then their day will extend into block 0, lunch, afterschool or evening. Students who choose to enroll in the IB Program have always had their courses scheduled on an extended day. This will not change with this new schedule.

5. With a common lunch, how will we manage with the cafeteria service and volume of students out at one time?

Next year we shall be down in enrolment to approximately just over 1300 students. Our student population is now in-line with our school building capacity of 1200 students. Our common lunch will look different. We will have most of the 1300 students out on a 55 minute common lunch.

The cafeteria service will be reconfigured and the access will be significantly changed to deal with the larger number of PMSS students purchasing their lunch. Other district secondary schools with smaller kitchens, similar eating areas and larger student populations are able to service students within 20 minutes. We will have a 55 minute lunch time to access the cafeteria kitchen.

Some changes to the kitchen service, equipment and multipurpose room will occur to assist with all of the students out on a common lunch. These changes are:

- The cafeteria kitchen will have two areas that mirror each other, meaning that there will be two cafeteria service areas in the kitchen.
- Two cafeteria lines will be provided with a noon hour and cashier manning each side of the kitchen. This will increase access.
- Food preparation will be completed prior to the lunch hour. Ready made products will be available to pick-up quickly and paid for at the cashier.
- Pre-orders in the morning (8:00 am to 8:30 am) for students and staff will still be available. A special line up for students and staff will be organized so the food pick-up is quick.
- Additional tables will be added to the cafeteria.
- Hot water containers for instant soups will be in the multipurpose room.
- Additional microwaves will be added to the multipurpose room for access.

In addition, students will be able to:

- Eat in the hallways as they have done so in the past. The expectation is that students continue to demonstrate socially responsible behaviours regarding conduct, litter and recycling.
- Access additional recycling containers and garbage cans in the hallways and cafeteria to ensure that the hallways remain clean and safe.
- Have access to some designated classrooms for eating.
- Be outside for lunch
- Leave campus to go home for lunch or eat at establishments in the community. Students who leave campus are expected to be in attendance in their 4th period class at 12:10 pm.

6. What activities will be available during lunch hour?

Students will have a variety of opportunities during lunch. A common lunch provides access for all students to join activities, meet with friends and attend student meetings. Some of the common lunch activities that students will be able to participate in are:

- visit with their friends and eat lunch together
- have a rest from classes and rejuvenate their energy
- attend intramurals –personal wellness and physical activity
- attend scheduled school wide activities i.e. Student Council events, student-teacher games, Club Day, Halloween Day, Spirit days, etc.
- complete DPA activities (Daily Physical Activity)
- attend student council meetings
- meet and participate in one of the thirty student clubs
- work on homework individually or in collaborative teams on projects
- go to the library to study, research or use computers
- go to the career resource room center for career information, scholarship information or use the computers (career room and computer room 322)
- attend tutorial sessions with peer tutors and teachers, if schedule

7. What is the access to the library?

Due to the new bell schedule students will have access to the library:

- In the morning from 8:00 am to 8:30 am
- At lunch from 11:10 am to 12:05 pm
- After school from 2:50 pm to 3:30 pm **NEW after school hours for access*

8. What is the access to computers?

More and more students are using their own laptops at school on the wireless web. Our school is completely wired for Internet access in all areas of the building including the library and multipurpose area.

For students who need access to computers the library has 30 computers and the Career Resource Center/Computer Room 322 a total of 36 computers available. The Resource Room Coordinator will support students with career and computer access. Students will be able to access their student accounts and work on school assignments, projects and surf the Internet for education information.

9. What will the impact be on the volume of students leaving the school at 2:50pm and catching public transit?

Currently this school year, 1185 students exit the building at 3:15pm. Next year we will have 1210 students exit at 2:50 pm. The difference is negligible. The impact on the transit system is probably similar. We have several students walking home as well as being picked up by parents.

Of course, the total number of exiting students could be lower as some of these students may be participating in after school club activities, sports teams, tutorials, etc. Therefore, the number of students leaving most likely will be lower and the impact on the transit system similar.

If you have any further questions please contact, Ms. Karen Jensen, Principal, at Port Moody Secondary School.

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