



A Schedule for Success

IN ALIGNMENT WITH the Barrington 220 Board of Education’s strategic goal to seek optimal time for learning, the district is adjusting start- and end-times for all schools beginning in the fall of 2017. Changing school start times is the third and most complex component seeking optimal time for learning which was created by 330 community members during the 2008–2009 school year. Improving the school-year calendar and implementing kindergarten enrichment have previously been accomplished as part of this strategic goal.

Since the start time decision was made in November, district staff members have been working diligently to make operational adjustments needed to ensure a smooth transition for students when school starts on August 21.

I spoke with Superintendent Dr. Brian Harris to learn about changes related to the new start times, and what the community can expect for next school year.

QB: *For those who may not know, what are the*

new start- and end-times for each level next school year?

BH: Barrington High School’s schedule will be 8:30 a.m. to 3:21 p.m. Barrington Middle Schools will be in session from 9 a.m. to 3:48 p.m. The elementary school schedule is 8 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

The Wednesday early release schedule will remain in place, with some slight adjustments. Middle and elementary schools will still release students approximately 30 minutes early on Wednesdays to allow for staff members to take part in professional development activities. Barrington High School will also release students early on Wednesdays, but by only 8 minutes.

QB: *The start-time adjustment was made to better align with adolescent sleep research, suggesting students have better overall health with a later start to the school day. Will there be guidelines in place for activities scheduled early in the morning or late in the evening?*

BH: Absolutely. At the high school level, activities and practices prior to the school day will be limited. Specifically, activities and practices prior

to the school day will only be scheduled when necessitated by facility limitations or extenuating circumstances. For after-school sports practices, the majority will be held from 3:45 to 6:15 p.m. to allow students time in the evening for homework and family time.

At the middle school level, each athletic team may hold morning practice no more than once per week from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. Evening athletics and clubs will conclude by 5 p.m.

For elementary students, sports and fine arts activities are limited to holding morning practice only once per week. Those practices may not begin earlier than 7 a.m. The majority of club and other activities will occur after school.

QB: *Since elementary school will be releasing students earlier next year, there have been some concerns raised regarding child care. Similar concerns have been raised regarding morning supervision for middle school students. How is the district addressing this issue?*

BH: Barrington 220 is working closely with several of our community partners to ensure care is in place for families that need it.

The Barrington Park District is extending its KEEP program to be housed at six elementary buildings for before- and after-school care, including Countryside, Hough, Grove, Lines, North Barrington, and Roslyn. We will continue to work with the South Barrington Park District at Rose and the Boys & Girls Club of Dundee Township at Sunny Hill. Each of them has made the necessary adjustments to meet the needs of our families.

At the middle school level, we have partnered with Champions, a respected care provider, to provide services at both Barrington Middle Schools before school. Information on elementary and middle school care options has been distributed to our families.

QB: *Will there be any adjustments made to the bus schedules due to the start-time changes?*

BH: Our Board of Education recently approved a new contract with Barrington Transportation Company and we are working closely with them to schedule routes for next year. Barrington High School will have its own bus tier, allowing for greater flexibility across all the grade levels. Buses at the elementary level will not pick up students



PHOTO: TAO ZHANG

Barrington 220 Superintendent Dr. Brian Harris

earlier than 7 a.m. Buses will drop students off no earlier than 7:45 a.m. High school buses will drop off students at 8:10 a.m., and middle school buses will drop students off at 8:45 a.m. We will have similar tiers in the afternoon.

QB: *The new start-times will allow new academic opportunities for high school students. Can you explain what those will be?*

BH: Barrington High School will open at 7:30 a.m. each morning. During this time, students can access the cafeteria, utilize the Test Makeup Center, or study in the Library or Commons area. Additionally, staff will be available for tutoring and student support beginning at 7:55 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Following the school day, the Test Makeup Center and Library will be available to students until 4:15 p.m.

In addition, students may have the option to take a class before or after the standard school day. Based on student interests, select courses may be available from 7:25–8:24 a.m. and 3:28–4:27 p.m. Students who choose to participate in the optional morning course offerings will be required to provide their own transportation to school. Students selecting the optional afternoon class will have the opportunity to ride the activity bus home. Students interested in this option are encouraged to talk to their school counselor.

QB: *Is there anything else you'd like to tell the community regarding the start time adjustments for next school year?*

BH: We are confident the change in start times will have a positive impact on our students from preschool through 12th grade. We will be closely monitoring success metrics related to the start-time change like student attendance and discipline, health trends, academics success, and more. Lastly, we are very appreciative of the Barrington school community for its engagement and passion on this topic at such a high level over the last couple of years. We are grateful for your support as we embark on this transition. U



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