



LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SHARON HOBBS
PRINCIPAL, GRADES 5-8

January 3, 2011

To: Lincoln School Committee
From: Sharon Hobbs
RE: Middle School Scheduling

The current schedule for the middle school allows students to receive instruction in the core academic subjects of English, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science and Foreign Language each week. Students also receive specialized instruction in Art, Music, Wellness, and Technology and Engineering each week and have the opportunity to choose band, chorus, orchestra, or drama as an exploratory subject.

Given projected enrollment and staffing needs, combined with the Fiscal '12 budget gap, we have an opportunity to redefine our program options. We built our program on four foundational blocks and seek to maintain these aspects of middle school programming:

1. **Maintaining the team structure** – having four teachers and specialists who teach the same students and know them well allows for strong student/teacher relationships and for an effective level of conversation about student learning and instruction.
2. **Maintaining our current program** – the ability to offer students exploratory options, in addition to the core curriculum, with highly qualified, licensed content specific teachers, and is important. Thinking about the staffing to allow for the programming is one of our challenges.
3. **Continuing to further the commitment to the community** – the Developmental Design has helped us to create a community with a clearer focus and more explicitly stated common goals. We plan to create an advisory block in all of the grade levels next year to allow for that work to continue to grow.
4. **Allowing time for interventions and extensions** – much as Hanscom Middle School has done this year, we are looking at ways to give teachers a chance to deliver remedial instruction, support emerging learning and extend and enhance the curriculum for students based on their individual learning needs.

To accomplish this, I am recommending the schedule adjust to a six-day rotation, which allows us to maintain the core academic subjects meeting every day and creates flexibility for the specialized instruction we currently offer. In addition, a six-day rotation allows us to have three days in a six-day cycle with a 20-minute advisory block and a 30-minute extension/remediation block. The amount of time that English, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science and Foreign Language meet will remain essentially the same. The specialized subjects will meet slightly less, but students will have other opportunities to do more in the arts (in addition to other academic offerings) within the extension block.

The extension block will give us two programmatic options. One is a remedial option for students within the school day. Students will be assigned based on entry criteria such as MCAS scores, local common assessments, and classroom performance. There will be exit criteria as well so that as students show proficiency, they are able to move to other academic extension choices. The second part of this block will include student choice and will be extension opportunities. Some of these could include community service learning projects, a school newspaper, math counts, specialized music ensembles, book groups, and literary magazine. These activities will be scheduled three times per week. I will be working with the faculty to develop specific offerings should you approve the proposed adjustment to the schedule.

In the sixth and eight grades, in this transitional year, we will also add a writing class for each student for one trimester. This will allow the English teachers additional time for instruction in writing, ensuring that our students are well prepared to transition to the expectations of high school writing.

The program described above will allow for staffing adjustments in the following manner:

- Reduce mathematics .8
- Reduce engineering 1.0 by having the science teachers teach engineering
- Reduce social studies .2

I look forward to continuing our conversation on January 6 when we meet again.

The Lincoln School Sample Grade 6 **Student** Schedule – 2010-2011 – **Current Year**

Times	Monday	Tuesday	Times	Wednesday	Times	Thursday	Friday
8-8:08	Homeroom	Homeroom			8-8:08	Homeroom	Homeroom
8:10-8:59	Art	Spanish	8:00-8:44	English	8:10-8:59	Art	Spanish
9:01-9:16	Advisory	Advisory	8:46-9:30	Math	9:01-9:50	English	English
9:18-10:16	English	English	9:34-10:16 SNACK	Science	9:52-10:41 SNACK	Math	Math
10:18-11:16	Math	Math	10:18-11:02	Social Studies	10:43-11:32	Science	Science
11:18-12:16	Science	Science	11:06-11:49	Saxophone Lessons	11:36-12:16	Lunch	Lunch
12:18-1:54	Lunch	Lunch	11:52-12:35	Spanish	12:20-1:08	Social Studies	Wellness
12:58-1:59	Social Studies	Social Studies			1:10-1:59	Band	Social Studies
2:01-2:50	Music/ Engineering	Wellness			2:01-2:50	Spanish	Music/ Engineering

The Lincoln School Sample Grade 7/8 **Student** Schedule – 2010-2011 – **Current Year**

Times	Monday	Tuesday	Times	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8-8:08	Homeroom	Homeroom			Homeroom	Homeroom
8:10-8:59	English	English Long block Math Long Block	8:00-8:44	English	Music/ Engineering	Social Studies Long Block Science Long Block
9:01-9:50	Math		8:46-9:30	Math	French	
9:52-10:41	Social Studies		9:34-10:16	French	English	
10:43-11:32	Art	French	10:18-11:02	Social Studies	Math	English
11:36-12:16	Lunch	Lunch	11:06-11:49	Art	Lunch	Lunch
12:20-1:08	French	Social Studies	11:52-12:35	Science	Social Studies	French
1:10-1:59	Music/ Engineering	Wellness			Science	Wellness
2:01-2:50	Science	Science			Orchestra	Math

The Lincoln School Sample **Teacher** Schedule – 2010-2011 – **Current Year**

Times	Monday	Tuesday	Times	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8-8:08	Homeroom	Homeroom			Homeroom	Homeroom
8:10-8:59	English section A	English Section A	8:00-8:44	Planning	English section B	English section D
9:01-9:50	Planning	Planning	8:46-9:30	Planning	English section D	Planning
9:52-10:41	CPT	Planning	9:34-10:16	English section B	English section A	English section C
10:43-11:32	English section B	English section B	10:18-11:02	English section A	English section C	Planning
11:36-12:16	Lunch	Lunch	11:06-11:49	English section C	Lunch	Lunch
12:20-1:080	English section C –	CPT	11:52-12:35	English section D	Planning	English section B Long block (12:20-1:30)
1:10-1:59	Long block (12:20-1:30)	English section D			Planning	
2:01-2:50	English section D Long block (1:32-2:50)	English section C			Planning – periodic coverage of Team	

*CPT = Common Planning Time

The Lincoln School Grade 6 Student Proposed Schedule – 2011-2012

Times	1	3	4	Times	Wednesday	Times	2	Thursday
8-8:08	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom			8-8:08	Homeroom	Homeroom
8:10-9:00	Art	Wellness	Spanish	8:00-8:45	English	8:10-9:00	Spanish	English
9:02-9:52	English	English	English	8:48-9:31	Math	9:02-9:52	English	Math
9:54-10:44	Math	Music/ Engineering/ Writing	Music/ Engineering/ Writing	9:34-10:17	Social Studies	9:54-10:44	Math	Social Studies
10:48-11:38	Science	Math	Math	10:20-11:03	Science	10:48-11:38	Social Studies	Art
11:40-12:00	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	11:06-11:49	Trumpet Lessons	11:40-12:15	Lunch	Lunch
12:02-12:37	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	11:52-12:35	Spanish	12:19-1:09	Music/ Engineering/ Writing	Science
12:41-1:11	Extension	Extension	Extension			1:11-2:01	Science	Band
1:13-2:03	Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies			2:03-2:50	Wellness	Drama
2:05-2:50	Spanish	Science	Science					

The Lincoln School Science Teacher's Proposed Schedule – 2011-2012

Times	1	3	4	Times	Wednesday	Times	2	Thursday
8-8:08	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom			8-8:08	Homeroom	Homeroom
8:10-9:00	Engineering 1 Trimester	Planning	Engineering 1 Trimester	8:00-8:45	6 Science	8:10-9:00	Engineering 1 Trimester	6 Science
9:02-9:52	6 Science	6 Science	6 Science	8:48-9:31	½ year 7 th Engineering	9:02-9:52	6 Science	Planning
9:54-10:44	Planning	Planning	Engineering 1 Trimester	9:34-10:17	6 Science	9:54-10:44	Planning	6 Science
10:48-11:38	6 Science	½ year 7 th Engineering	Planning	10:20-11:03	6 Science	10:48-11:38	6 Science	Engineering 1 Trimester
11:40-12:00	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	11:06-11:49	Planning	11:40-12:15	Lunch	Lunch
12:02-12:37	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	11:52-12:35	Planning	12:19-1:09	Engineering 1 Trimester	6 Science
12:41-1:11	Extension	Extension	Extension			1:11-2:01	6 Science	CPT
1:13-2:03	6 Science	6 Science	6 Science			2:03-2:50	Engineering 1 Trimester	Planning
2:05-2:50	Planning	6 Science	6 Science					

**CPT = Common Planning Time

The Lincoln School Grade 5-8 Art Teacher's Proposed Schedule – 2011-2012

Times	1	3	4	Times	Wednesday	Times	2	Thursday
8-8:08	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom			8-8:08	Homeroom	Homeroom
8:10-9:00	5 th grade Art	Planning	½ year 7 th Art	8:00-8:45	½ year 7 th Art	8:10-9:00	Planning	½ year 7 th Art
9:02-9:52	Planning	Planning	8 th grade Art	8:48-9:31	½ year 7 th Art	9:02-9:52	Planning	½ year 7 th Art
9:54-10:44	6 th grade Art	6 th grade Art	6 th grade Art	9:34-10:17	Planning	9:54-10:44	8 th grade Art	Planning
10:48-11:38	½ year 7 th Art	½ year 7 th Art	Planning	10:20-11:03	Planning	10:48-11:38	½ year 7 th Art	Planning
11:40-12:00	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	11:06-11:49	8 th grade Art	11:40-12:15	Lunch	Lunch
12:02-12:37	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	11:52-12:35	6 th grade Art	12:19-1:09	6 th grade Art	Planning
12:41-1:11	Extension	Extension	Extension			1:11-2:01	8 th grade Art	5 th grade Art
1:13-2:03	8 th grade Art	5 th grade Art	Planning			2:03-2:50	6 th grade Art	5 th grade Art
2:05-2:50	Planning	8 th grade Art	Planning					