

## A DETAILED REVIEW OF THE 7 PERIOD SCHEDULING.

# A SCHEDULE

45  
MINUTES

V.S.

90  
MINUTES

**H**ectic. Inconvenient. Insufficient. Atrocious. Substandard. Faulty. Incommensurate. Those are the words I would use to describe the 7-period schedule.

For a very long time, we had a four block 90-minute A and B day schedule which was working fine. Then the DMPS school board voted to change the schedule we had to a 7-period 45-minute every day, plus odd and even days. This complex schedule is terrible.

While there are positives to this schedule personally, I feel that the negatives out weigh these.

First of all, the teachers are affected by this immensely. Teachers like Melissa Helm, Kathleen McNeal, Chris Knee and Sarah Hamilton teach different classes each period. This new schedule cuts down their planning time in half and some days there is none.

“I’m one of the teachers with 10 preps throughout the year so it becomes difficult with so many preps and not a lot of time,” business teacher Kathleen McNeal said.

Secondly, students can only earn 28 credits in four years. That is four less than last year. In our past schedule, students had more opportunities to take classes they wanted that would benefit their future. With the new schedule, they lose their opportunities.

“That’s the worst thing about it.

Before students had eight options, now they only have seven so students that want to graduate early can’t, students that want to be involved in more electives or Central Campus can’t. Busing has also caused problems,” counselor Janet Stribling said.



Thirdly, this schedule increases numbers of transitions. This could increase safety risks as conflicts arise between students. Also, with students moving around so much, keeping track of high risks students could become more complicated.

Central is also affected by this as busing becomes harder. Before Central students would leave their classes five minutes early to make the bus on time. But since there is less time in classes, administration will not let students out of class early because students shouldn't be missing 20 minutes of class a week. The result of this is students being left behind.

Also, the 45-minute period classes gives no time for students to finish assignments, making students have more homework. Homework is not bad at all, but for students that have more

than one job, this makes their life outside of school increasingly hard, including having no time for just sleeping. Students' health should have been noted in the decision for changing the schedule.

There are plenty of positive side effects from this schedule. Students get to see their teachers more every week, which creates a lot more consistency.

Will we change back to a block schedule?

When emailing superintendent Thomas Ahart about an interview involving the schedule changes, I was redirected to Michael Vukovich who led the team for the high school schedule change. I was sent a document about the schedule change conflicts but was not answered about the possibility of going back to the block schedule.

I and many others would hope that they change back for the students' and staff's sake.

# IN REVIEW