



# Buford Update:

## Course Info & Master Schedule



# Course Selection Process

- Mr. K, Ms. Saunders and Mr. U met with rising 7th graders at Walker:
  - January 19th 8:55-10:58
  - January 20th 8:55-10:58
- Communication to families of Rising 7th graders
  - [Letter sent to Rising 7th grade families on 1/19/2022](#)
- Information night was held for rising 7th grade families
  - 2/1/2022



# Course Selection Process

- Several *School Messenger* messages were sent to Buford families with the course catalog and a video (2/18/2022 and 2/25/2022)

*Good afternoon Buford Families,*

*It is hard to believe that the school year is coming to an end in just a few months! As we gear up for spring assessments next month we will also begin our course selections for the 2022-23 school year on March 1, 2022. Students will have an opportunity to select their courses alongside our scheduling team during their US History II class period. On March 1st your student will bring home a course request worksheet outlining the courses they select for the 2022-23 school year. Prior to March 1st, please review the course catalogue presentation attached below and teacher recommendations shared by your student's teacher to carefully discuss with your student the appropriate courses to take next year. The deadline to make any course changes will be June 1, 2022.*

*Good afternoon Buford Families,*

This is a friendly reminder that next week we will begin working with the rising 8th graders to complete their class schedule for 2022-23 school year. Today your student will bring home a course request worksheet to complete with you and return back to school on Tuesday for scheduling. If students select health and physical education during the regular school hours they will have an opportunity to select 3 elective courses. For information about the structure of our elective courses click video below. For a comprehensive list of our elective options please review the Buford course catalogue below. You can also access both video and presentation on our school website under "What's Happening at Buford Middle School". If you have any questions please feel free to contact Assistant Principal Kismiya Sapp.

- [2022-23 Buford Course Catalogue.pdf](#)
- [Buford Final Draft.mp4](#)



# Course Selection Process

- A *School Messenger* message was sent to Walker families (from Walker admin) with the course catalog, the video, and a Course Request Worksheet on 2/28/2022

*Good afternoon Walker Families,*

*We are so excited to welcome our rising 7th graders to our Buford Family. It is hard to believe that the school year is coming to an end in the next few months! On March 9th and 10th our Buford scheduling team will visit Walker to begin scheduling students for the 2022-23 school year. This week your student will bring home a course request worksheet outlining the courses they can select for the 2022-23 school year. Please complete the course request worksheet with your student and return back to school on March 9th and 10th for scheduling. Please review the attached course catalogue presentation and family video for a comprehensive list of elective courses to discuss with your student the appropriate courses to take next year. The deadline to make any course changes will be June 1, 2022.*

*All students that take health and physical education during the normal school hours will have an opportunity to select 3 elective courses. If one high school credit course is taken students can select 1 non-high school credit course. If students choose early morning or after school health and physical education they have the opportunity to take 4 elective courses (2 high school credit courses max).*

- [2022-23 Buford Course Catalogue.pdf](#)
- [Buford Final Draft.mp4](#)
- [Course Request WS](#)



## Course Selection Process

- Course selections were completed at Buford on March 1st.
- Course selections were completed at Walker on March 9th and March 10th.
- All who were in attendance were Ms.Sapp, Mr. U, Ms. Salzburg, Ms. Washington, Ms. Z (intern).

**\*\*Buford had a goal to have schedules completed by April, but as they were unable to accomplish that goal, parents will have until September to make schedule changes. \*\***



# Selection of Band Students

According to the 2022 Program of Studies, students are able to enroll in band at Buford if one of two things occur:

- Teacher recommendation
  - Middle School Concert Band - Full Year
  - Middle School Concert Band Percussion - Full Year
- Audition and Teacher Recommendation
  - Middle School Symphonic Band - Full Year



## Demographics of Courses with High School Credits

ETHNICITY					
	Ethnicity				
COURSE	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Total
Algebra I (Virtual)				1	1
Algebra I-Honors	9	20	17	65	111
Geometry (Virtual)	1				1
Geometry-Honors	3	8	3	41	55
Engineering 1	6	27	16	27	76
Entrepreneurship Ed Urban Farming	3	6	2	2	13
French I-Honors	3	14	4	19	40
French II-Honors		5	2	21	28
Latin I Honors	2		2	11	15
Latin II-Honors			1	8	9
Spanish I -Honors	5	70	32	30	137
Spanish II-Honors	4	15	10	30	59
Grand Total	36	165	89	255	545

# Teaming & Schedule Model

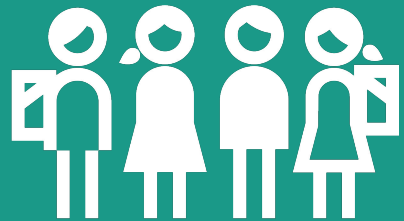




---

# Key Points

- Students will be organized into instructional teams
  - 2 teams per grade level
- To support teams, we'll have new class schedules
  - same school hours





# Introducing Team Instruction



- Teams are already successfully in place at Walker
  - Two teams per grade level
  - Strong sense of community and deeper relationships among team members
  - Better coordination among the 6-8 teachers who lead each team
- Each team move follows the same bell schedule (which is unique to their team)
  - Reduces number of students moving through hallways during class transitions, increasing safety
- Teams were recommended as part of Buford's modernized facilities. Why wait?



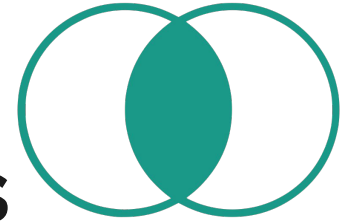
# New Bell Schedule



- Supports team structure
- Developed with consultant who has worked across the state and nation
- New schedule better aligns with common practices around the state
- Based on student/staff feedback, this schedule reduces the longest learning block from 93 minutes to 80
- Allows every teacher to have two consecutive 45-minute planning periods, daily
- Adds instructional minutes to math/English to meet students' core needs
- Gives electives the same or more minutes compared to Walker's schedule



# 2021-22 vs. 2022-23 Schedules



## What's the **Same** Next Year?

- Same number of course selections (4 core classes plus 2 or more electives)
- 25 minute lunch
- Offers early morning or afternoon PE for students who choose it
- Allows students to select high school credit-earning courses
- Some electives will meet every day; most will meet every other day

## What's **New** Next Year?

- Each team will have different a unique bell schedule (like at Walker)
- Each student will have same bell schedule every day of the week
- Students can now participate in up to 4 elective classes during the school day (if the electives are not high-school credits)

# Sample Student Schedules, Side-by-Side

2021-22

Tuesday

Spanish 8:30-9:26
PE (note, no orchestra) 9:30-10:25
Math 10:29-11:24
English 11:28-12:49
Lunch 12:52-1:17
Social Studies 1:21-2:16
Science 2:20-3:15

Wednesday

Spanish 8:30-10:03
Math 10:07-11:40
Strive (Intervention/ Enrichment) 11:44-1:09
Lunch 1:13-1:38
Social Studies 1:42-3:15

2022-23

Tuesday

WIN (Enrichment/Intervention) 8:30-9:05
Spanish 9:08-9:53
Orchestra 9:56-10:41
Math 10:44-12:01
Lunch 12:05-12:30
English 12:33-1:53
Social Studies 1:56-3:15

Wednesday

Orchestra Practice 8:30-9:05
Spanish 9:08-9:53
PE 9:56-10:41
Math 10:44-12:01
Lunch 12:05-12:30
English 12:33-1:53
Science 1:56-3:15

# When Will Courses Meet (2022-23)?

## Core classes:

- English and Math: 80 minutes daily
- Social Studies and Science: 80 minutes every other day

## Electives:

- High-school credit courses: 45 minutes daily (this is required to meet state standards for learning time)
- Other electives: 45 minutes every other day (fine arts classes also have 35-minute practice times every other day)

## WIN (intervention/enrichment):

- 35 minutes daily (again, sometimes this is practice time for fine arts classes)





# More about Electives

## High School Credit Electives that Meet Every Day:

- Engineering 1 (8th grade)
- Entrepreneurship to Urban Farming (8th grade)
- World languages (French 1-2, Latin 1-2, Spanish 1-2)

## Electives that Meet Every Other Day:

- AVID
- Fine arts (art, band, choir, orchestra, theatre)
- Foundations of Engineering,
- Introduction to urban farming
- Physical education (PE)

### More about PE:

- PE is called an elective since it is not a core class, but it is required in both 7th and 8th grade.
- Students can choose to take PE before or after regular school hours to free up more space for electives during the school day.



## Example A: 4 non-high school credit courses

Monday	Tuesday
PE	Band
Intro to Engineering	Art

## Example B: 1 high school credit course, 2 other electives

Monday	Tuesday
French 1	French 1
PE	Theatre





## Example C: 1 high school credit course, 2 other electives, PE

Monday	Tuesday	Outside School Hours
Latin 1	Latin 1	Early Morning PE
Intro to Engineering	Orchestra	

## Example D: 2 high school credit courses, PE

Monday	Tuesday	Outside School Hours
French 2	French 2	
Engineering 1	Engineering 1	After School PE



## Reminders/Next Steps



There is no rush to start earning high school credits. Allowing your child to explore a variety of classes is part of the fun of school.

In year one, we may have some students who need to revisit their course selections due to staff limitations or classes where not enough students enrolled to “make” the class.

In future years, based on feedback, we may revise elective offerings to make sure they meet the needs of our students (we do that every year, anyway).



## Conclusion

Teams and the new schedule will promote:

- Relationship-building/community
- Better coordination
- Safety
- Better staff planning times
- More predictable student schedules (same bell times daily)
- Student exploration of classes

## General Questions?

- Ask tonight!

## Questions about Your Child's Course Selections?

- Email your counselor (including your Walker counselor if child is in 6th grade)



**Thank you for your partnership!**