

Message Draft to MCHS Community
Subject: Adjusted Tutorial Period Pilot for MCHS

Dear Sundevil Community,

As you know, Mt. Carmel High School recently completed a year-long intensive self-study as part of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation process. Our community reviewed multiple forms of data to identify both our strengths and our growth areas, and to develop an Action Plan for continuing improvement based on our findings.

A concern that was identified in survey responses indicated agreement from Students and Parents that, "Student ability to attend beyond tutorial is limited by sports, buses and parent pick-up." Additionally a key self-study finding, which was validated by the WASC Visiting Team, was that Mt. Carmel teachers need expanded professional time to work collaboratively on curriculum, instruction and assessment in order to increase student achievement.

In an attempt to address both concerns, Mt. Carmel will be piloting an adjusted tutorial schedule from January 3 thru June 4, 2012. On Wednesdays, tutorial will be lengthened to 28 minutes in length and placed earlier in the day between periods two and three. Students who need assistance may go to any teacher for help. Those who do not need to attend tutorial will stay on campus for an extended snack break. On Thursdays, tutorial will continue to be offered at the end of the day.

WEDNESDAY (Mid-Day Tutorial)			THURSDAY (After School Tutorial)		
Per. 1	7:30	8:37	Per. 1	7:30	8:37
Per. 2	8:44	9:51	Per. 2	8:44	9:51
Tutorial / Break	9:51	10:19	Break	9:51	10:01
Per.3	10:26	11:37	Per. 3	10:08	11:17
LUNCH	11:37	12:07	Per. 4	11:24	12:31
Per. 4	12:14	1:21	LUNCH	12:31	1:01
Per. 5	1:28	2:35	Per. 5	1:08	2:15
			Tutorial /Break	2:15	2:35

A primary goal of this pilot is to provide students with a longer tutorial period that will be accessible to athletes who leave early for games, students who go off roll 5th period and those with transportation concerns. Due to state "instructional minute" accounting rules, this will also allow us to add 6 more "late start Fridays" for professional collaboration time. In early May we will survey parents, students and teachers about the effectiveness of this hybrid tutorial schedule. Teachers will use this feedback, along with tutorial attendance data, to decide whether to continue this hybrid model next year or to return to the current schedule that provides two 20 minute tutorials at the end of the day.

The revised pilot bell schedule and the calendar reflecting the updated "late start" days are available on our website. We look forward to your feedback as we seek to provide a good learning program for all of our students.

Dawn Kastner, Principal