

Time Warner

by the Scheduling Committee

The continual commitment to improve student learning steered the Pike administration and faculty toward an examination of class schedules two years ago. The coming academic year will see the fruits of that research in new class schedules at all grade levels.

Reshaping Pike's schedule to yield more time

For the past several months, a committee of eleven Pike teachers and division heads led by Colleen Welsh, Head of Upper School, and Denise Elliott, Director of Learning Services, gathered research and visited other schools that employ sundry scheduling options. It also determined the following priorities Pike hopes to achieve through a change in schedules:

- Pace and workload that supports developmentally appropriate learning
- Instructional time and class size that supports best practices in content areas and aligns with priorities in our mission
- Collaborative working time for teachers within and across divisions
- Student discussions with all teachers
- Curriculum discussions
- More opportunities for students to take what they have learned and apply it
- Topics include: enrichment, electives, arts rotation in Upper School
- Dedicated time with students to support PLC work (enrichment, reteaching time)

Clearly, the overarching element here is "time"—how to, in effect, create more time by more efficiently making use of the same time. The solution reached by the committee, after further study of schools that have successfully adopted the system, is the seven-day schedule.

Although it sounds as though the solution is to add two more days to the school week, the seven-day schedule actually rotates over a five-day week. Beginning next September, the first four days of school (school starts on a Tuesday) will be Days One through Four. After the weekend, however, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of the second week will be Days Five, Six, and Seven. Thursday will be Day One again; Friday will be Day Two, and, after the next weekend, Monday will be Day Three, and so on. In other words, there will no longer be such a thing as, for example, a "Monday schedule" or a "Friday schedule." There will, rather, be a "Day One schedule" or a "Day Seven schedule," where the actual day of the week is ever-changing and, for the most part, irrelevant. The one exception will be Wednesday, which will remain a shorter day than the rest. Every schedule that falls on a Wednesday will have its class blocks shortened accordingly.

The Benefits

Although not initially a priority, a significant overall benefit of the seven-day schedule is that Monday and Friday holidays will no longer wreak unequal havoc on a particular subject. Before the academic year begins each year, an official schedule will be created, numbering each in-school day

according to the seven-day rotation. All no-school holidays, vacation days, conference days, and professional development days will be taken into account and will not be numbered. If a Friday was a Day Four, for example, and there is a Monday holiday after the weekend, Tuesday will be Day Five. Only snow days and other unforeseen closings will cause a skip in the numbering for the dropped day.

Schoolwide, the new schedule addresses all the priorities determined to be essential by the committee. Within each division, those priorities manifest themselves in different and beneficial ways.

Upper School

The primary advantages for the Upper School schedule are that class blocks will be lengthened, resulting in core subjects being taught in fifty- or seventy-minute classes, instead of the current forty-minute blocks. That will create fewer transitions during the day, and although each core subject will be taught for the same total amount of time during a week, classes in each subject will not meet every day, as they do now. Thus, students' homework loads will become more manageable. The new schedule provides greater opportunities for project-based learning, creating time for the new electives classes (see following article). The new Upper School schedule will also include a dedicated club time, so that, unlike in the past, clubs will not have to meet during lunch or recess.

Upper School Sample Schedule

Wed		HR	Arrival 8:15-8:20	Day 1 Morning Homeroom	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
A	8:20-9:00	A	8:20-9:10 50 mins.	Math	Arts	Arts	PE	Latin/Ext/ Speech	Science	Science
B	9:00-9:40	B	9:10-10:00 50 mins	Study	Science	English	Latin/Ext/ Speech	English	History	History
C	9:40-10:20	Recess	10:00-20							
	10:20-40 recess	C	10:20-11:10 50 mins.	Language	English	Math	Language	Math	English	Language
D	10:40-11:20	D	11:10-12:00 50 mins.	Science	History	History	Study	Advisor	Study	Latin/Ext/ Speech
E	11:20-12:00	flex	12:00-12:30 30 mins.	Assembly	Office Hours	Clubs	Office Hours	Advisor	Office Hours	Clubs
	12:00-12:30 "flex"	Lunch	12:30-1:15							
	12:30-1:20 lunch	E	1:15-2:25 70 mins.	English	Language	Science	Arts	History	PE	Math
F	1:20-2:10	F	2:25-3:15 50 mins.	Latin/Ext/ Speech	Electives	Study	Math	Language	Electives	Arts

The Upper School Sample Schedule (left) shows the typical seven-day schedule for most students, including the shortened times for Wednesdays in the two left columns.

The Middle School Sample Schedule (below) represents the typical seven-day schedule for each of the three classes in grade 4.

The Lower School Sample Schedule (bottom) illustrates a typical seven-day schedule for grade 1, showing all three anchor classrooms during specialist times (the teacher's names indicate the group of students, not the person teaching the subject).

Middle School

In the Middle School, the new schedule increases both language arts and math time and results in fewer transitions during the day. Social studies, science, and library class sizes will benefit by being smaller. Additionally, in grades four and five, teachers will specialize in content areas, creating a more balanced teaching load for the Middle School faculty. The new schedule will also provide dedicated club times, math and language labs for reteaching and enrichment, and a time for recess before lunch.

Lower School

Lower School will see a significant reduction in the number of students in specialist classes, such as art, music, library, and language enrichment. The new schedule will also provide an increase in math instructional time to allow for the successful implementation of the new math program. Time will be added in kindergarten and grade one for more practice in writing, and grade two will have both social studies and science throughout the year, rather than alternating as they do now. Dedicated times for intervention and enrichment will also be established. Teachers will continue to integrate movement into their daily class instruction, including a time for early morning physical activity, with specifics to be determined. The new schedule also accommodates full-day kindergarten (see previous article).

We look forward to Academic Year 2013-14 and to the many benefits Pike's students and teachers will begin to reap when the new schedule makes its debut.

Middle School Sample Schedule (Grade 4)

GRADE 4	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
8:40 – 9:40 (60)	Sci 1 LA 2 Math 3	Library 1 Math 2 LA 3	Art A Music B	Assembly/Anchor Time	Math 1 LA 2 Math 3	Sci 1 LA 2 LA 3	Math 1 LA 2 LA 3
9:40 – 10:40 (60)	9:40-10:55 Math 1 LA 2 Math 3	PE	Music A Art B	LA 1 Math 2 Math 3	9:40-10:55 SS 1 SS 2 Sci 3	LA 1 SS 2 Sci 3	PE
10:40 – 11:00	Snack ONLY (10:55 – 11)	Snack ONLY (10:40-10:45)	Snack/Recess	Snack/Recess	Snack ONLY (10:55-11)	Snack/Recess	Snack ONLY (10:40-10:45)
11:00 – 11:45 (45)	PE	10:45-11:45 LA 1 Sci 2 SS 3	Math 1 LA 2 LA 3	Math 1 LA 2 LA 3	PE	LA 1 Math 2 Math 3	10:45-11:45 LA 1 Math 2 LA 3
11:45 – 12:30	Recess/Lunch	Recess/Lunch	Recess/Lunch	Recess/Lunch	Recess/Lunch	Recess/Lunch	Recess/Lunch
12:30 – 1:30 (60)	LA 1 Sci 2 LA 3	Math 1 LA 2 LA 3	Sci 1 LA 2 SS 3	Sci 1 Library 2 LA 3	LA 1 Math 2 LA 3	Math 1 LA 2 Library 3	LA 1 Math 2 Math 3
1:30 – 2:30 (60)	LA 1 Math 2 LA 3	Math 1 LA 2 Math 3	LA 1 Math 2 Math 3	Art A Music B	LA 1 Sci 2 SS 3	Art B Music A	SS 1 SS 2 Sci 3
2:30 – 3:10 (40)	SS 1 SS 2 Sci 3	Clubs	Math Lab	SS 1 Sci 2 SS 3	Keyboarding A Keyboarding B	LA Anchor	Language Lab

Lower School Sample Schedule (Grade 1)

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
8:00-8:20 Outdoor/Indoor Activity						
8:20-8:30 Check-in, Jobs						
8:30-9:00 Morning Meeting			8:30-9:00 Assembly		8:30-9:00 Morning Meeting	
9:00-10:00 Literacy	9:00-10:00 Math	9:00-9:40 Jordan - Phys Ed O'Brien - Writing Workshop Tobey - Math	9:00-9:45 Jordan - Library O'Brien & Tobey - Science/Social Studies/ Writing Workshop	9:00-9:45 Physical Education	9:00-9:45 Jordan - Music O'Brien - Art Tobey - Language Enrichment	9:00-9:45 O'Brien - Art Jordan & Tobey - Science/Social Studies/ Writing Workshop
		9:40-10:20 Jordan - Writing Workshop O'Brien - Math Tobey - Phys Ed	9:45-10:30 O'Brien - Library Jordan & Tobey - Science/Social Studies/ Writing Workshop	9:45-10:00 Read Aloud	9:45-10:30 Jordan - Art O'Brien - Language Enrichment Tobey - Music	9:45-10:30 Jordan - Art O'Brien & Tobey - Science/Social Studies/ Writing Workshop
10:00-10:45 Physical Education	10:00-10:40 Literacy	10:20-11:00 Jordan - Math O'Brien - Phys Ed Tobey - Writing Workshop		10:00-11:00 Literacy		
10:45-11:15 Handwriting	10:40-11:00 Handwriting	11:00-11:15 Read Aloud	10:30-11:15 Tobey - Library Jordan & O'Brien - Science/Social Studies/ Writing Workshop	11:00-11:15 Handwriting	10:30-11:15 Jordan - Language Enrichment O'Brien - Music Tobey - Art	10:30-11:15 Jordan - Art Jordan & O'Brien - Science/Social Studies/ Writing Workshop
11:15-11:40 Recess						
11:40-12:10 Lunch						
12:10-12:30 Silent Reading						
12:30-1:00 Literacy - Intervention/Enrichment	12:30-1:15 Jordan - Library O'Brien - Music Tobey - Language Enrichment	12:30-1:15 Literacy	12:30-1:30 Literacy	12:30-1:30 Math	12:30-1:30 Math	12:30-1:30 Math
1:00-2:00 Math	1:15-2:00 Jordan - Language Enrichment O'Brien - Library Tobey - Music	1:15-1:45 Handwriting	1:30-2:30 Math	1:30-2:10 Science/Social Studies	1:30-2:15 Literacy	1:30-2:30 Literacy
2:00-2:30 Choice	2:00-2:45 Jordan - Music O'Brien - Language Enrichment Tobey - Library	1:45-2:45 Choice	2:30-2:50 Math - Intervention/ Enrichment	2:10-2:50 Choice	2:15-2:50 Choice	2:30-2:50 Handwriting
2:30-2:50 Read Aloud						