

# VALDEZ CITY SCHOOLS



## SCHOOL BOARD COMMUNICATION

**Title:** Secondary Bell Schedule

**Date:** April 27, 2020

**Administrator:** Shawn Arnold

**Attachments:** Proposed Secondary Bell Schedule 2020-2021; Current GMS/VHS Bell Schedules; Pros/Cons.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Needed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Discussion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
-------------------------------------	---------------	-------------------------------------	----------------	-------------------------------------	-------------	--------------------------	-------

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Staff have worked for more than a year to find an alternative schedule that fits well with the school's goals. The proposal would implement a modified block schedule — different 85-minute classes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays (highest student attendance days of the week) with an advisory time for each of those days. The advisory time would allow students to incorporate individual study time into their day, focus on social emotional learning goals, and meet individually with a teacher for additional help. There is a slightly later school start time, but no significant impact to bussing.

A block schedule is not only about getting more content into longer class periods, but is also about helping students through other learning opportunities and building relationships with teachers. In reviewing the research used to make the decisions to go to block scheduling, we reviewed many articles. Our goal was to create a schedule that will maintain the integrity of our solid academic foundation and allow opportunities to strengthen the relationships within our school community.

Can students really sit for 85 minutes? Absolutely not! In more antiquated systems of education, teaching was equated with talking, and learning was equated with listening. Our goal is to provide opportunities for deeper learning and opportunities to become experts at learning. We promote and support our teachers in pedagogical practices that are grounded in cognitive neuroscience, and research tells us that learning should be an active experience. We do not want students "sitting and getting" for the 50-minute classes they currently attend. We recognize the biological needs and educational benefits of movement and encourage teachers to incorporate purposeful movement throughout each class period.

## ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The administration recommends approval of the 2020-2021 Secondary Bell Schedule.

**Sample Motion** - I move to approve the 2020-2021 Secondary Bell Schedule

*Valdez City School District – Office of the Superintendent*

PO Box 398 – 1112 West Klutina Street - Valdez, AK 99686  
Telephone (907) 834-4701 Cell (907) 315-1951 Fax (907) 835-4964  
[www.valdezcityschools.org](http://www.valdezcityschools.org)

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
PLC/ Tutoring 8:00 - 8:26	PLC/ Tutoring 8:00 - 8:26	PLC/ Tutoring 8:00-8:26	PLC/ Tutoring 8:00 - 8:26	PLC/ Tutoring 8:00 - 8:26
1st Period 8:26-9:16 (50 min)	1st Period 8:26-9:51 (85 min)	4th period 8:26-9:51 (85 min)	1st Period 8:26-9:16 (50 min)	1st Period 8:26-9:16 (50 min)
2nd Period 9:20- 10:10 (50 min)			2nd Period 9:20- 10:10 (50 min)	2nd Period 9:20- 10:10 (50 min)
	BKFST 9:55-10:05	BKFST 9:55-10:05		
BKFST 10:14 - 10:24			BKFST 10:14 - 10:24	BKFST 10:14 - 10:24
3rd Period 10:28 - 11:18 (50 min)	2nd period 10:09 - 11:34 (85 min)	5th Period 10:09 - 11:34 (85 min)	3rd Period 10:28 - 11:18 (50 min)	3rd Period 10:28 - 11:18 (50 min)
4th Period 11:22 - 12:12 (50 min)			4th Period 11:22 - 12:12 (50 min)	4th Period 11:22 - 12:12 (50 min)
	Lunch 11:34- 12:04	Lunch 11:34 - 12:04		
Lunch 12:12 -12:42	3rd Period 12:08 - 1:33 (85 min)	6th Period 12:05 - 1:33 (85 min)	Lunch 12:12 -12:42	Lunch 12:12 -12:42
5th Period 12:46 - 1:36 (50 min)			5th Period 12:46 - 1:36 (50 min)	5th Period 12:46 - 1:36 (50 min)
	Advisory 1:37 - 2:15 (38 min)	Advisory 1:37 - 2:15 (38 min)		
6th Period 1:40 - 2:30 (50 min)			6th Period 1:40 - 2:30 (50 min)	6th Period 1:40 - 2:30 (50 min)
	7th Period 2:19 - 3:24 (65 min)	7th Period 2:19 - 3:24 (65 min)		
7th Period 2:34 - 3:24 (50 min)			7th Period 2:34 - 3:24 (50 min)	Collaboration 2:40 - 3:30 (50 min)
3:24 - 3:30	3:24 - 3:30	3:24 - 3:30	3:24 - 3:30	

PLC / Tutoring: 174 min.  
 1st Period: 235 min.  
 2nd Period 235 min.  
 3rd Period 235 min.  
 4th Period 235 min.  
 5th Period 235 min.  
 6th Period 235 min.  
 7th Period 230 min  
 Collaboration: 50 min.

## GMS BELL SCHEDULE

Middle school students may enter the building as early as 7:30 a.m. but must remain in the commons and/or cafeteria areas until 7:50 a.m. Students are not to enter the classroom wing, locker rooms, gymnasium, fitness room, or mat room prior to 7:50 a.m. unless directly supervised by a staff member.

<u>MONDAY–THURSDAY</u>				<u>FRIDAY</u>		
Warning Bell	7:55 a.m.			7:55 a.m.		
Period 1**	<b>8:00</b> a.m.	–	8:51 a.m.	<b>8:00</b> a.m.	–	8:41 a.m.
Period 2	8:55 a.m.	–	9:46 a.m.	8:45 a.m.	–	9:26 a.m.
BREAK*	9:50 a.m.	–	10:01 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	–	9:41 a.m.
Period 3	10:05 a.m.	–	10:56 a.m.	9:45 a.m.	–	10:26 a.m.
Period 4	11:00 a.m.	–	11:51 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	–	11:11 a.m.
LUNCH	11:55 a.m.	–	12:25 p.m.	11:15 a.m.	–	11:45 a.m.
Period 6	12:29 p.m.	–	1:20 p.m.	11:49 a.m.	–	12:30 p.m.
Period 7	1:24 p.m.	–	2:15 p.m.	12:34 p.m.	–	1:15 p.m.
Period 8***	2:19 p.m.	–	<b>3:10</b> p.m.	1:19 p.m.	–	<b>2:00</b> p.m.

\* Breakfast available for purchase in the cafeteria.

\*\* Period 1 will begin at 8:05 a.m. on Wednesdays. GMS staff meeting at 7:50–8:05 a.m.

\*\*\* Early dismissal on Friday. District-wide teacher collaboration at 2:10–3:20 p.m.

# VHS Bell Schedule 2019-2020

Period	1	2	Break	3	4	Lunch	5	6	7
M-Th	8:00 - 8:51	8:55 - 9:46	9:50 - 10:01	10:05 - 10:56	11:00 - 11:51	11:55 - 12:25	12:29 - 1:20	1:24 - 2:15	2:19 - 3:10
Friday Only	8:00 - 8:41	8:45 - 9:26	9:30 - 9:41	9:45 - 10:26	10:30 - 11:11	11:14 - 11:44	11:48 - 12:29	12:33 - 1:14	1:18 - 2:00

7:30 AM - VHS students may enter the school.

7:50 AM - Teacher workday begins. Students may enter classrooms.

7:55 AM - Warning Bell - Classes are about to begin!

2:10 - 3:10 - FRIDAY ONLY - Teacher Collaboration



**VHS Office - 835-4767**

The two-day 85-minute block is an innovative schedule that provides time for students to meet with staff outside the regular classroom setting. It offers many other benefits:

- Time is set aside before school for students who need extra help or extra time on assignments and work with teachers.
- The two advisory periods on Tuesday and Wednesday provide time for staff to work with students on other necessary skills such as organizational skills, social-emotional skills, post-secondary planning, etc. The time can be planned for in advance using the Friday collaboration time. It can also provide time during certain parts of the school year for students to leave an advisory to work with a teacher in another advisory (i.e., the week before Finals Week).
- Tuesday and Wednesday of the school week are most often the high attendance days for students. With time before school and the two advisory periods during these two days, it gives students much access to staff and resources.
- The advisory periods have been moved to the afternoons on Tuesday and Wednesday. Students will have three block classes finished by this time and will have school work leading into the advisory period on each day.
- The two-day rotating block schedule works well with a seven-period class day. Rigorous core classes and elective classes remain, yet there is time on most days for students to meet with teachers and receive extra help or tutoring.
- Students will be able to take a heavy course load but now have support during the school day as well as time to work on assignments.
- The two-day rotating block schedule has a logical flow of classes, students and staff will adjust quickly to the changes.
- This schedule can set a solid foundation reviewing and revising for a new schedule in the future if needed. It keeps many aspects of the previous year's schedule and adds new elements that address the need in core and elective subjects.

This rotating block schedule may present some challenges as well:

- More extended periods will take time to adjust, though it is only Tuesday and Wednesday
- If a student is absent on Tuesday or Wednesday, there is more class time missed earlier in the week. The time before school can accommodate for the absence.
- Staff will need training on best practices for the advisory periods, possible professional development for an advisory program. Many staff have not taught in a block schedule or have minimal experience.
- Substitute teachers will also have an adjustment when teachers are absent on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Overall, this schedule addresses many of the issues we have discussed in staff meetings, parent meetings, and board meetings. The longer instructional time will do wonders for the elective classes such as Art and Career & Technical Education and many others. This has been a collaborative effort, and the VHS staff is onboard with this schedule and excited for the possibilities.