

Wyomissing Area School District



JSHS Schedule Study

April 8, 2024

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Current JSHS Schedule

- Period schedule in existence 20 plus years?
- 8 , 41-minute academic periods
- 3 embedded lunch periods
- Students report 8:05
- Students can depart at 2:35
- 2:35 – 3:05 optional club, remediation, test make-ups, etc.
- Teacher day 7:35 – 3:05

Why evaluate options for the JSHS Schedule?

Needs of 7-8 grade students vs. 9-12 grade students

- Academic
- Mental Health/ Social / Emotional
- Engagement / Support

Why evaluate options for the JSHS Schedule?

Does the current period schedule (41 minutes) provide the needed instructional time in all content areas for all students?

- Grade 7-8 math achievement targeted by WASD in need of improvement in Strategic Plan
- Short-term solution created for 2024-25 to provide increased math instruction time for majority of Grade 7-8 students

Why evaluate options for the JSHS Schedule?

Does the current period schedule provide access for students to pursue authentic learning experiences such as internships, BCTC programs, work-study program, ROTC, college experience courses, etc.?

- Starting for 2022-23 school year, WASD reduced graduation credit requirements for Grades 9-12 from 26.5 to 23
- This was done to provide flexibility and increase student access to authentic learning experiences
- Became a goal in WASD Strategic Plan – increase in student participation has been documented over past two years
- Current focus is to increase access and depth of experiences (example – internships in community)

Why evaluate options for the JSHS Schedule?

Does the current JSHS bell schedule match the research completed on adolescents and need for sleep per physical, social/emotional and mental health needs?

- WASD studied area and initial goal was to get at or closer to 8:30 for start of JSHS student day
- WASD was able to move start of JSHS student day from 7:34 to 8:05 to begin the 2023-24 school year
- WASD collecting information on the impact of change
- Initial change indicated WASD could complete a greater schedule study to consider future changes

Why evaluate options for the JSHS Schedule?

For 2023-24, PDE changed rules for secondary schools to meet either 180 school days or 990 instructional hours. Previously to 2023-24, both were required.

- How could this impact WASD students, evaluation of pros/cons could be included in a schedule study

Why evaluate options for the JSHS Schedule?

Could a flex period be imbedded in the student schedule to increase opportunities for student engagement – clubs, remediation, support, etc.?

- Currently WASD pays 100% of professional staff costs for a period that supports approximately 10-15% of our students
- This was initially explored by WASD prior to 2023-24 bell schedule change and deferred to a greater schedule study

Why evaluate options for the JSHS Schedule?

Evaluating/adjusting schedules to foster student achievement and/or increase access for students to valuable programs has been identified as a priority for WASD

- WASD Strategic Plan
- WASD Math Action Plan

DEVOPAR

- Educational consulting company
- Extensive experience in leadership, curriculum, finance and scheduling
- Strong connection to Berks County
- Experience with small and large school systems

Phase I: Data Collection and Research

- May – September 2024
- Interviews with staff
- Survey Focus Groups
 - Students
 - Educators
 - Parents/Guardians
 - Community Partners
- Observation at JSHS
- Information review
- Data Presentation / written report

Phase II: Plan Development & Presentation

- Develop potential options for schedule reorganization
- Options reflect stakeholder input/District resources
 - Transportation
 - Food services
 - Human Resources/Staffing
 - Finance
- Presentation & written report

Phase III: Implementation (if needed)

- Provide support and technical assistance
- Develop communication plan
- Professional development plan

Cost

Phase I – Not to exceed \$16,991

Phase II – Not to exceed \$17,280

Phase III – Hourly rate if needed

Next Steps / Timeline

- Board approval of Devopar Consulting – April 22, 2024
- Board updates and discussions scheduled through each phase
- May – September 2024, Phase I items
- July – November 2024, Phase II items
- December 2024 – June 2025, Implementation items
- August 2025 – Implement new schedule for 2025-26 school year
- WASD could consider 2026-27 implementation if needed based on preliminary work