

November 2, 2022

SAC meeting and discussed the proposed unified bell schedule. Parents and students expressed their thoughts in that meeting and/or by email. Here is feedback that was given to the SAC.

**Student Jeremiah Helfrich** <helfrichjd@s.dcsdk12.org>

Wed, Nov 2 at 3:52 PM

Hello and good afternoon. I have a few questions and comments about the new schedule change. I am sure that you have a lot on your hands and many more important issues. I am not able to attend tonight's SAC meeting but I wanted my voice heard as a stakeholder. Therefore, I felt like writing this email as a last resort of an attempted change. I am very appreciative of your hard work and everything you do for your students. However, I feel as though students haven't had their voices heard in the best way and many students feel as though their voice aren't enough.

This new schedule is largely changing Castle View due to its current 4x4 block schedule. The new schedule is a 2x8 block schedule which alternates classes every other day and Friday having all 8 classes for only 45 minutes. I believe this is ineffective as no actual school work can be in 45 minutes other than a test. This would mean students go to school and have 7 tests. This would easily stress out students and make students dislike school more than they already do. I am a firm believer in the importance of school and its relevance within a child's life. So this schedule change seems bad for a child's mental health. Even if the school made it to where tests are not allowed on Fridays, no work could get done in the short 45 minutes. So Fridays would either be a very exhausting and tiring day or a useless and boring day.

Again, I thank you for all of your work that you do on a daily basis for students. I know that a single student voice isn't very much but I am still a stakeholder and wanted my opinion to be heard. I believe this will also reduce the graduation rate until the class of 2026 leaves. This might be confusing but students are used to this schedule and like it. Therefore students could get bad grades in school as this large change is going to be rough on students. While only 4 years is not a long time, students, parents, and teachers at Castle View really don't like this change. I ask that you please reexamine this decision to see if it is really in the best interest of the school. This also lowers the number of credits available for students which is a huge issue. While students still can still get the 24 credits needed to graduate, it lowers time for academic help and off periods. This also affects our math program as we operate in an integrated system. The new schedule will not allow for doubling up which is easily the best part of this system. However I do not see the math program rearrange which completely defeats the purpose of the math program at Castle View.

To continue, the majority of the school, including teachers, parents, and students don't like this change that is going to happen. Therefore, I do not understand why they aren't having the largest say in the matter as they are the ones being affected most. I ask that you please take this into consideration when determining your decision. Thank you for everything and have a great night.

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From: **Ashley Gorman** <ashleygorman88@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Oct 13, 2022 at 1:18 PM

Subject: [EXTERNAL] CV schedule change

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My name is Ashley Gorman I am a parent of a student at Castle View. I am reaching out to you as part of the sac Committee to inform you that I am not on board with Castle View's schedule change. I am reaching out to as many people as I can. I have attended both parent meetings held by Dr. Templeton my son has scheduled an appointment that was student lead with Dr. Templeton and his counselor to also voice his opinion. The way that the schedule change came about was very unfair. When they have discussed this for over a year and my student hears rumor about it in a hallway the first week back at school. My student feels that his voice was not heard he feels like the voice of all students at Castle View was not heard. The meetings held by Dr. Templeton and the meeting that my son had with Dr. Templeton were check the box meetings. My son is not zoned for Castle View his home school is Douglas county. We chose to join the CV community based off of the 4 x 4 schedule. My son works better only have to worry about four classes a term versus seven classes all year. The schedule also gives him the opportunity to participate in marching band jazz band symphonic band pep band winter percussion as well as have a job. Like many students I am sure my son does not know what is going to happen next year. My son is only a sophomore but has focused on earning as many credits as he can and stay ahead. Some students have not been so lucky. There are a lot of concerns moving to this new schedule and as a parent of the CV community I strongly believe that this should be paused. I am not saying let's not do it I am saying let's get everything figured out first. With my son being a junior next year he is unsure how he is going to complete his regular core classes on top of the classes that are added your jr year. It is unfortunate but if the schedule change goes through my son is considering leaving the district to another school that will stay on the current schedule that CV is on. That means he would lose his friends lose his place in marching band and all other activities that he participates in not to mention the hardship that is presented when you switch high schools. This has caused him a lot of anxiety that he should not have to worry about. We were very disappointed in the community survey and the survey that was sent out to students not even asking should we change our schedule just asking what we should keep. During the meeting with Dr. Templeton and his counselor they tried to talk my son out of doubling up in math his junior year, told him that this might not be possible. We also have concerns as to what would happen with the marching band. Marching band is not considered an activity. It is a class, it is period one class that way students can practice at 6:30 in the morning through first period. They are also required to be in either symphonic band or wind Ensemble which is a whole Separate class they are required to take. With going to seven classes all year long my son does not know how he would be able to keep up with the demands of three band classes his core classes competitions on the weekends evening practices that start in October and continue to work at the job that he has worked out since March and absolutely loves. Right now my student is an A, B student and his grades will tremendously suffer if he has to keep up with seven classes all year. I have a lot more concerns with the schedule change and for more than just my student.

Ashley Gorman



November 1st, 2022

Dear members of the Castle View High School School Accountability Committee,

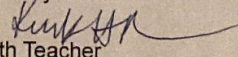
My name is Kim Race and I am in my 27th year of teaching. I have spent the last ten years teaching the wonderful students of Castle View High School. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts with you. I am writing to you because I am devastated that the teachers and students of Castle View high School are losing a bell schedule that has promoted the vision and mission of the school for the past 16 years. When the decision to abolish the CV bell school was announced, the students and staff of CV were completely caught off guard. I have since learned about the time-line and process for how this decision was made. According to DCSD documents a group of 45 high school principals, assistant principals and counselors worked to find a common bell schedule for all of the high schools in Douglas County. Since no teachers and no students were part of that group, I hope to represent the voice of those teachers and students - the ones that will be most impacted by the change in our schedule.

Part of the culture of Castle View High School is the belief that ALL students can learn at high levels. Regardless of tracking in elementary and middle school, regardless of successes and challenges, regardless of feeder school, all students get a clean slate when they enter the doors of CV. On our current schedule, every student has the opportunity to access AP and Concurrent Enrollment classes. (Not just gifted or higher tracked students.) Not only will the new schedule limit student access to the higher level classes. I worry we will lose our full inclusion model that supports the success of all students of every ability level. The teachers of CV have been asked to give ideas to administration about the new schedule but have not been given any time to collaborate and discuss programming adjustments, class offerings or instructional strategies. I am concerned that content teachers do not have enough time to make thoughtful decisions as students register for next year's classes in January.

The Castle View High School mission statement highlights the importance of establishing relationships between teachers and students and between students and students. Our advisement program creates a culture where every student has a connection to an adult. This advisement teacher spends four years with these students and sees them **everyday** of the week. The students in each advisement group become a family as they have spent time together everyday at school. Students can also use this time to connect with their academic teachers for extra help or to make up missing assignments. In the new schedule students will only have access to advisement two days a week. The lack of time for teachers and students to make these important connections will change the culture of Castle View. We have been told many times during this process that we need to change our schedule because "all of the other high schools are doing it." This contradicts the belief that Castle View makes decisions based on what is best for our students and our teachers. With a teacher shortage and a mill levy that may potentially fail, we should focus on making CV a place teachers seek out because of its unique culture. "Looking like every other high school" does not make Castle View an appealing place to teach.

Changing the bell schedule at Castle View High School is tragic for our students and teachers. Students will lose equitable access to educational programming and teachers may pursue job opportunities elsewhere. This leaves me with a heavy heart that our students and teachers will suffer greatly.

Kimberly Race

  
Math Teacher

Castle View High School



From Lisle Gates  
former CV principal

- Our research and gathering student/parent input
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- School culture-support of the academy model (1. Engineering, 2. Fine Arts, 3. Medical Science, 4. Communication)
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- In a meeting to discuss changing the bell schedule, it was pointed out that part of the district's strategic plan is to create pathways for students after high school. That is exactly what the academy model does.
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- Parent, staff and student input is critical
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- Potential loss of instructional time—15-20 minutes each way to other district programs (not including DCHS and Ponderosa)
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- Additional cost to the district/school 1) Bus transportation  
2. Additional cost of teaching material
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- Student safety—driving to different programs ( I would not want my daughter driving up and down I-25 every day)
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- School choice-This district has a strong history of school choice, which represents a choice among a variety of programs. This should be continued.



## PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN UP

3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER

30 MINUTES MAX AGENDA ITEM

NAME (please print)	ROLE (Staff, student, parent, etc)	CONTACT INFO (phone or email)
1 Lynnea Olpham	Parent	303.929.10504
2 Lisle Gates: Kevin Gardner	Community members	
3 ASHLEY BRICK	STUDENT	720-320-41783
4 Jeremy Dallman	Staff	
5 Onyiah Phelps	Community Member	
6 Kevin Gardner	Community	
7 Stacey Estelle	Community / <sup>to meet employees</sup> & Board of CHS	
8 Rob Phelps	Staff	
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