

## On Time & Next Year's Schedule

*Ordinary people think merely of spending time. Great people think of using it.*

Author Unknown

In the "About Us" section of our District webpage, people find an axiom about Scarsdale Schools: *Our stories are as individual as the children, but a common thread is teaching of unusual quality and a community united in dedication to learning....Recent years have shown a growing external emphasis on common standards, high stakes assessments, and curriculum reform. However, the District's greatest strengths are still individual students and teachers, and the quality of the encounter between them.*

As parents begin their journey with Scarsdale schools, they find that teachers are, indeed, unusually dedicated to their craft, and to the children and youth in their care. In fact, as we were in the midst of collective bargaining with the teachers last year, we heard inspiring story after story of our faculty members giving freely of their knowledge, skills, and time. It was important from the District's perspective to recognize and reward this time, but also to engage in a meaningful dialogue focused on how to optimize it around student engagement and learning in the 21st century.

One area of success that was widely agreed upon is that we do an outstanding job of attending to individual student needs through advisories, tutorial times, and the like. We understand the importance of this time as part of our larger mission, and remain dedicated to it.

There was also a collective recognition that we have some shortcomings relative to time:

- In Scarsdale's elementary schools, we have a renewed focus on literacy, which we are addressing through reading and writing workshops. And, historically, we have not been able to dedicate as much time to the curricular areas of social studies, science, world language, and physical education as we would like, or which are required by State guidelines. Currently, there is simply not enough time in the day to do all that we think Scarsdale schools can and should do.
- In the Middle School, innovation, interdisciplinary study, and the infusion of technology continue to invigorate a rich and diverse curriculum; however, recent positive curricular changes require additional time for cross-class collaboration, student engagement with peers and teachers, and additional time to complete complex tasks and projects.
- At the High School, enhancing and embedding STEAM opportunities across content areas, along with a school-wide focus on mindfulness, have been important foci. Like the Middle School, these initiatives will benefit from additional opportunities for students to further collaborate with classmates and teachers, and from extended time for students to complete projects and activities within the school day.

- Additionally, we have been audited by New York State Department of Education for the past few years, and they have found Scarsdale to be out of compliance (in various weeks) with the minimum requirement of instructional hours per week. In other words, for any days within a week of school to count, we must have a **minimum** of 25 hours for our elementary schools, and 27.5 hours for secondary schools, exclusive of lunch and other non-instructional activities. If the week does not meet this minimum, the days in that week do not count toward our overall required 180 days of school, and we do not receive State funding for these weeks.

With all of these needs in mind, teachers, administrators, and the Board of Education agreed last year (as part of the collective bargaining process) that we would increase classroom instructional time by 80 more minutes per week at the elementary and middle school levels, and 75 minutes per week at the High School. These much needed increases in instructional time will become effective in the 2017-2018 school year.

It was also agreed that the best process to determine how to apply these increases in instructional time would be to utilize three, level-based committees (elementary, SMS, and SHS), with representatives from all buildings. The charge given to those committees was to create a customized schedule for each of the seven schools that best suits its unique circumstances.

The following represents the joint decisions reached regarding how to use instructional time for Scarsdale’s children and youth for next school year:

**Elementary Schools:**

The new schedule for elementary schools adds sixteen (16) minutes to the school day each day of the week.

2017-18 School Start & End Times	First Bell	Second Bell	End of Day
Edgewood	8:25 am	8:29 am	3:00 pm
Fox Meadow	8:35 am	8:39 am	3:10 pm
Greenacres	8:25 am	8:29 am	3:00 pm
Heathcote	8:35 am	8:39 am	3:10 pm
Quaker Ridge	8:35 am	8:40 am	3:11 pm

**Middle School:**

The new format for the 2017-18 Scarsdale Middle School schedule eliminates the morning homeroom period, expands the time of each period throughout the day, and adds six (6) minutes to the end of the school day. There is no change to the start time of the school day.

**Period-by-Period Schedule, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarters:**

Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8	
Period	Time	Period	Time	Period	Time
1	8:10 – 9:00	1	8:10 – 9:00	1	8:10 – 9:00
2	9:00 – 9:50	2	9:00 – 9:50	2	9:00 – 9:50
3	9:50 – 10:40	3	9:50 – 10:40	3	9:50 – 10:40
<b>Lunch</b> 4	10:40 – 11:18	4	10:40 – 11:18	4	10:40 – 11:18
5	11:18 – 12:08	<b>Lunch</b> 5	11:18 – 12:08	5	11:18 – 12:08
6	12:08 – 12:58	6	12:08 – 12:58	<b>Lunch</b> 6	12:08 – 12:58
7	12:58 – 1:47	7	12:58 – 1:47	7	12:58 – 1:47
8	1:47 – 2:36	8	1:47 – 2:36	8	1:47 – 2:36

**Period-by-Period Schedule, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarters**

Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8	
Period	Time	Period	Time	Period	Time
1	8:10 – 9:00	1	8:10 – 9:00	1	8:10 – 9:00
2	9:00 – 9:50	2	9:00 – 9:50	2	9:00 – 9:50
3	9:50 – 10:40	3	9:50 – 10:40	3	9:50 – 10:40
4	10:40 – 11:18	4	10:40 – 11:18	<b>Lunch</b> 4	10:40 – 11:18
<b>Lunch</b> 5	11:18 – 12:08	5	11:18 – 12:08	5	11:18 – 12:08
6	12:08 – 12:58	<b>Lunch</b> 6	12:08 – 12:58	6	12:08 – 12:58
7	12:58 – 1:47	7	12:58 – 1:47	7	12:58 – 1:47
8	1:47 – 2:36	8	1:47 – 2:36	8	1:47 – 2:36

**High School:**

The new schedule for Scarsdale High School will add two (2) minutes each to periods 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7; period 5 will have three (3) additional minutes. The first bell each morning will be at 7:55 am, with

first period starting at 8:00 am. Homeroom sessions will take place on Tuesday and Thursday between periods 2 and 3.

### New High School Schedule

Day	First Bell	First Period Begins	School Day Ends
Monday	7:55 am	8:00 am	2:55 pm
Tuesday	7:55 am	8:00 am	3:05 pm
Wednesday	7:55 am	8:00 am	2:55 pm
Thursday	7:55 am	8:00 am	3:05 pm
Friday	7:55 am	8:00 am	*1:59 pm

### Scarsdale High School Class Schedule

Period	New Schedule Monday/Wednesday/Friday	New Schedule Tuesday/Thursday
1	8:00 - 8:51	8:00 - 8:51
2	8:56 - 9:47	8:56 - 9:47
Homeroom	X	9:52 - 9:57
3	9:52 - 10:43	10:02 - 10:53
4	10:48 - 11:39	10: 58 am - 11:49 am
(5) First Lunch	11:43 - 12:09	11:53 - 12:19
(5) Class for First Lunch	12:13 - 1: 04	12:23 - 1:14
(5) Class for Second Lunch	11:43 - 12:34	11: 53 - 12:44
(5) Second Lunch	12:38 - 1:04	12:48 - 1:14
6	1:08 - 1:59*	1:18 - 2:09
7	2:04 - 2:55	2:14 - 3:05

\*On Fridays - SHS school day ends at 1:59

In the short term, please don't hesitate to let your child/children's building principal(s) know if you have clarifying or logistical questions about these changes relative to your child/children's school(s).

For the longer term, we will continue to look at how to best use instructional time across the District kindergarten through 12th grade, and will continue to encourage building teams to refine schedules to optimize classroom learning, based on our evolving goals and, most importantly, for the benefit and well-being of Scarsdale's children.

Warm Regards,

Dr. Thomas Hagerman  
Superintendent of Schools