



May 12, 2004

Board at Work



PATTONVILLE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

New schedule designed with achievement in mind

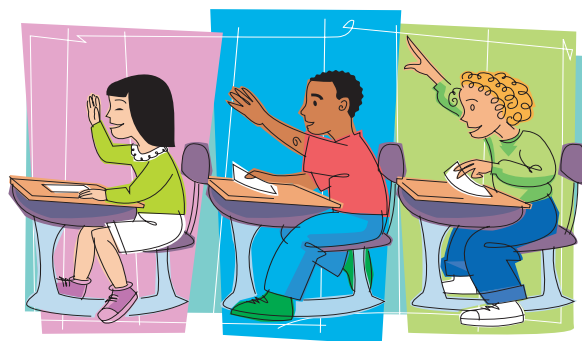
The Pattonville Board of Education on May 11 approved changes to the schedules of Pattonville’s two middle schools which are designed to enhance student achievement and better assist students as they transition between grades. The changes, which represent more than two and a half years of work by scheduling committees, will take effect in August 2005. Both Holman and Pattonville Heights worked cooperatively on the changes, and the committees included parents, students and staff members.

Changes to the schedule and structure at the middle schools are centered upon three major areas of improvement: academic challenge, academic support and enrichment, and effective use of time.

“Every change we proposed is designed to improve student achievement and make better use of our instructional time for students,” said Scot Mosher, principal at Pattonville Heights. “We feel these changes will provide better continuity to instruction and better services for children.”

Dr. Bill Modaff, principal at Holman, said the schedule changes also allow educators to help students better transition from elementary to middle school and from middle school to high school, as well as make transitions between sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

One of the advantages of the new schedule is the availability of additional challenge courses to all qualified seventh- and eighth-graders in math, communication arts, science and social studies. Currently, challenge classes are only available at eighth-grade in all four subjects and in math at seventh grade. Challenge classes are designed to provide a greater amount of rigor to help prepare students for honors and advanced placement courses at the high school.



Current Schedule	New Schedule
8 period day with 46-minute class periods	8 period day with 45-minute class periods
30-minute advisement daily	30-minute advisement once a week
School runs from 8:05 a.m. to 2:55 p.m.	School runs from 8:03 a.m. to 2:56 p.m.
6th -, 7th- grade health is part of elective wheel	6th -, 7th- grade health is taught during P.E.
P.E. alternates with band, orchestra and gifted classes	P.E. taught daily
7th-grade elective wheel –classes change every 6 weeks	7th-grade electives will be semester choices
6th-grade elective wheel includes art, music, comparative cultures, computers, FACS, health	6th-grade elective wheel includes art, music, comparative cultures, computers, FACS, industrial technology
Band / orchestra alternate with P.E.	Band / orchestra/choir will meet every day
7th-grade challenge in only math (pre-algebra)	7th-grade challenge available in all four core subject areas; in addition - core elective enrichment for all three grade levels
Double dosing in selected grade levels and subjects	Double dosing in all core subjects at all grade levels
7th-grade reading for all students	7th- and 8th-grade reading is mandatory for those reading below grade level
Gifted – 6th replaces reading, 7th alternates with foreign language and replaces reading, 8th alternates with P.E.	Gifted – 6th same, 7th and 8th grade – core elective choice

Electives and enrichment courses in the core subject areas (communication arts, math, science and social studies) will be added at all grades to allow students who have an interest in one of those topics to delve deeper into the subject area. In addition, more “double dosing” opportunities will be available to students who are struggling in one of these core areas. Under double dosing, students who are experiencing difficulty in a core subject area will take two sections of that subject instead of one in order to get more assistance. In addition, academic labs will be offered as electives to give students time to work on homework and seek additional help from staff.

In order to use instructional time more effectively, the current 30-minute-a-day advisement period will be eliminated, and the schools will have one advisement period a week. Transitional activities will be developed for incoming sixth-graders.

One of the bigger changes will be the elimination of alternating classes. Currently, physical education, band, orchestra and gifted classes all alternate in some form. Physical education classes will be offered daily and incorporate health as part of the curriculum.

Both schools surveyed their parents and staff regarding the proposed schedule changes, and a majority of both groups supported the plans. The schools also received feedback on preliminary drafts of the new plan during community forums and used that input to improve the plan before bringing it to the board.

Educators will spend the next school year developing curriculum, writing assessments for the new curriculum and getting trained in preparation for the changes.

Architect shares update on Phase III bond projects

Pattonville Heights Middle School will look vastly different and have enhanced safety features when students return from summer break next August. On May 11, an architect from Bond Wolfe gave the Pattonville Board of Education an update on Phase III bond issue projects, including the renovations at Heights. The school’s entrance will be reconfigured to direct visitors through one main entrance, and a new car loop will separate bus traffic from car traffic during pick-up and drop-off periods. New parking for staff members will be added on the side of the school nearest Fee Fee Road to assist with separating traffic.

Good management of funds from a bond issue passed by voters in 2000 has enabled the Pattonville School District to save about \$3 million, enough money to hire an architectural firm and complete a list of projects that will enhance safety and security at its elementary and middle schools, along with a few other renovation projects. These projects are over



New look to the entrance of Pattonville Heights - a car loop will separate bus traffic from the parent drop-off and pick-up area.

Phase III Bond Projects

- ✓ Reconfigure school front entrances to direct traffic through school offices
- ✓ Resurface high school parking lot
- ✓ Install new security cameras for high school (install high school’s old cameras at middle and elementary schools)
- ✓ Repair asphalt at Holman
- ✓ Replace lockers at Holman
- ✓ Complete electrical work at Holman
- ✓ Build new weight room at high school
- ✓ Redo facade at Pattonville Heights and create one main entrance
- ✓ Add parking at Pattonville Heights and separate bus and car traffic
- ✓ Add sprinklers to the three-story section of Pattonville Heights
- ✓ Add new entrance to Willow Brook off Schuetz Road

and above the two phases originally planned in the 2000 bond issue. Improvements in those phases were based on needs identified by residents and staff in the Pattonville community. The first two phases have been completed, and additional funds, created through careful spending and wise investing of the bond monies, are enabling the extra projects in Phase III.

As part of Phase III, all school entrances will be redesigned so that once school begins for the day, all visitors must pass through the school office in order to gain entry to the building. The exception will be at Pattonville High School, where a security guard currently greets visitors as they enter the building.

Currently, Pattonville is working on Phase III projects that do not impact students in the classroom, such as construction of a new parking lot west of Holman for transportation employees and a curb cut for a new parking lot entrance at Willow Brook. Other projects slated for completion this summer are listed on page 2.

In 2000, Pattonville voters approved a \$37 million bond issue for upgrades and renovations for Pattonville schools. Included in the bond issue were new library and science wings at Pattonville High School, both of which are in operation today. Other projects included roof replacements, new heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) units, new windows and doors, new door locks, electrical upgrades, repairs to sidewalks and parking lots, new boilers and lighting systems, as well as modifications required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Pattonville professional development improves instruction

All professional training provided Pattonville staff focuses on five areas of emphasis: creating a positive learning environment, varying teaching methods to meet the different needs of all learners, integrating technology, leadership skills and implementing the district's focused instructional strategies. The district's focused strategies are: analyzing student data, identifying best instructional practices, engaging students in reading, writing and critical thinking in all curricular areas, and using assessment data to monitor and provide feedback to students.

An evaluation of the district's professional development program shows that Pattonville staff members feel that training activities are related to improving instruction. Nearly 83 percent of staff agreed the training they received improved instruction. Three out of every four staff members agreed that student writing has improved since the beginning of school, and nearly 95 percent felt that student progress in reading is monitored often and through a variety of methods.

Professional development in Pattonville is guided by the District's Professional Development Steering Committee (PDC). This committee of teachers and administrators works collaboratively to identify professional development needs and evaluate their effect. The committee developed the areas on which it focuses by working from state standards and Pattonville's own strategic plan. All training is tied to the district's goals for improvements.

The evaluation also showed that a support staff professional development program has evolved from a workshop format to a department-based training program. Due to this change, 95 percent of support staff agreed that the content of their training session would help them with their jobs, up from 88 percent prior to the change.

The following recommendations will be implemented in the future to further improve professional development in Pattonville:

- Continue to provide training that promotes implementation of the district's focused instructional strategies;
- Continue to provide teachers in grades kindergarten through 12 with training in the five areas of emphasis;
- Provide opportunities for teachers to learn collaboratively in study groups on topics identified in the professional development needs assessment; and
- Provide training as appropriate for goals outlined in Pattonville's strategic plan.



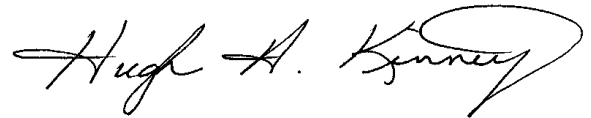
Kinney's Corner

An Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

Here's a look at what's going on in Pattonville:

- Last Monday, we held District Appreciation Night to honor employees and volunteers in the district. I'm happy to announce that during this event, Teresa Jercinovic, executive secretary at Briar Crest Elementary, was named Pattonville Support Staff Employee of the Year, and Amy White, a second-grade teacher at Willow Brook, was named Pattonville Teacher of the Year. Congratulations to these two fine individuals. Ms. White will now represent Pattonville in the Missouri Teacher of the Year program.
- Keep your fingers crossed for nice weather this weekend. It's Pattonville's annual Wellness Run/Walk on Saturday at Pattonville High School. Thanks go to Wellness Coordinator Claire Steiner and all the students and staff who helped coordinate this event. Last year's drew more than 300 participants. It should be a fun morning.
- Next week, we'll be honoring a dedicated group of individuals who volunteer time each week to work one-on-one with our elementary students - our OASIS (older adult) tutors. If you see one of these great volunteers in your building, please take a moment to thank them for their gift of time and energy. They really do make a difference for our kids.

Thursday night, board members and staff members will participate in a dinner to celebrate Pattonville's third Distinction in Performance Award from the state of Missouri. Pattonville, along with other St. Louis area districts honored with this award, will be featured at this event sponsored by the Cooperating School Districts. When Board President Pat Bryant accepts our award, we will all be thinking of you...the dedicated and talented staff, students and volunteers who change our world, one child at a time. You do great work. Thank you.



Calendar of Events

Wednesday, May 12

Nurses' Day

Briar Crest Family Skate Night, 6 p.m.

High School Ninth-, 10th- and 11th-Grade Awards Night, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 13

Bridgeway PTA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Remington PTO Meeting/Spring Sing, 7 p.m.

Pattonville Heights Spring Band Concert, 7 p.m.

Holman PTA Spring Band Concert, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, May 15

Pattonville Wellness Run/Walk, 8:30 a.m., Pattonville High School

Rose Acres Picnic, 11 a.m., Vago Park

Monday, May 17

Briar Crest Kindergarten Orientation, 2 p.m.
Briar Crest DARE Graduation, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 18

Pattonville Heights PTA Meeting/Orchestra Concert, 6:30 p.m.
Remington Awards Night, 7 p.m.
Rose Acres PTA Variety Show, 7 p.m., Community Auditorium at Pattonville High
Holman Orchestra/Vocal Music Concert, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 19

Holman Volunteer Appreciation, 8 a.m.
OASIS Year-End Lunch, 11 a.m.
High School Senior Awards Night, 7 p.m.
Briar Crest Fourth-Grade Missouri Play, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 20

High School Graduation, 7 p.m., UMB Bank Pavilion

Friday, May 21

Remington DARE Graduation, 10 a.m.
Public Astronomy Night, 8:30 p.m., planetarium/observatory at Pattonville Heights

Saturday, May 22

Pattonville Heights Family Picnic and Softball Tournament, 10 a.m.

Monday, May 24

High School Spring Sports Awards, 6:30 p.m.
Rose Acres Fifth-Grade Recognition, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 25

Board of Education, 7 p.m., Pattonville Learning Center



Business Bits

Paying the Bills

The Pattonville Board of Education on May 11 approved paying:

- \$1,386,559.31 for regular bills;
- \$72,472.98 for cafeteria bills; and
- Change orders in the amount of \$73,794.25 for Phase III bond work and \$9,455 for Phase II bond work.

Bid Awards

The Pattonville Board of Education on May 11 approved the following:

- A renewal of an unleaded gasoline agreement for the 2004-05 school year with Energy Petroleum Company for an estimated award of \$40,000;
- The renewal of the TV room equipment maintenance agreement with Dorman Video for the 2004-05 school year for \$11,400; and
- Awarding a bid for one zero-turn mower with options to SOS Rental and Supply for \$8,937.25.

Policy/Procedures

The Pattonville Board of Education on May 11 approved the following procedure/policy updates:

- **Policy IKFF (Graduation Requirements)** - The changes reflect modifications approved earlier this year in high school courses, as well as the requirement that all ninth- and 10th-grade students take mathematics.
- **Procedure IKF-R (Minimum Course Load and Grade Classification for High School Students)** - Approved revisions update the procedure to reflect current practice at Pattonville High School.
- **Procedure GCR-R-1 (Employment and Reemployment of Paraprofessionals with Teaching Certificates)** - Approved revisions address updates in titles and language.
- **Procedure GCBA-R-1 (Advancement of Professional Staff Salary Schedule)**-Approved revisions address updates in titles and clarify language in the procedure.
- **Policy GBPC (Post-Resignation/Retirement Benefits)** - This is a new policy that describes post-resignation retirement benefits.
- **Procedure IGCA-R (Summer School Procedures)** - A change was approved to move from three payroll periods during summer school to two periods, since the program is condensed this year.

New Hires

- **Stephanie Waldrop**, math, High School
- **Helen Niklawski**, third grade, Briar Crest

Your Board of Education

- Pat Bryant, President
- Ron Kuschel, Vice President
- Jeff Fitterling, Secretary
- Keith Gillming, Treasurer
- Randy McArthur, Director
- Ruth Petrov, Director
- Ralph Stahlhut, Director