

SURRY COUNTY SCHOOLS

NEWS RELEASE

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Greyhounds Pilot Late Start Wednesdays to Impact Student Learning

DOBSON, NC - Last night at the Surry County Schools Board of Education meeting, Mrs. Paige Badgett, principal of North Surry High School, requested approval of a two-part pilot program to impact student learning. Subsequently, the Board of Education approved the Greyhounds to pilot a change in their schedule during the 2018-2019 school year to impact student learning.

The pilot program, as Mrs. Badgett presented it to the Board, is two-fold. First, the pilot will include a change from SMART lunch to a block between first and second-period for intervention, study hall, or enrichment. This intervention block will give students who need additional support, time for assigned interventions or study hall. Students who do not need intervention may participate in enrichment opportunities and optional study hall. It also affords teachers the flexibility to differentiate learning needs and be responsive to all students.

Secondly, the Greyhounds will pilot a late start schedule on Wednesdays to provide a more efficient and deliberate time for Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to increase overall academic achievement for students. PLCs are teacher teams who work together to ensure teaching strategies are working and to create pathways to learning solutions. Most important to students, however, is that students will not have to report to school on Wednesdays until 8:25 am. Students will be tardy to first period at 8:30 am. Principal Badgett shared, “The late start will enable teachers to work together to make decisions about how to best support and impact student learning collectively, which is a powerful tool to improve student achievement.”

Mrs. Badgett further explained, “Surry County Schools’ bus transportation will not change and will remain the same as with the 2017-2018 school year schedule. Students who ride a bus will arrive at the same time on Wednesdays. Car riders and student drivers have the option to arrive

on campus in time for the first period to begin at 8:30 but car riders and students drivers may still arrive at the regular time if needed. On Wednesdays, however, the **REQUIRED student day is from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm**. Any student arriving before 8:25 am will have scheduled enrichment opportunities.”

Dr. Jill Reinhardt, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, stated, “ The research is clear that teachers with the shared belief that all students can learn, and who are empowered to work together to improve their teaching, improve student learning. When Mrs. Badgett came to me with the pilot proposal, I knew this was right for students. I am excited to see the student learning gains and look forward to supporting teachers and administrators as they work through this uncharted territory.”

Superintendent, Dr. Travis L. Reeves commented, “Surry County Schools is known for its innovative, creative, and personalized approaches to student learning. Late start Wednesdays is another example of educators prioritizing student needs and establishing a strategic plan to increase student achievement. I am proud of North Surry administrators and staff for their commitment to improve teaching and learning for all students through focused intervention. Furthermore, the Surry County Schools Board of Education is one of the most forward-thinking and student-centered in our state. Their support of this pilot program at North Surry High School is evidence of what can happen when all of us work together to support our schools and students.”

North Surry High School Principal, Mrs. Paige Badgett, will host three informational parent sessions regarding the pilot program on Thursday, July 26th at 5:30 pm, Thursday, August 9 at 5:30 pm, and Tuesday, August 21 at 5:30 pm, which is also Open House. All parent sessions will be held at the North Surry Media Center.

Late start Wednesdays is scheduled to begin the first week of school. Students return for the 2018-2019 school year on Monday, August 27, 2018.