

Friday, January 19, 2018

Dear Students, Parents & Guardians:

Happy New Year! We are wrapping up Semester I of the 2017-2018 school year. The year has flown by thus far and will most likely only feel like it is going faster yet. During this fall we welcomed over 15 new faculty members to our Woodworth Family. These included Teachers, Guidance Counselors, English Language Specialists, Secretaries and Administrators. Weekly we have new students enrolling at our building as well. We are excited to welcome all the new faces to Woodworth.

Currently, your students are in the middle of the Winter NWEA Testing schedule. This will provide us with a midway check-point to assess your students' academic progress. Our collective goal is for ALL students to make one year's growth or more based on their NWEA scores from Fall to Spring. In many cases, our students do score below grade level, as well as at and above grade level. In order to more strategically close the achievement gap of our students below grade level and challenge those at or above grade level, we will collectively be focusing our efforts on helping students think critically, read, and write in all subject areas to build students' literacy skills.

Starting with Semester II, all Woodworth students will participate in an Academic Intervention Hour. In 6th grade this focused time takes place during the 100 minute Literacy and Mathematics Blocks. In 7th and 8th Grade, we will be adjusting our schedule to follow a 6-Period Schedule. Students' core classes and teachers will *not* change. This Academic Intervention Hour will be an addition to their schedule and fit into their regular scheduled day. Students will see an adjustment in timing of their Core classes, which will change from 72 minutes to 55 minutes.

The staff is very excited and encouraged by this coming change. It will allow us to strategically group our students into Academic Intervention Hours by achievement levels to facilitate skill practice and reinforce mastery of transferable literacy skills. The change in scheduled time will also provide our large building with more structural and procedural continuity. All 7th and 8th graders will be on the same 6-hour schedule. Bells will now be used to signal the end and beginning of each hour. We believe this will help create a greater sense of consistency and community building-wide.

On Thursday, January 25th, at 9:00 we will hold our Monthly Parent Meeting. Questions can be brought to this meeting or please feel free to contact Mrs. Dirkse at 313-827-7102. Looking forward to an exciting and positive Second Semester for the 2017-2018 school year!

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Sara J. Dirkse
Principal

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