



Glasgow Middle School

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
www.fcps.edu/GlasgowMS
703.813.8700

4101 Fairfax Parkway
Alexandria, Virginia 22312

June 2011

Dear Glasgow Community,

As you may have heard, Glasgow will be moving to an 8 period day this coming school year. All classes will meet every day for 42 minutes. After reviewing assessment data collected over this and the previous two school years, we have determined this change will provide significant school wide instructional benefits. From our review, we noted that students scheduled for a core class during 3rd period (45 minutes) outperformed their peers enrolled in the same courses taught during a 90 minute period. This trend was notable in both classroom assessments and the Virginia Standards of Learning exams in all four core subjects. Our data is also supported by national research exemplifying the link between consistent daily instruction and student achievement.

The 8 period day will also provide for additional benefits. Within the new bell schedule, there are two 25-30 minute daily blocks that are allotted for enrichment, intervention and relationship development. Students who are being successful will have opportunity to extend their learning while students needing additional support will receive core specific interventions. All students will have daily benefit of structured development of relationships, engagement, academics and life skills. Skills to be introduced and reinforced are organization and time management, establishing and achieving SMART goals, sustained silent reading, IB Learner Profile, Positive Behavior Intervention and Support strategies, discussion groups, and academic mini conferences.

Although this change may seem very different, as stated above, all students and teachers at Glasgow have experienced having classes during our current 3rd period (45 min.). Teachers and students are comfortable with instructional adjustments necessary to have classes every day to include smaller increments of homework reflecting the shorter class times. In our gathering of data, we also found 11 other middle schools in FCPS who operate under a daily schedule. These schools have demonstrated student success and we are confident the Glasgow community will experience the same.

Sincerely,

Deirdre M. Lavery
Principal