

March 20, 2015

Dear Hurricane Parents, Guardians and Friends,

I wanted to make you aware of an important change for Hightower High School for the 2015-16 school year and provide you with some information on how it will impact our students. Hightower will move from an eight-period alternating block schedule, to align with the District's standard seven-period day bell schedule for the 2015-2016 school year. Historically, Hightower High School opened in 1998 with an alternating block schedule to meet the needs of broadcast, medical, and engineering academy student intern experiences. Because of changes in the Career and Technology TEKS and changes regarding the logging and tracking of practicum hours, it is no longer advantageous for the campus to remain on a block schedule. Being on a seven-period day allows students involved in practicums to increase the opportunities for on-site job shadowing experiences and log the required number of practicum hours, without losing an additional credit in their schedule. Also, students that desire opportunities at the Technical Education Center (TEC) will have increased opportunity for seat time in the TEC programs on a traditional seven-period day without losing an additional credit. Alignment to the seven-period day will allow Hightower students to attend critical core subjects every day of the week for 50 minutes as opposed to every other day or only two days a week (on certain rotations). This transition will be implemented for the 2015-16 year. Because of the change to a seven-period day adjustments will need to be made to your student's course selection for next year. Below is specific information related to reopening the course selection window for our students. All students will need to adjust their course selection requests.

Important Course Selection Adjustments:

- Due to this change the online course selection through Family Access will reopen effective 3/20/2015 and remain open until 3:00 p.m. on 3/27/2015. **All students** will need to adjust their course selection to ensure that they have selected exactly **7 credits** for 2015-16 and make any desired adjustments to the order of their alternate elective choices.
- Parents will have an opportunity to verify the changes to the course requests in the Portfolio screen in Family Access beginning at 4:00 p.m., Friday, 3/27/15 through 3:00 p.m., Monday, 3/30/15.

Please know that we will be monitoring your student's course selection closely to ensure that each student has selected seven credits. We will provide ongoing updates and information relevant to the change to a seven-period day through our newsletters, website, and school messenger as we plan for a successful 2015-16 school year. Please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions.



Viretta J. West

Principal