

The New Scarsdale Elementary School Schedule

Last spring, Lynne Shain, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, communicated with the elementary school community about the implementation of a new schedule being piloted in all five elementary schools this year. An important goal of this endeavor is to maximize instructional time during the school day by reducing and minimizing interruptions in the classroom. By looking at scheduling a bit differently, we seek to provide longer blocks of uninterrupted time for language arts, math and additional core subjects. It is our hope that all students will benefit from greater consistency and predictability within the school day. Our work with a consultant last year, in conjunction with the efforts of teachers and administrators, has yielded a schedule that is built on a six-day rotation cycle. We ask for your support as we begin the school year making the necessary adjustments to successfully implement the new schedule.

Below is the information you need to understand the schedule and to help your child be prepared each day for school. As always, thank you for your help and support.

What Does A Six-Day Rotation Mean and How Will I Know What Day It Is?

A six-day rotation does **not** mean there are now six days of school. Instead of defining a week as Monday through Friday, it takes six days labeled A, B, C, D, E, F, and uses them as a cycle throughout the school year. So, Day “A” may fall on a Monday one week and it may be a Thursday on another week. The important piece is to know which day in the cycle we are on versus which day of the week it is.

It is important to know the day of the cycle because it affects the special (now being referred to as “encore”) your child has. For example, instead of Physical Education being every Wednesday, it might be every “C” day. You will receive this information from your child’s teacher on the first days of school.

You will soon become familiar and comfortable with keeping track of the cycle, but this information can be found in a variety of places:

- at the entrance of the front office in the main lobby
- on the info board
- on the community calendar
- on the PTA website calendar

What Does Some of the New Language Mean Regarding The Schedule?

You will hear your children and teachers talk about “encores” and “CCT” times of the day. **“Encores”** is the current term for “specials.” Our consultant shared that his work in schools throughout the country revealed that there are core subject areas

such as Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and Science and there are equally important areas of instruction such as physical education, art and music that fall outside the core subjects. By calling these subjects “core” and “encore” areas of instruction we are placing equal importance on all learning throughout the course of a day.

“CCT” is an abbreviation for Critical and Creative Thinking. Every grade level is assigned a “CCT” time which occurs at the same time each day of the cycle. This critical block of time serves as a window in which no **new** instruction takes place. This 45-minute block is when support services such as LRC, Speech, Occupational Therapy, ESL and a majority of instrumental music lessons are scheduled for a grade level. Students who do not receive services or have an instrumental music lesson on a particular day remain in the classroom, so by the end of a six-day cycle, all students will have experienced CCT time. Teacher may choose to provide reinforcement or enrichment at his time, work on class projects, etc. If we view the rest of the day as uninterrupted instructional blocks of time, we can think of CCT as a carefully planned time to allow these necessary services to occur. Please note, that depending upon a child’s individual needs, there may be other times in the day when he or she may need to receive services, but the majority of students will be scheduled during CCT.

What Are The “Encores” In This Schedule And How Often Will My Child Have An “Encore” During A Six-Day Rotation?

As in the old schedule, the encores your child has and the frequency of each depends on the grade level. Remember, that we no longer define frequency within a five-day week, but in a six-day rotation. Therefore, the length of some of the encores have been adjusted to ensure that students receive the same, or in some instances more, minutes of instruction during the school year.

Below is the listing for each grade level’s encores over a six-day cycle:

Kindergarten:

- Physical Education- 40 minutes 2x per cycle
- Art: 40 minutes 1x per cycle
- Music: 40 minutes 2x per cycle
- Computer/Library/ Creative Movement and Dance- see special heading for Kindergarten

Grades 1 and 2:

- Physical Education: 40 minutes 2x per cycle
- Art: 40 minutes 1x per cycle
- Music: 40 minutes 2x per cycle
- Spanish: 40 minutes 2x per cycle
- Library and computer will be scheduled separately

Grade 3:

- Physical Education: 40 minutes 2x per cycle
- Art: 40 minutes 2x per cycle
- Music: 40 minutes 2x per cycle
- Instrumental Music Class: 40 minutes 1x per cycle- during CCT
- Spanish: 40 minutes 2x per cycle
- There are days when one class, such as Spanish, will fall outside the Encore time
- Library and Computer will be scheduled separately

Grade 4:

- Physical Education: 40 minutes 3x per cycle
- Art: 55 minutes 1x per cycle
- Music: 40 minutes 2x per cycle (includes Chorus which is 45 minutes)
- Spanish: 40 minutes 2 per cycle
- Instrumental Music lessons during CCT for majority of students
- There are days when one class, such as Spanish, will fall outside the Encore time
- Library and Computer will be scheduled separately

Grade 5:

- Physical Education: 40 minutes 3x per cycle
- Art: 55 minutes 1x per cycle
- Music: 40 minutes 2x per cycle (includes Chorus which is 45 minutes)
- Spanish: 40 minutes 2x per cycle
- Instrumental Music lessons during CCT for majority of students
- There are days when one class, such as Spanish, will fall outside Encore time
- Library and Computer will be scheduled separately

Additional information For Kindergarten Parents

In late September, you will be receiving information about your child's **call back** day. This will not fall into a six day rotation, but you will be given a day of the week for your child's call back. This will allow you to make arrangements for outside programs and/or childcare on the days your child is at school for half days.

Kindergarten students also receive Library, Computer as well as Creative Movement and Dance instruction. Your kindergarten teacher will inform you of when these times are scheduled.

We look forward to a wonderful school year and success with this endeavor.