

# Adjusted Schedule for “Late Start” Wednesdays

## Message from the Scarborough Superintendent of Schools:

In an effort to minimize the impact of “Late Start Wednesdays” on both students and parents, we have undertaken a comprehensive review of our first, district-wide, late start Wednesday of the year. Here is what we found:

## Results of our review of “late start” logistics:

**Transportation Schedule:** We discovered that the current bus/transportation schedule is unrealistic and too tight. As well, the recommendation for calculating late start pick-up times by simply adding 1 hour and 15 minutes or 1 hour and 20 minutes (while well intended) does not accurately enough adjust for the later, busier travel conditions and some natural time variations found in this town of 57 square miles (and a school Transportation Department with 30+ vehicles that travel 450,000 miles/year).

**School Start Times on Late Start Days:** We also discovered that the adjusted school start times have contributed to the tightness of the schedule on late start days. Recognizing that each bus is required to make multiple runs in order to transport students to and from school (and multiple other destinations), a sufficient cushion of time needs to be built in to ensure that one run can realistically be completed before the next run is scheduled to start. Again, this has been impacted by the same factors as mentioned above.

## Action steps to be taken:

We are committed to providing reliable scheduling information to our students and their parents – related both to school start times and bus pick-up times – and do apologize for any inconvenience experienced. The following action steps will be taken:

**Transportation Schedule:** In advance of the next district-wide late start (Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>), the Scarborough Schools Transportation Department will share with all parents the computer-generated, late start bus pick-up schedules in a handout that will identify the projected pick-up time for each bus, bus stop, and school. Additionally, the master schedule will be posted on the Transportation webpage ([www.scarboroughschools.org](http://www.scarboroughschools.org) under Central Office).

**School Start Times on Late Start Days:** A slight adjustment in start times for grades K-5 ONLY will be made in order to create a more realistic cushion for these later bus runs. See the start times below:

**Pleasant Hill, Blue Point, and Eight Corners: 10:25 AM**

**Wentworth School: 9:55 AM**

**Scarborough Middle School: 9:10 AM**

**Scarborough High School: 9:00 AM**

**Software Bus Tracking System:** Longer-term, we will be exploring the viability of bringing a bus tracking system online for access by parents. More on this action item will be shared if and when this option comes available.

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### “Why is this teacher learning time important?”

On the 2015-2016 School Calendar for Scarborough Schools, there are ten (10) scheduled late starts for ALL schools and, for the Scarborough High School ONLY, an additional nine (9) late starts. These are all scheduled on Wednesdays (reference the School Calendar on the ScarboroughSchools.org website).

Teaching, as a profession, has become more and more complex and demanding and more time, energy, and expertise are asked of our instructional staff than ever before.

We heard from the community in our April 2015 Community Dialogue that this community wants teachers who are continually growing in their knowledge and skills, and providing world class teaching for all students – preparing Scarborough students for success in college, career, and civic life in a world that is constantly changing.

Even as demands on instructional staff have grown, teacher learning time has been lost to tight economic years which have curtailed staffing levels overall. Before and after-school time is already maxed out with other student-specific meetings (IEPs, 504s, etc.), individual and group student help, and staff, content area, and curriculum meetings. Adding back full teacher learning days is prohibitively expensive yet expectations of teachers (and students) only increase in volume and complexity.

**This late start time is dedicated to teacher learning and it is essential to continuous improvement of the quality of instruction that happens, every day, in every classroom across the district.**

Thank you for your continued support of our schools.

Best regards,

Dr. George Entwistle