



Unified School District 232

Administration & Communications

Alvie L. Cater, II
Assistant Superintendent

To: Members of the Board of Education
Cory Gibson, Superintendent of Schools

From: Alvie Cater

Date: July 5, 2023

Subject: **Mill Creek Middle School Start Time, End Time (ACTION)**

We will seek approval by the Board of Education at its regularly scheduled meeting in July to shift the start and end time of the school day by five minutes for Mill Creek Middle School. This recommendation is only for Mill Creek and will not impact Lexington Trails or Monticello Trails.

Background

The current start and end of the school day for our middle schools is 7:55 a.m. and 3:05 p.m. You may recall that we shifted the middle school times a few years ago (from 7:50 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.) primarily for Lexington Trails and Monticello Trails due to their close proximity to the high schools. We took this action to allow for more time separation with the high schools, especially at dismissal, to help alleviate some of the traffic congestion that occurs on our middle school/high school campuses. Currently, high schools dismiss at 2:55 p.m. with middle schools dismissing at 3:05 p.m.

We are proposing – for Mill Creek Middle School only – to shift the start and end of the school day by five minutes, from 7:55 a.m. and 3:05 p.m. to **7:50 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.**

Reason for Recommendation

The reason for this recommendation is to address a bus transportation issue that emerged this school year with some elementary buses arriving late, primarily at two of our elementary schools at dismissal. This issue occurred after buses had completed secondary school bus routes. Based on feedback and data received from First Student, the district's school bus transportation provider, a shift in five minutes is a meaningful step to address the issue.

As you will see in the chart below for the month of April, some buses for Belmont Elementary and Mize Elementary arrived late after completing their secondary school routes.

First Student Data – late arrivals by at least five minutes and ten minutes – April 2023.

School Name	Late>5 (3:55)	Late>10 (4:00)
Starside Elementary	1	1
Belmont Elementary	9	2
Riverview Elementary	2	0
Prairie Ridge Elementary	1	1
Clear Creek Elementary	2	1
Mize Elementary	16	4
Horizon Elementary	2	1

Mill Creek Middle School, given its location, has more bus routes and student riders compared to our other middle schools. First Student continues to make routes as efficient as possible by maximizing the number of students on a particular route. While our district has not experienced some of the transportation challenges seen in other school districts, there is a tight labor market for bus drivers. As such, First Student continues to maximize route efficiencies to support normal day to day transportation operations. If approved by the Board, the district will monitor the Mill Creek Middle School time change and its impact on afternoon elementary routes.

Administration recommends adjusting the start and end times for Mill Creek Middle School to 7:50 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for the 2023-24 school year. Please let us know if you have any questions about this topic.

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