

August 5, 2025

Dear Cheltenham High School Community,

We hope this message finds you doing well and enjoying a restful summer. We are writing to inform you of important updates to the Cheltenham High School daily schedule that will take effect in the upcoming school year—specifically, changes to Lunch and Learn.

To better support student safety, learning, and well-being, we are transitioning from the previous Lunch and Learn model to a new structure that includes two key components: **Panther Prep** and the reinstatement of a **homeroom period**.

**Panther Prep** will take place **daily from 7:30 to 8 a.m.** and serve as a dedicated time for students to receive academic support from teachers, similar to the instructional assistance previously available during the Learn portion of Lunch and Learn. Following Panther Prep, students will report to homeroom, where they will receive daily announcements, participate in check-ins, and build stronger connections with peers and staff. The high school will also implement two lunch periods to ensure students have access to healthy meal options.

The new daily structure supports multiple pillars of our strategic plan, as well as our [mission and vision](#):

- **Teaching and Learning:** Panther Prep creates time for targeted academic support. The high school team will continue to utilize a system-wide Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework, conducting weekly meetings to analyze student data and guide timely interventions.
- **Social, Emotional, and Mental Health:** The return of homeroom provides a consistent space for adult-student connections, wellness check-ins, and daily structure. Additional supports, such as our Ninth Grade Academy and ongoing Mental Health and Wellness student groups, are also being implemented to foster a safe, responsive environment.
- **Climate and Culture for Student Success:** This new schedule enhances safety and provides structure during a key part of the school day. It is part of a broader strategy that includes restructured Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), updated behavioral expectations, and efforts to improve student belonging by addressing concerns such as vaping and unsupervised hallway activity.

We are confident that these updates will improve the high school experience and ensure students continue to receive the support they need to thrive. Thank you for your ongoing partnership in making Cheltenham a place where all students belong, become, and excel.

Sincerely,

Dr. Benjamin Hammond  
Principal

&

Dr. Brian W. Scriven  
Superintendent of Schools