

Bishop O'Dowd High School

New Weekly Schedule Fall 2021



Creating Purposeful Space for
Community & Learning



Rationale for the Change

Over the course of the 20/21 school year, O'Dowd has implemented bell schedule adjustments during remote and hybrid learning. We began exploring different ways to change the daily bell schedule, taking into account student and parent survey data from the fall along with the socio-emotional health of our students and staff.

Below are the areas of exploration along with goals for the new schedule.

- **Space and time for purposeful community and relationship building for students and staff**
 - Prioritize relationship-building, equity and access in student support to meet the needs of all students.
 - Prioritize relationship-building, equity and access to create innovative, excellent and equitable teaching, learning and formation.
- **Continue the ongoing commitment to professional development for faculty and staff to increase knowledge and skill set supporting our community in diversity and academic excellence.**
- **Consistent and predictable class time with built in time for masses, assemblies, etc.**
 - Strengthening students' social-emotional health, faith, and social connection by building in allocated time for Mass/liturgy, advisory, assemblies, clubs within the school day without the need for so many special schedules
 - Simplifying the current schedule by removing 4 schedule variations



Bell Schedule Design Process

To ensure we considered all different avenues and bell schedule models, we undertook the following the steps to design a schedule which will meet our goals.

- **Step 1:** Creation of an O'Dowd Design Team, consisting of members from each academic department, counseling, academic sport, athletics, and administration.
- **Step 2:** Meeting weekly, the Design Team identified goals considering the needs of our students based on fall survey data, department needs, and school logistics.
 - In addition, the team revised three variations of bell schedules, attempting to balance the needs listed above.
- **Step 3:** Notes were taken and shared with staff, who were encouraged to review these notes and share feedback and questions with their Design Team representative. A link to the notes document is below for reference.
 - Also, communication with Dr. Smart to review notes and incorporate his feedback and questions.
- **Step 4:** Presentation to President Childs of the final bell schedule draft for approval.
- **Step 5:** Rollout of the schedule to staff and families on May 12.

[Bishop O'Dowd Bell Schedule Design Team Meeting Notes](#)



The New Bell Schedule

Week 1

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 9:00-10:10 (70m) | 5 9:00-10:10 (70m) | 1 9:00-9:50 (50m) | 5 9:00-9:50 (50m) | 1 9:00-10:10 (70m) |
| 2 10:15-11:30 (75m) | 6 10:15-11:30 (75m) | 2 9:55-10:50 (55m) | 6 9:55-10:50 (55m) | 2 10:15-11:30 (75m) |
| 11:30-12:30 LUNCH (60m) | 11:30-12:30 LUNCH (60m) | 3 11:00-11:50 (50m) | 10:50-12:10 COMMUNITY (80m) | 11:30-12:30 LUNCH (60m) |
| 3 12:35-1:45 (70m) | 7 12:35-1:40 (70m) | 11:50-12:50 LUNCH (60m) | LUNCH 12:10-1:10 (60m) | 3 12:35-1:45 (70m) |
| 4 1:50-3:00 (70m) | 8 1:50-3:00 (70m) | 4 12:55-1:45 (50m) | 7 1:15-2:05 (50m) | 4 1:50-3:00 (70m) |
| | | 1:50-3:00 COMMUNITY (70m) | 8 2:10-3:00 (50m) | |



The New Bell Schedule cont.

Week 2

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5 9:00-10:10 (70m) | 1 9:00-9:50 (50m) | 5 9:00-9:50 (50m) | 1 9:00-10:10 (70m) | 5 9:00-10:10 (70m) |
| 6 10:15-11:30 (75m) | 2 9:55-10:50 (55m) | 6 9:55-10:50 (55m) | 2 10:15-11:30 (75m) | 6 10:15-11:30 (75m) |
| 11:30-12:30 LUNCH (60m) | 10:50-12:10 COMMUNITY (80m) | 7 11:00-11:50 (50m) | 11:30-12:30 LUNCH (60m) | 11:30-12:30 LUNCH (60m) |
| 7 12:35-1:45 (70m) | LUNCH 12:10-1:10 (60m) | 11:50-12:50 LUNCH (60m) | 3 12:35-1:45 (70m) | 7 12:35-1:45 (70m) |
| 8 1:50-3:00 (70m) | 3 1:15-2:05 (50m) | 8 12:55-1:45 (50m) | 4 1:50-3:00 (70m) | 8 1:50-3:00 (70m) |
| | 4 2:10-3:00 (50m) | 1:50-3:00 COMMUNITY (70m) | | |



New Bell Schedule Highlights

- 9:00 a.m. start maintained, a piece favored by students and parents from surveys
- More time for a zero hour class & Academic Support at reasonable time in the morning
- 80 minutes for Mass in middle of the day (Community)
- 70 minutes for PD/Collaboration on Wednesdays due to 10 minute passing period between the 2nd and 3rd slots.
- 1 hour common lunch every day - facilitate community
- Simple 70/50 minute classes
- Built in time during periods 2 & 6 for announcements in 75/55-minute periods

[Different View of Bell Schedule](#)



FAQs

Did the school consider keeping the FLEX Wednesdays in the schedule?

Yes, this option was explored, both in discussion and design. It ultimately was dropped in favor of the 9:00 a.m. start and 3:00 p.m. end time.

Why start the school day at 9:00 a.m.?

Research has shown that adolescents perform better academically starting later in the day. In addition, students and parents polled very strongly for this start time during remote and hybrid learning. Therefore, we wanted to make an effort to keep this start time.

Will students be allowed to leave after the last class on Wednesdays?

Yes, students are allowed to leave after the last class period on Wednesdays. Buses will be running and these times will be shared once finalized.

With the school day starting at 9:00 a.m., what time will the campus be open?

Campus will be open at 7:00 a.m.

Will breakfast be served for students who are dropped off early?

Yes, breakfast will be served in the mornings. We will share the starting time for breakfast once Epicurean adjusts their starting time.



FAQs

Will the school have enough space to accommodate the entire student body and staff at one time?

Yes! With the entire student body at lunch at one time, this frees up areas on campus previously not available. Areas students will have available will be the cafeteria, annex, quad, amphitheater, the many tables and benches around campus, and if necessary, the gyms.

Will Epicurean be able to handle the entire campus having lunch at one time?

Prior to incorporating this decision, we talked with Epicurean to ensure that they would be able to manage the work load and have enough food for the entire community. They have reassured us they can successfully manage this switch.

Why do the 50-minute classes alternate Tuesday and Thursdays?

This rotation was done to create flexibility when we schedule our Masses, advisories, and other school assemblies.

Will students still be allowed to come late and leave early if they have a FLEX period first or last?

Yes, this process will continue. More information regarding protocols will be shared once finalized.

Why are the class times shorter in this schedule?

The Design Team discussed different class lengths while considering the later start to the day and ending by 3:00 p.m. for athletics and other out of school student commitments. In addition, building in the community time and weekly professional time for staff was considered, and the team polled on preferred class time lengths.

