

**Office of the Superintendent of Schools**

Humiston Building • 103 Main Street Suite 2 • Meredith, New Hampshire 03253  
 Main Office: (603) 279 – 7947; Fax: (603) 279 - 3044

June 9, 2017

Dear Inter-Lakes School District Families:

**Re: Important Information on Proposed Changes to School Start/End Times and Bus Routes for 2017 - 2018**

It is hard to believe that our school year is coming so quickly to a close. The year has certainly been filled with many milestones and achievements for our students. I am writing today to discuss the potential for a milestone for us as a school district. My apologies in advance for the length of this letter, but I do want to make sure I am thorough in communicating this information. In previous correspondence, I have shared that as a District we are studying a universal start/end time for Inter-Lakes Elementary School, Inter-Lakes Middle Tier and Inter-Lakes High School. In this model, Sandwich Central School would have approximately a twenty (20) minute staggered start/end time from the other two buildings.

This study has included parent forums, online feedback opportunities, student surveys in grades 7 – 12 and a significant review of the impact on: academics, transportation services and routes, traffic patterns on the Inter-Lakes campus, and athletics and extra-curricular activity schedules.

Our school and district leadership teams analyzed all of these factors, identified the positive impacts, and identified ways to mitigate the challenges. As a result of this work, we believe the positive results for student well-being and learning outweigh the challenges that this change may present. *Therefore, on Tuesday night (6/13 at 6:00 p.m., Humiston Building), I will be recommending to the School Board that we implement the change for the 2017 – 2018 school year.* The proposed changes and current times are outlined in the table below.

Proposed Start/End Time Changes			
School	Schedule	School	Schedule
ILES/ILMT/ILHS	8:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	SCS	7:55 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.
Current Start/End Times			
ILES	8:25 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	SCS	8:05 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.
ILMT	8:20 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.		
ILHS	7:20 a.m. – 2:08 p.m.		

Below is an overview of the benefits, challenges and proposed methods to mitigate the challenges.

**Benefits**

Our research on the benefits of a later start time for adolescents as well as our own experiences and observations leads us to the conclusion that this change is in the best interest of our students to support their growth and learning. Research on the benefits of a later school start time for adolescents can be found on our homepage at [www.interlakes.com](http://www.interlakes.com) under Universal Start/End Time. Additionally, it would create greater flexibility with our resources and allow us to more effectively provide for students’ instructional needs. As we continue to implement competency-based learning PK - 12, having more options for learning is essential. Furthermore, as a District we value collaboration amongst our team of educators. The proposed changes to our start and end times, opens the door for more opportunities for professional dialogue and learning across grade-levels.

### **Proposed K – 12 Bus Routes**

Included in this recommendation is a shift to a single tier bus system with K – 12 bus routes. I recognize that this has been one of the repeated areas of concern, shared primarily by elementary parents, about this proposal. However, after a significant review of our bus routes, including the hiring of a transportation consultant as well as the Assistant Superintendent and I riding buses with students, I am confident that we can successfully make this transition. Additionally, I will be recommending that cameras be added to our buses and that two bus monitors be included in our bus contract, allowing us to provide additional supervision and support where needed. Student seating would be by level. Additionally, the Assistant Superintendent and I are committed to riding each bus route at least once next year. After spending this year observing all of our students in a multitude of settings, I feel compelled to share that we have outstanding students and I know that with our support they would be able to create a positive K – 12 culture on our buses that would be a source of pride for us all.

### **Early Dismissals**

At the high school level, the area of concern most often expressed has been the impact on athletics and extra-curricular activities. More specifically, if the morning is shifted, then, the end time of the day is shifted and the number of early dismissals to support these important programs will increase. Athletic schedules are built typically a year in advance. Despite this, we have worked to make some changes to next year's schedule that would support the proposed change. It is not perfect and participating students will miss more academic time at the end of the day than they currently do, generally limited to a half-hour or less. This varies from sport to sport and season to season. In order to balance these dismissals, the proposal includes a weekly rotation of C and D Block at the high school level. Additionally, students would be encouraged to use their Office Hour time to support the lost class time. Our goal as future athletic schedules are built would be to look for more opportunities, such as more Saturday events, to reduce the number of early dismissals.

### **Traffic Patterns**

A third area of concern that has been a common theme of discussions and feedback is the impact on traffic. Our current traffic pattern, particularly at Inter-Lakes Elementary School, has challenges and needs addressing. Whether this proposal is approved or not, we will be making necessary changes next year with the intent of creating a better and safer flow of traffic. Through my years of experience, I have come to learn that changing traffic patterns takes a bit of time. So, thank you in advance for your support and patience on our efforts next year to improve in this area. Once finalized, the new pattern will be communicated prior to the start of school.

***A full proposal outlining the benefits, challenges and methods to reduce the challenges will be presented at the School Board meeting on Tuesday, June 13 at 6:00 p.m. at the Humiston Building Conference Room, 103 Main Street, Meredith.*** As always, parents and community attendance are welcome. Additionally, please do not hesitate to contact me.

On a similar, but different note, please visit our website at [www.interlakes.org](http://www.interlakes.org) or use the link below to view next year's school calendar. Please note that there have been adjustments to when we will have Teacher Workshop Days, Parent Conferences and Early Releases.

<http://www.interlakes.org/images/stories/documents/district/calendar/17-18%20I-L%20APPROVED%20CALENDAR.pdf>

I wish you and your family a positive end to the school year and a summer filled with joy!

Respectfully,

*Mary A. Moriarty*

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Superintendent of Schools