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Possible Schedule Changes Revealed

Jacob K. Youngblood
Marquette University High School

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Marquette University High School

Milwaukee, WI

Grade: 9-10

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Second place winner

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Possible Schedule Changes Revealed

By: Jake Youngblood '15

When little Johnny comes to pick up his MUHS Planner next year, he may notice some significant changes in his daily schedule.

In October 2011, a committee was formed and charged with the task of assessing Marquette High's current schedule and calendar. "One of the main ideals that we looked at was 'cura personalis', the care of the person," Mr. Keith Klestinski, chair of the Schedule and Calendar Task Force, stated.

The Task Force has worked on forming alterations to the schedule for nearly two years. The committee felt the proposed changes would help the school fulfill its mission as a Jesuit high school.

The first recommendation the Task Force put forth included introducing a rotating seven-period day with fixed activity and lunch periods. There would also be an activity period four days per week used as homeroom or time for advising and meeting with teachers.

The proposed changes would retain a late start and weekly mass. The period length of each day would be fixed at 45 minutes long, and the new dismissal time would be 3:10. "It's to gain the time for us to work with students in an advising capacity and a student support capacity and to retain some of the things we feel are important," Klestinski said.

The Task Force wanted to make it simpler to meet with teachers and advisors. The lunch period would be longer making it easier to arrange a meeting with a teacher. In essence, there would be two lunch periods. The committee found that education is not what it used to be, teaching needs to be done on a more personal basis. The proposed activity periods would allow for increased teacher-student interaction.

The 45-minute period lengths would also eliminate the teachers' need to schedule tests and quizzes on the certain days when periods are longer.

Before these recommendations were proposed, the committee spent a lot of their time researching and ensuring that the committee would form solid recommendations. The Task Force visited other schools to weigh and compare the best options for change.

Once the Task Force proposed their recommendations, the plan was sent to the Administration to start the ratification process. Once Administration approves the plan, a formal recommendation will be submitted to the Board of Directors.

However, the changes are not definite. The changes are merely recommendations. They are still in the process of being approved, but could be approved and implemented as soon as next year.

In order for the changes to be implemented by next year, the plan would need to be approved by January, before the following year's schedule and calendar is approved.

“In general, the [student body's] response has been overwhelmingly negative. I hope this is just an early reaction and not an absolute conclusion. It seems as though most students are opposed to change because they feel our schedule is perfectly fine,” Matt Gottsacker '15, Conclave director of transparency, stated.

Some students are open to these changes and are excited about the fixed lunch periods, the consistent period lengths, and the flexibility for tests to be spread out among four days.

Gottsacker said “As students, it is now our duty to consider these changes with an open mind.” The Administration encourages the student body to voice their opinions. They should contact their representatives in Conclave. If they want to submit their thoughts they can visit www.muhsconclave.com.