

NEW BEGINNINGS

THE STORY BEHIND
THE NEW CLASS THIS
SCHOOL YEAR

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T HIS YEAR, STUDENTS WERE WELCOMED BACK TO SCHOOL WITH A NEW SCHEDULE THAT INCLUDED MORE FREQUENT BLOCK DAYS AND A NEW BELL ROUTINE.

Additionally, the 90 minute period previously called "Titan Time" was split into both a homeroom class and a seminar time that students could sign up for, based on their personal interests.

"Our hope was to still be able to deliver lessons to our students that we found value in, but to also then combine both teacher and student interest for the rest of the given time," Administrator Michael Cordova said.

Mr. Cordova was involved in the creation process of this new time for students, as him and the rest of the administrators took time to decide what ultimately would benefit both students and teachers with this added structure.

"We wanted to see more of a teacher and student connection through seminar because the goal was to find something that both had interests in," Cordova said.

Teachers were able to pick what seminar their classroom would hold, connecting to one of their own favorite activities or passions. Through this addition, an increase of attendance has also been noticed because kids are more likely to stay at school, as they look forward to a class that better caters to their hobbies.

"In the future, we definitely do hope to continue with this class as it becomes more consistent and popular for students," Cordova said.



TIME TOGETHER

ONE TEACHER FOR ALL FOUR YEARS

T HROUGHOUT THEIR YEARS OF SCHOOL, IT IS COMMON THAT STUDENTS WILL HAVE VARIOUS

different instructors for their academic career. However, we have the opportunity to have one consistent teacher throughout these pivotal years on the path to success. From their freshman to senior year, students are able to have the same homeroom teacher for all four years of high school to help them through their journey. Math teacher Ms. Katie McCann explains why she enjoys the chance to have the same kids for their time at the school.

"Being able to have them in my class for this long allows me to get to know them more personally and at a different level than most," McCann said.

For two days a week, homeroom teachers are able to check in with their classes and teach them valuable lessons to help them be successful in their lives and futures.

"I think it's easier to connect with them more personally and get to know them better because I get four years to really get to know these kids, and I'm grateful for that," McCann said.



MORE THAN MOST

GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR YOUR STUDENTS

A S A TEACHER, ONE IMPORTANT JOB THEY CAN HAVE IN THEIR STUDENTS' LIVES IS TO SUPPORT

them and choose to help them with their aspirations. Spanish teacher Cassidy Dunnigan has given this role an even deeper meaning this year, as the seminar teacher for the poms team.

"Beforehand, I didn't know much about the poms program, besides some of the students I had in class that were a part of the team," Dunnigan said.

When she first got the email in the summer that gave her this opportunity, she said she was very excited to get to better know these athletes and to be able to have them in her classroom. Throughout the team's season, Ms. Dunnigan is seen supporting them in all they do. Whether it's at a basketball game to watch their halftime, supporting them at their own regional competitions against other high school's teams, or cheering them on from the stands at a football game, you can always count on her to be there to see the team perform.

"I choose to go support them because I enjoy being able to see all their hard work out on the floor because they truly do mean a lot to me," Dunnigan said.

Her encouragement is not only noticed by others, but is also greatly appreciated by the girls in her class. For freshman Cassidy Harrison, her support means a lot.

"Having Ms. Dunnigan as our seminar teacher has been one of my favorite parts of this year. She always takes the time to make us feel loved, even if it's just by saying hi to us in the hallways," Harrison said.

Ms. Dunnigan is a remarkable example of showing up for your students, through her ongoing support and love for them.



BEING IN MS. DUNNIGAN'S SEMINAR HAS MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE THIS SCHOOL YEAR."

ABBY RYAN, 10

1. FUN WITH FRIENDS Angkel Markes, 9, and Colby Sandhu, 9, pose during their homeroom class. "I like having homeroom because I get to chat and giggle with my friends," Markes said. *Photo by Sarah Stevens*

2. BUILDING BONDS Sophie Mortimore, 9, talks with her homeroom teacher, Ms. McCann. "I like being in Ms. McCann's homeroom because I feel like I can talk to her about anything and she cares about us," Mortimore said. *Photo by Carson Reffel*

3. BIGGEST FAN Posing in a picture with her poms seminar, Ms. Dunnigan smiles big after watching them perform. "This year, I've learned a lot more about how the hard work that the team puts into practice translates onto the floor and that's been really special," Dunnigan stated. *Photo by Emily Beltran*

4. FULL FOCUS Busy on her computer, student Gabryelle Goodwater, 9, sits in her homeroom class. "I like my homeroom teacher because she helps us be accountable for our grades and makes sure we get things turned in," Goodwater said. *Photo by Sarah Stevens*

