

I HAVE TO START MY DAY WITH...



"I would say breakfast. It doesn't matter what it is; I just need something to fill my stomach before I leave."
-Ivy Sutton (6)

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"Waffles because they taste good and because they give me energy for the day."
-Rhys Patton (6)

IT'S EVERYTHING.

Underwood's over it

Science teacher Jacob Underwood shares opinion. By Kylie Zufall

The afternoon seemed to drag on. By the 4:00 PM bell, students were tired and sixth grade science teacher, Jacob Underwood was, too.

"It's not my favorite thing in the world. It's definitely changed a little bit of how I've had to approach my day-to-day life, and that's been a difficult adjustment," Underwood said about the new schedule. "It has been pretty jarring this year."

A common concern among staff was the number of students missing chunks of last period.

"Students participate in a ton of after-school activities, and they have been missing instruction. This has put extra pressure on both students and staff," Underwood said.



"SIGN" ME UP.

At dismissal, assistant principal Sean Hoorelbeke stands on 52nd Ave and controls traffic as students cross the street.

"Drake has grown so substantially. There's just so many more kids that drive to school and not as many who ride the buses anymore. That's a huge up-tick of walking traffic, so I do it just to be safe," Hoorelbeke said. He enjoys the interactions with the students that this role provides. "It is a great opportunity to just say hi to the kids in the morning and start my day off that way."



photo by kzufall

RUSH HOUR. Max Kowalski (7) rushes out of the school to catch the bus. "It's difficult to get to my locker because there's a ton of people crowding around the lockers," Kowalski said. The new schedule made it difficult for him to finish homework after school.

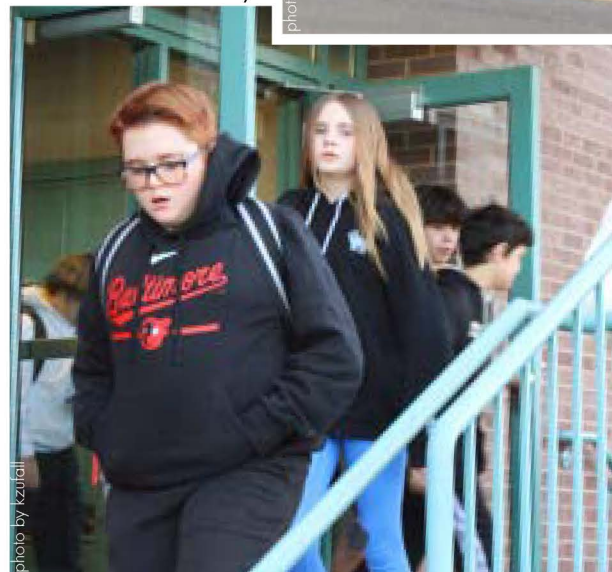


photo by kzufall

photo by snasiedkina

JAM PACKED.

At the sound of the bell, 320 eighth grade students rush to get to their lockers, but Henry Hays (8) runs through the hallways to get to his locker first. "I like to get to my locker quickly," Hays said. "Getting to my locker is really hard. It takes me about a minute if I get there fast."



photo by snasiedkina

THE "JOY" OF RUSH HOUR.

Amidst the commotion, Sofieanne Mueller (8) gives a side-eye to people stopped in the halls. "I'm late to my classes, and I get points taken off," Mueller said. To her irritation people chat in front of her locker during passing periods.

TICK... TICK... TICK... As the school day ends far later this year, Dylan Shaklee (7) attempts to finish her science assignment before the bell. Shaklee continued working while the rest of the class was preparing to leave. "I was trying to finish my assignment on diagrams of Golgi bodies," Shaklee said.

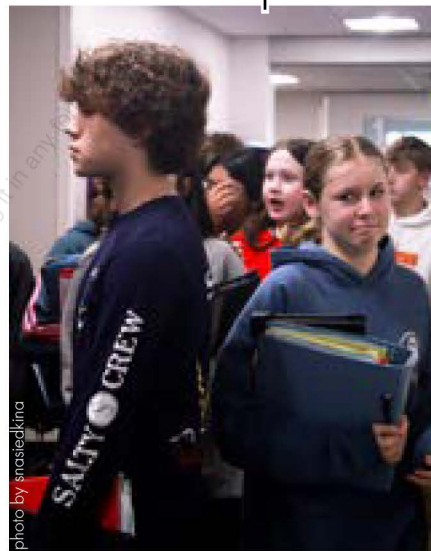


photo by snasiedkina

SCHEDULE SQUEBBLE

8th graders debate the pros and cons of the new schedule.

"I like it because I get to sleep in more, and I just get more sleep and feel less tired throughout the day. It gives me that time which I didn't have before to catch up on random assignments."

-SYDNEY CAMPBELL (8)



"I really, really don't like it. I value my afternoons more than my mornings because now I don't have much time to actually get into a big project when I get home from school, considering that by the time I finish homework it's 6:00 PM. Then I have dinner, and it's 7:00 PM. Whoever is seeing this, please change it back."

-OWEN EARL (8)

3:58. Tick. 3:59. Tick. 4:00. Suddenly, "All students are dismissed for the day" rang through the soon to be jam-packed halls. Some kids shoved through and rushed to leave school due to sports or after school activities. Others waited until the halls were less crowded for easy access to their lockers. Students who rode the bus sped out of their classes even though with the new schedule they may not have been dropped off until after 5:00 PM.

At the end of the 2022-23 school year, the district announced that Drake's start time would change from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM, pushing release time back one hour and forty minutes.

There were students like Keith Thomas (7) who hated the new schedule. "You have to come early if you want to do extra curricular activities," Thomas said. "They made it so you'll be able to get more sleep, but it's really not doing it. It's just pushing everything back."

However, there was a minority of students who appreciated the change. "I personally love it. My dad doesn't have to work in the mornings, so he can always drive me,"

Hallie Johns (8) said. "I wasn't getting enough sleep last year but now I'm able to get all the sleep I need, and I have more time on my hands in the morning."

Teachers also had mixed feelings about the new start time. "I like the new schedule. I am naturally a person who works better in the morning, and I'm exhausted by the afternoon no matter what time it is. I do notice a difference in terms of how students aren't quite as zombie-like in the morning. You can tell they're more ready to learn. It's good for me and the way that I prepare, which ultimately is good for the kids," Mr. Michael Reeke, sixth grade science teacher said.

"I don't like that it's so late. Kids are getting home late and leaving school early to go to ortho appointments or practices. I worry about the safety of some kids whose parents have to drop them off on their way to work. I'm here at 7:30 AM, and they're usually here before me," Mrs. Ranae Martin, eighth grade math teacher said.

Whether a fan of the change or not, one fact remained: There was a big difference between getting out at 2:20 and 4:00 PM.

Where'd all the **TIME** GO?

District-implemented later start time creates big changes for student body and staff. Story by Opal Morris