

Dear Mountain School Families,

Poudre School District is shifting our bell schedule for the 2022-2023 school year.

- Livermore 8:25 to 3:03
- Red Feather 8:55 to 3:33
- Stove Prairie 8:47 to 3:25

Knowing that changes in bell schedules can have a significant impact for school communities, district staff exhausted all options available. The challenges we face are twofold:

PSD made this change because the district will open two new middle/high schools in Timnath and Wellington in August and is adding new bus routes to and from those schools. Making routes for thousands of students across PSD's 1,800 square miles, is interconnected work. Shifting or adding bus routes at one school has ripple effects at other schools.

These effects are further compounded by the bus driver shortage PSD is experiencing. Despite months of recruiting efforts PSD is still short about 30 drivers compared to pre-pandemic levels. Simply put: Fewer drivers mean fewer routes and less flexibility to bus

My hope is that you and your family will have sufficient time to plan for this shift. I appreciate your flexibility and understanding as we continue partnering in support of our students' academic success and well-being.

As always, don't hesitate to reach out to me with questions.

Best,

Principal Tom Schachet



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Tom Schachet, Principal

Frequently Asked Questions regarding 2022-23 bell schedule changes

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Question: PSD had plans to open the two new middle/high schools in Wellington and Timnath even before voters approved the 2016 bond funding their construction. Why are we just now learning about the change to other schools' bell schedules?

Answer: The district has planned for these schools' construction and opening for many years. However, district staff didn't know that changes to existing schools' bell schedules were necessary until the Transportation Department started creating 2022-23 routes to transport students to PSD's new middle/high schools. After district staff determined that there was no way to avoid routing alterations – and thereby bell schedule alterations –, we communicated the changes to the impacted school communities.

Q: How many schools' bell schedules are impacted by this district change?

A: Seventeen schools' bell schedules are different for the 2022-23 school year compared with the 2021-22 school year. They include: Bethke, Cache la Poudre, Eyestone, Irish, Red Feather, Rice, Shepardson and Zach elementary schools; all PSD middle schools; and Poudre High School.

Q: If one of the reasons for this change is because of a bus driver shortage, can't you just increase wages and hire more people?

A: Like other districts across the nation, Poudre School District is struggling to recruit and retain bus drivers. Despite increased efforts to recruit and retain bus drivers, including increased wages, hiring/retention bonuses and paid training, PSD is short about 30 full-time bus operators to bus the roughly 13,000 students that it did prior to the pandemic. The district has hired additional drivers since fall 2021 but still needs more. [More information >>](#)

Q: If the new bell schedule doesn't work for our family, what are my options? Can we enroll in another school in PSD?

A: The second-consideration period for School of Choice is open if your family wants to enroll at another school. Visit the [School Options and Choice web page for more information](#).



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Q: Why did some schools' bell schedules change by a few minutes while others experienced shifts of 25-55 minutes?

A: There are multiple factors that influenced the changes made to a school's bell schedule, including the number of students who need to be bused to and from school; where those students live (how far from school, how far from others who are bused to that school); how routes to and from that school are impacted by routes to and from schools nearby; where the school is located in relation to others; and more. Staff did everything they could to minimize disruption; that said, there are some school communities that will experience a more significant schedule change than others.

Q: In 2018, the PSD Board of Education voted to shift bell schedules later to allow secondary students more time to sleep. They said the changes were made to support students' mental health and wellbeing. Don't these schedule changes conflict?

A: Yes, we recognize that all PSD middle schools' start times are earlier in 2022-23, thereby shifting students back to start times mirroring those that preceded the 2018 vote to push bell schedules back. Knowing that this was a possibility, staff looked at every possible option before determining that changes to bell schedules were necessary, as a result of routing alterations that can't be avoided. Please let your principal or students' teachers know if you see a change in your student after the changes go into effect for the 2022-23 school year. We are here to partner with you in supporting your child.



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