

Instructional changes at GCCISD Junior Schools

Junior schools in Goose Creek CISD are running on a new schedule this year in order to give students more variety and to help them be more successful. Students at Baytown, Cedar Bayou, Gentry, Horace Mann and Highlands junior schools picked up schedules for the 2013 – 2014 school year that included seven class periods instead of six.

Due to the seven-period schedule, eighth grade students now have the option of taking Spanish for high school credit or choosing another elective.

The additional class for seventh grade students allows the integrated Language Arts class to be separated into a writing class and a reading class, providing more time to focus on the skills needed for success on the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR).

Sixth graders take a one-semester Computer Literacy class to satisfy the local required computer class, but they also may choose to take Digital Design, which includes working with Google presentations, Prezi, Adobe Photoshop Elements and Adobe Premier Elements.

The school day was also lengthened by 15 minutes, changing the start time to 8:40 a.m. from 8:45 a.m. and the dismissal time to 4:10 p.m. from 4:00 p.m.

"Our focus for the junior schools is making instructionally-driven decisions to increase student success," said Dr. Melissa Duarte, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. "It was important that we did not lose any time in our core classes, but it is exciting that we're giving students the opportunity to choose an additional class."





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