

New Policies To Improve Performance

By Melissa Dinh, 12
News Editor

This year administration has updated old tardy, ID and morning procedures, as well as the advisory schedule, to ones that are more efficient for teachers and students.

✓ ID Policy

Instead of having to wear an ID at all times, students must only carry them on their person and produce them when asked by an adult on campus.

"The old policy is not a battle I'm willing to fight right now. So the ID concept is that we still want you to have it, but we don't need you to wear it," said Principal Dr. Cazilda Steele.

To eat lunch, check out books and leave the campus during school hours for any reason, students will need to produce permanent IDs. Teachers and principals will also conduct random checks throughout the year.

"And if someone asks you to produce it, we do want to be able to see it, and if we don't then it is going to be the same policies as last year," said Dr. Steele.

Students who do not have their IDs will have to report to the office and buy a temporary ID. Although students are no longer required to wear their IDs, district regulations still call for teachers and sponsors to wear IDs at all times on campus.

"We are hoping that since we've relaxed that a bit, students will at least be cognizant of having it on their person. In their pocket, purse, wherever it may be, you will still need proper identification," said Dr. Steele.

✓ Tardy Policy

The tardy tables have been done away with. It is now the teacher's responsibility to mark students tardy in the attendance program Zangle. Principals will be in charge of monitoring the tardies entered into Zangle. Consequences for being tardy include: 1 ½ hour detention for two tardies in one day, Saturday detention for three tardies and ISS for more than three tardies in a day.

"In the past, we had tardy tables, but things have gotten less effective overtime because students who didn't want to be in class would just hang out at tardy tables," said Dr. Steele. "People thought they were getting away with it, that's not going to happen this year."

The administration has shortened the passing period from seven to six minutes. Teachers will not be able to lock their classroom doors at the tardy bell. Lunch detention has also been terminated, but may come into effect again if needed.

"In the beginning, lunch detention started out really good and now we have kind of abused it, so we are going to get away from it," said Dr. Steele. "We've put it on hiatus, but if we need to resurrect it throughout the year, we will."

✓ Morning Procedures

In order to relieve overcrowding in the commons before school, students' freedom has been extended to the first floor. The main commons will remain an eating and visiting area, while the ninth grade commons will be opened for students who need to study or hold tutorials. In addition, the library and attendance office will now be accessible to students in the mornings. Students will have access to a new College and Career Corner in the library.

"The main hallway is going to be free and open for people to relax in the morning, you don't just have to go to the cafeteria anymore," said Dr. Steele. "We want it to be more relaxed like a college atmosphere, where people can roam around and walk a little bit. I think that will help a little bit with crowd control."

For the first week of school, the bookroom will be open to students through the H hall staircase. In the mornings before classes, the hallways will not be open and teachers are encouraged to keep their doors locked to give them time to prepare for the day ahead. Ram to Ram tutoring will be held in the freshman commons in the mornings. Morning tutorials held by teachers will still require a tutorial pass.

✓ Prime Time for RAMS

Activity period has been restructured to become Prime Time for RAMS, an advisory period. It has moved from after second period to after third period at 10:03 a.m. to 10:33 a.m. with a new focus on advising and mentoring students.

On Mondays, there will be school wide focus lessons prepared by the Advisory Team. Each lesson will be between 20 to 25 minutes. Tuesday through Thursday will be a study hall, tutorials, pre-approved club meetings or coach pull-outs. Teachers will be able to request students for this period. Friday will be set aside for RAM TV or activities.

Which one will you still have in 25 years?

20 drinks

9 1/2 wraps

4/5 of a dress

2 1/2 tanks of gas

\$65

1984

2010

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