



3 November 2020

Dear Allamuchy Community,

**Reminder:** The ATSD will be open for the Blue Cohort on Monday, November 9. ATS and MVS will be switching to a 9-period-abbreviated-day schedule starting on this date. Student schedules will be updated to reflect the 9-period schedule in RealTime. Below also please find the bell schedule for the abbreviated-day schedule:

**MVS**

Arrival: 8:00-8:30  
Period 1: 8:32-8:57  
Period 2: 9:00-9:25  
Period 3: 9:28-9:53  
Period 4: 9:56-10:21  
Period 5: 10:24-10:49  
Period 6: 10:52-11:17  
Period 7: 11:20-11:45  
Period 8: 11:48-12:13  
Period 9: 12:16-12:41  
Homeroom: 12:41-12:45

**ATS**

Arrival: 8:10-8:40  
Period 1: 8:42-9:07  
Period 2: 9:10-9:35  
Period 3: 9:38-10:03  
Period 4: 10:06-10:31  
Period 5: 10:34-10:59  
Period 6: 11:02-11:27  
Period 7: 11:30-11:55  
Period 8: 11:58-12:23  
Period 9: 12:26-12:51  
Homeroom: 12:51-12:55

***Why switch to 9-periods now? Isn't that less instructional time?***

Allamuchy is switching to a 9-period-half-day schedule. There are several reasons for this researched-based decision. First, we have learned that students in a hybrid situation need to have a level of direct instruction to greatly improve their ability to achieve. This schedule change will allow for all students to have more direct contact with all their teachers, therefore improving their instructional outcomes in all subjects that the school's curriculum offers.

In addition, it has been shown that students have a time-capacity for learning. The previous schedule allowed for 75 minutes per class period, however, this would include several break periods and shifts to different activities (many being exercise breaks, brain breaks, etc.). Therefore, it may seem like a huge shift to period timing; however, math and language arts utilize a double block which equates to about 50 minutes. What we know about students' ability to learn and knowing that students learn best in chunks of time; the quality of lessons will prove to provide as much time on task as what was provided earlier in the school year.

Finally, switching to a 9-period half day schedule will allow our specials to occur during the instructional school day. This will allow for opportunities like physical education to take place and allow our students to participate in a well-rounded educational program. Additionally, shifting specials to the 9-period schedule will also allow students to seek extra help or supplemental support at the end of the school day in the afternoon.



**Allamuchy Township School**  
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### ***How does the scheduling change impact the Parent Portal?***

Ultimately, student schedules will reflect the 9-period schedule within the RealTime Parent Portal. During our transition to the 9-period schedule, the information in the Portal will reflect the new schedule by Nov. 9. It is the plan of the administrative staff to begin updating on Nov. 4. During the period of time between Nov. 4 and Nov. 8, the RealTime parent portal will be deactivated as students' schedules are updated.

### ***PM Learning Opportunities***

Although scheduled classes will wrap up by 12:45, there are educational opportunities that will be offered between 1:45 and 3:30 PM. Extra help (Academic Skills Improvement Program) will continue to be offered. Additionally, related services (counseling, speech, OT, PT, etc.), basic skills and/or reading sessions may also be scheduled during this afternoon time frame.

We aim to also bring back some of our clubs. These clubs will allow for participation during this PM session as well.

\*Please note that afternoon supervision will continue to be offered between 1:00-3:00 PM for those who have requested it and have made arrangements with the school. \*

### ***Nurses' Notes***

Please review the letter that was sent regarding holiday guidelines. [Click here to view the letter.](#) Please be safe and stay well. Keeping our schools open is a community effort. **If you plan to travel, please let us know so that we can adequately plan for your child's virtual learning due to travel limitations and mandatory quarantine.** We understand the personal choice to travel and that there are many factors that go into making that decision. Please be reminded that we are in this together, and it is your responsibility to follow health guidelines. We firmly believe that many students need the time in school with direct teacher contact to improve success. Please do your part in helping us keep our school open.

### ***Allamuchy Township School District 20-21 School Calendar for Snow/Emergency Day Use Survey***

The district is collecting information regarding snow days. Please complete a survey regarding snow day use which can be found [here](#).

Truly,

The ATSD Admins