

Blair PTSA General Membership Meeting
September 17, 2019
7:00p - Blair Media Center

1. 7:00-7:15: Parents welcome to tour the school to see the new seating options.
2. 7:15: Discussion about change to One Lunch
 - A. **Mr. Ostrander** - Master scheduler. Discussed reasons for the switch.
 1. Overcrowding - Before One Lunch, only part of the school was available during lunch because the rest was in use with classes. Now, there is no area where the students can't go during lunch. Results in more square footage per student.
 2. Students had limited access to teachers if different lunch periods. Now, every teacher has to have a plan for academic support (30 minutes 3x/week).
 - B. **Student Panel:** Six students ranging from 10th-12th grade shared their opinions about the switch to One Lunch. In sum, they feel like the school has more of a community feel now. They appreciate having lunch with their friends and always being able to access teachers. They also appreciate that lunch is slightly longer because it allows them time to do homework, eat, and see teachers.
 - C. **Faculty and staff:** David Stein, Leslie Blaha, Dirk Cauley: Positives of One Lunch: gives all students access to teachers, significantly reduced requests for schedule changes, improved attendance in classes during the other lunch period, access to RecZone and intramural sports helps kids gain athletic skills and get their energy out, kids feel more connected.
 - D. **Ms. Johnson:** Reminded parents that Blair is a closed campus and students may not leave for lunch! Primary reason it is closed is student safety. Also, school promised neighborhood that kids would not leave campus for lunch.

Additional notes:

Lunch Activities are posted on the Blair website. Movies are available in the cafeteria. Students who are buying lunch seem able to do so (only long lines are slushies and fries). Potential problems with OneLunch: Some students feel anxiety in the crowds, publishing clubs liked double lunch, protecting teacher's time.

3. Changes to AP Registration (7:45)- Leslie Blaha
 1. Big changes - College Board changed the process
 2. Deadline is now NOVEMBER 7th for all APs
 1. After November 7th - \$40 late fee or \$40 penalty if you choose not to take it
 3. Reduced fees and fee waivers are available. Even if you don't qualify, it is possible to get financial help (case by case basis).
 4. No more Total Registration - Done through College Board
 5. Why are APs important? College credit and practice studying for cumulative test
4. College Readiness Day - Mr. Dirk Cauley
 1. October 13th is College Readiness Day
 2. 9th grade: PSAT 8/9 for practice. \$12. It is possible to take the PSAT 10
 3. 10th grade: PSAT 10 - all 10th graders - free
 4. 11th grade: PSAT - \$17
 5. 12th grade: College fair, essay writing, interview practicing
 6. Testing will be from ~ 7:45-12:00ish. Paper and pencil

5. Introduction of the PTSA Board - Mariama Orange - President
 1. Vacancies include MCCPTA delegates - 2, Membership Chair, Fundraising Chair
6. Budget - Katherine Ralston
 1. Introduced budget - last year's and the one proposed for this year
 2. Discussion of MiniGrants
 3. Discussion of cushion in savings account
 4. Budget vote - approved with quorum
7. Next PTSA General Meeting: Meet and greet on October 14th after parent visiting day.

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