

# Implement block scheduling

EVELYN MORADIAN

Teachers are transforming the education paradigm, ending lengthy lectures and replacing them with interactive lessons. By doing so, classrooms are adjusting their curricula to fit a greater need to learn through hands-on activities.

Despite educators' efforts to incorporate these new methods into their classrooms, it is difficult to find time. Within an hour-long period, there is only so much one can accomplish.

For that very reason, schools within the district and around the country should adopt a block schedule.

Block schedules comprise of 90-minute class periods, that up to four periods in a day. The student would have different periods depending on the day of the week.

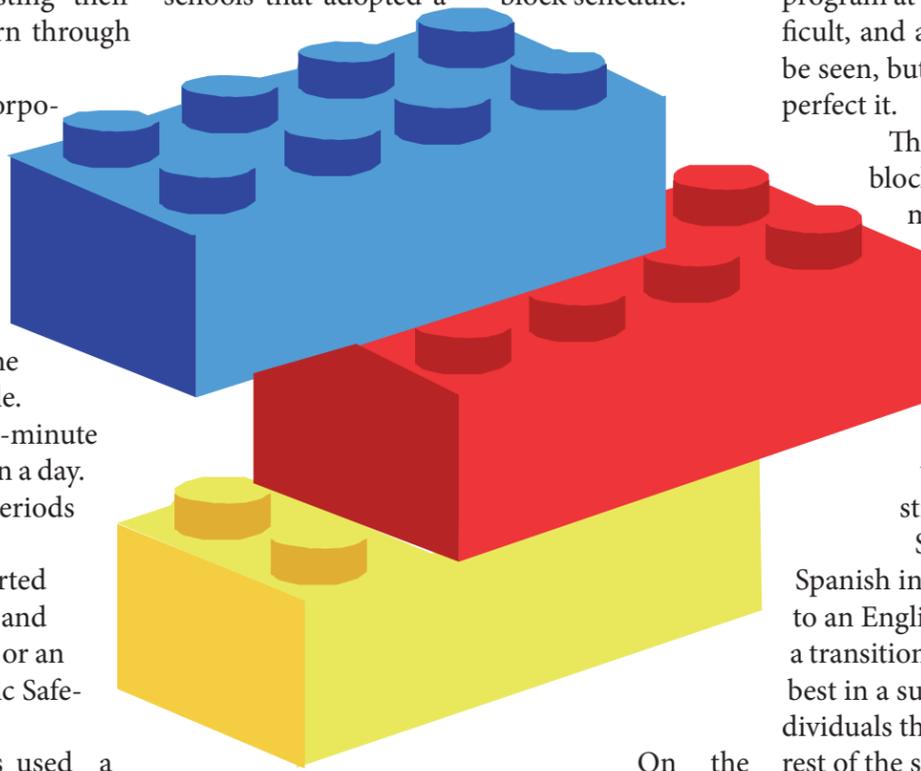
"By the time you get things started and you're in the process of learning, and then you do [the] closure, 56 minutes or an hour is really not enough time," Public Safety Teacher Kristine Lowe said.

Clark Magnet High School has used a block schedule for years.

Tolou Pharokhipanah ('19), believes that "it gives teachers more of an opportunity to connect with their students" said, former Clark student.

Studies continue to test the effects block schedules have on students, and results vary overall. In 2009, tenth graders across Massachu-

setts were observed as they completed the states Comprehensive Assessment System exam. There was a 15% improvement in pass rates among schools that adopted a block schedule.



On the other hand, students in Connecticut were observed in 2001 as they took their AP Calculus AB, AP English Literature Composition, and AP U.S. History tests on the Connecticut Academic Performance Test. No statistically significant improvements were seen, leading to the conclusion that scheduling did not

affect the results.

These varying outcomes do not undermine the possible success that may come from a new program at our school. The transition will be difficult, and an immediate improvement may not be seen, but like any program, time is needed to perfect it.

The result is worth the initial risk, as block scheduling will provide schools more than extra instruction time, allowing students to focus on fewer subjects within a school day.

With our current system, the class period ends before a student can adjust to the new material.

"Having to switch brains...six times a day for a student...is really strenuous." Lowe said.

Students would not have to learn Spanish in one period, and immediately switch to an English class in the next 56 minutes. Such a transition inhibits a student's ability to do their best in a subject. There are only a handful of individuals that succeed in this system, leaving the rest of the student body to work around it.

Block schedules promote academic success. Teachers would be able to better prepare lessons, knowing that time would not be a constraint.

This small change to an old system can lead to a greater number of students succeeding. It is a small step towards reforming our education system.

# Hooked on Juul

STEPHANIE MAJINIAN

Last month, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave JUUL labs and four other major manufacturers 60 days to prove that electronic cigarettes would not reach the hands of minors.

E-cigarettes have quickly replaced the conventional cigarette. That comes off as a relief to many, especially to worried parents, but most are unaware of how easy it is to acquire these devices.

"I get them from my friend, whose other friend is an adult and just buys a bunch for us," one anonymous user said. "Sometimes, the stores don't even ask for an ID."

This is what the FDA is trying to stop.

If JUUL labs and the other manufacturers are

unable to lower the increasing numbers of minors owning e-cigarettes, the devices and flavors will be taken off the market.

For many minors, including my peers, this is a tragedy.

However, it should be seen as a blessing in disguise.

The long-term effects are just as dangerous as an addiction to nicotine. The risks include a possible increase to the exposure of other toxic substances found within traditional cigarettes, "double the risk of heart attacks," and the conversion to the use of traditional cigarettes, according to a study done by the University of San Francisco.

Teenagers who smoke are still able to acquire devices from adults who are willing to buy it for

them. The risk factors are completely ignored, and the statement of "not smoking anything at all is better than choosing what to smoke" is completely ignored.

Minors who don't smoke anything should stay away from smoking and enjoy a healthier life, away from the devices.

E-cigarettes were invented to help heavy smokers convert to something healthier, not as a new device for teenagers to use.

JUUL labs and other manufacturers are excellent marketers, but fail to actually spread awareness of the long-term effects of the use of the devices.

If the devices are off the market, teenagers will live a healthier life.



Virginia Tobacco



Cool Mint



Fruit Medley



Creme Bruule