Plus Time Information Sheet

All of us have made a significant commitment this year, in every department, to guarantee what students need to learn in each of our courses. Modifying essential skills and updating common assessments for each course will always be a work in progress, but it is worthwhile work that will benefit our students. We became clear on what skills students must master in each course through our work this year, and at the same time, we created a framework for how to provide support when students need it. This framework will be a flexible, fluid system that allows each teacher to provide timely, systematic, and direct support by the student and by the skill.

Practices and Outcomes for Our Additional Time

The department will determine specific activities offered each week based on the needs of the students. Students will be automatically selected for some labs. Teachers can also assign students to labs, and students themselves will have opportunities to select labs they want to attend.

- **Student Selection:** Students will attend specific academic labs based on performance or teacher recommendations. Teachers will have various options to send students to small-group instruction labs for reteaching if they deem it appropriate. Otherwise, students who are struggling will be automatically scheduled into one of the following three areas—

    - **Help Lab.** Students wanting to improve, but needing additional support. Students with fewer than three missing assignments and a grade below a C– will be automatically entered into this lab.

    - **PACE Lab.** Students who are capable of doing the work, but aren't completing it, will be sent to the PACE lab. These students will be restricted from enrichment activities.

    - **PACE HD.** This academic boot camp is for students who don't complete their work and don't appear to be invested in working. These students will be restricted from enrichment activities. They will also be in a smaller environment, and every effort will be made to determine why they aren't working.

    Students not completing their work in these labs will be sent to PACE after school.

    Students meeting the criteria may select an activity of their choice.

    Students not choosing an enrichment activity or placed in a lab will be defaulted to a silent, snack-free, drink-free, iPod-free, phone-free lab.

- **Types of Activities:** Departments will determine how to use their resources and provide support to students who need it. Each department will have a priority day every week. Students requested to attend a priority day are blocked from other departmental labs.

  - Priority day activities will be reteaching in small groups.

  - Enrichment day activities will be providing additional time and support to students.

  - Experiential activities will be unique opportunities offered on enrichment days.

There may be several small groups of the same activity happening at the same time on priority day. For example, there could be four algebra labs all doing small-group reteaching on quadratic equations. A department can only host as many activities a day as it has staff.

- **Priority day activities** will be reteaching in small groups based on the following scenarios:

  - Student performance on common assessments will determine who needs to be retaught essential skills in the **Skill-Building Lab**.

  - Absent students who missed a class activity will be sent to have an essential skill taught for the first time in a traditional **Class Lesson**.

  - Students who may need guided help on a homework concept will be sent to the **Help Lab** for guided support.

- **Enrichment day activities** will be providing additional time and support to students. These labs will provide guided practice and whole-group instruction rather than intensive small-group support provided on priority day.

  - Students who need guided help on a homework concept may attend the **Help Lab**.

  - Students who are having trouble becoming proficient with an essential skill can attend the **Review Lab** to get more practice and with a previous skill or a preview an upcoming skill.

  - Teachers can host **Test Preview** labs for courses.

- **Experiential activities** will be held on enrichment days when departments choose to offer unique experiences to students outside of traditional classroom experiences. This will include academic activities like book study, peer mediation training, SAT class, groups in counseling, financial aid information, and a computer graphics mini-course. Classes like band, choir,

yearbook, and newspaper will run classroom labs when necessary. However, this will not be a time when an entire group can be expected to attend for a practice/walk-through or other lesson. This time is meant for individual help or new opportunities for students. It will also not be used for club meetings.

- **Outcomes:** What do we hope to see as a result of this additional time?

This period will support the other more intensive academic supports we already provide students. This is additional support for those who need it and not a cure-all. Unlike other programs where students are placed in "double courses" and their electives are dropped, we have been able to add support to students while still providing a rich variety of elective choices. Examples of our intensive supports include:

- PRIDE
- Three-term courses
- PACE
- Early college
- Co-teaching
- Bridges to success

All students will have expanded academic opportunities and experience improved learning outcomes. These outcomes will be in relation to the following practices:

- Increase opportunities to provide timely, systematic, and direct support to students.
- Increase opportunities to provide students unique academic experiences during the school day.
- Increase student awareness of how they are performing in a particular course.