



"Home of the Titans"

SAMMAMISH HIGH SCHOOL

December 13, 2006

Dear Sammamish Students, Parents and Staff,

The Sammamish High School Program Delivery Council met yesterday afternoon and reached consensus on the four versus seven period day schedule dilemma the faculty and PDC have been grappling with since August. The consensus of the PDC was that the four period day cannot continue at SHS for the following two reasons:

- We, as a PDC, must obtain a waiver from the Bellevue Education Association in order for us to continue the four period schedule and the way the percentages have come out consistently in the faculty voting we do not have sufficient consensus among the faculty or PDC membership to get a waiver.
- We, as a PDC, attempted to formulate a four period day schedule that would not require a waiver and would not further decrease our curriculum coverage time. We were unable to develop a schedule that met both tests.

We want you to know how proud we are of the PDC membership and the process they have engaged in since August on this issue. They honored the opinions of the students, parents and colleagues by looking at the issues from a variety of perspectives. At the end of the day however the two bulleted items listed above could not be overcome. Sammamish High School will operate on a seven period day schedule starting next school year. The faculty and PDC will now turn its attention to deciding what type of seven period schedule we will run at SHS, a pure seven or a modification of the seven period schedule (for example, a schedule such as Newport's or Interlake's). While we enjoy many aspects of the four-period schedule, we are absolutely convinced that our kids will get an even better education next year on the seven-period model. The staff is committed to providing the best learning environment for our students, even when that means going through what may first appear as a difficult transition. Our goal remains enabling every Sammamish student to excel academically, and that is just what we intend to do by making this change.

Best regards,

Laura Bang-Knudsen
Principal

George Westergaard
PDC Facilitator