

John Rolfe Middle School  
Double Block Math and Reading Option for the 2015-2016  
February, 2015

**Purpose**

The purpose of this proposal is to compare the options of the current modified block schedule with the proposed double-block reading and math option.

**Rationale**

Students at JRMS historically score in the 50 percentile range in the areas of English and Math. Listed below is the three year data trend for specific SOL tests:

Test	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
History	72%	73%	63%
Math	57%	58%	44%
Reading	79%	56%	57%
Science	87%	57%	66%
Writing	77%	50%	58%

**Goal**

The goal of this proposal is to determine which model will benefit the students who attend JRMS and meet their current/projected needs.

**Current Model**

The current modified block schedule offers seven, 45-minute classes on Monday and four, 90 minute classes Tuesday – Friday. The state requires a minimum of 225 minutes per week for current middle school courses.

*Sample Current 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Schedule*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 <sup>st</sup> Period Math 6				
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period History 6	1A Block Tier II Instruction	1A Block Tier II Instruction	1A Block Tier II Instruction	1A Block Tier II Instruction
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period Health/PE	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period History 6	5 <sup>th</sup> Period Science 6	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period History 6	5 <sup>th</sup> Period Science 6
4 <sup>th</sup> Period Reading 6	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period Health/PE	6 <sup>th</sup> Period Elective	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period Health/PE	6 <sup>th</sup> Period Elective
5 <sup>th</sup> Period Science 6	4 <sup>th</sup> Period Reading 6	7 <sup>th</sup> Period English 6	4 <sup>th</sup> Period Reading 6	7 <sup>th</sup> Period English 6
6 <sup>th</sup> Period Elective				
7 <sup>th</sup> Period English 6				

**Pros:**

With the current schedule, the following strategies that benefit students:

- **Repeating Block classes** – historically, students perform better in 1<sup>st</sup> period in contrast with periods 2 – 7,
- **1A Block** – 30 minute session within 1<sup>st</sup> period to offer Tier II instruction to select students (students below grade level on NWEA and SOL test complete modules using Think Through Math and Reading Express. Data is tracked via Aimesweb). Tier I students who are on or above grade level attend enrichment courses during this time,
- **Common planning** – the schedule is designed to allow teachers to plan together daily (two 45 min. periods on Monday and one 90 minute period Tuesday – Friday),
- **Electives-** all 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students report to electives during the same block. This eases transitions throughout the building.

**Cons**

Based on the current schedule, the listed opportunities are not allowed for students:

- **Rigid scheduling-** once the schedule is completed, options are limited for placing students in specific classes,
- **Additional Seat-Time** – the current schedule does not allow for students to benefit from more time in class,
- **Remediation** – Limited remediation opportunities are available. Students traditionally are pulled from elective classes to work with core academic teachers,
- **Tier III Instruction** – this level of intensive support is limited based on the current schedule.

**Proposed Double Block Schedule**

*Sample 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher's Schedule (with times)*

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
8:30 – 9:13	1 <sup>st</sup> Period Academic	1 <sup>st</sup> Period Academic	5 <sup>th</sup> Period Academic	1 <sup>st</sup> Period Academic	5 <sup>th</sup> Period Academic	8:30 – 10:02
9:17 – 10:00	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period Planning	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period Planning	6 <sup>th</sup> Period Planning	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period Planning	6 <sup>th</sup> Period Planning	10:06 - 11:38
10:04 - 10:47	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period Foundation Course	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period Foundation Course	7 <sup>th</sup> Period Academic	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period Foundation Course	7 <sup>th</sup> Period Academic	11:42 – 1:44 (Lunch)
10:51– 11:34	4 <sup>th</sup> Period Academic	4 <sup>th</sup> Period Academic	8 <sup>th</sup> Period Academic	4 <sup>th</sup> Period Academic	8 <sup>th</sup> Period Academic	1:48 – 3:15
11:38 - 12:46 (lunch)	5 <sup>th</sup> Period Academic					
12:50 - 1:33	6 <sup>th</sup> Period Planning					
1:37 - 2:20	7 <sup>th</sup> Period Academic					Monday - 43 minute classes Periods 1-7 227 min/week
2:24 - 3:15	8 <sup>th</sup> Period Academic					Tues – Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Period 92 min classes 225 min/week

**Sample 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Schedule (Double block Math and Reading 6)**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 <sup>st</sup> Period Math 6	1 <sup>st</sup> Period Math 6	5 <sup>th</sup> Period History 6	1 <sup>st</sup> Period Math 6	5 <sup>th</sup> Period History 6
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period Elective	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period Elective	6 <sup>th</sup> Period Health/PE	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period Elective	6 <sup>th</sup> Period Health/PE
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period English 6	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period English 6	7 <sup>th</sup> Period Reading 6	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period English 6	7 <sup>th</sup> Period Reading 6
4 <sup>th</sup> Period Science 6	4 <sup>th</sup> Period Science 6	8 <sup>th</sup> Period Math Foundations	4 <sup>th</sup> Period Science 6	8 <sup>th</sup> Period Math Foundations
5 <sup>th</sup> Period History 6				
6 <sup>th</sup> Period Health/PE				
7 <sup>th</sup> Period Reading 6				
8 <sup>th</sup> Period Math Foundations				

**Sample 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Schedule (Double Block Math and Reading 7)**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 <sup>st</sup> Period Math 7	1 <sup>st</sup> Period Math 7	5 <sup>th</sup> Period USII	1 <sup>st</sup> Period Math 7	5 <sup>th</sup> Period USII
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period English 7	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period English 7	6 <sup>th</sup> Period Reading 7	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period English 7	6 <sup>th</sup> Period Reading 7
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period Science 7	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period Science 7	7 <sup>th</sup> Period Math Foundations 7	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period Science 7	7 <sup>th</sup> Period Math Foundations 7
4 <sup>th</sup> Period Elective	4 <sup>th</sup> Period Elective	8 <sup>th</sup> Period Health/PE	4 <sup>th</sup> Period Elective	8 <sup>th</sup> Period Health/PE
5 <sup>th</sup> Period USII				
6 <sup>th</sup> Period Reading 7				
7 <sup>th</sup> Period Math Foundations 7				
8 <sup>th</sup> Period Health/PE				

**Sample 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Schedule (Addition Double Block Math and Reading 8)**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 <sup>st</sup> Period Math 8	1 <sup>st</sup> Period Math 8	5 <sup>th</sup> Period Civics	1 <sup>st</sup> Period Math 8	5 <sup>th</sup> Period Civics
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period English 8	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period English 8	6 <sup>th</sup> Period Reading 8/ HS Elective	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period English 8	6 <sup>th</sup> Period Reading 8/ HS Elective
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period Elective	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period Elective	7 <sup>th</sup> Period Health/PE	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period Elective	7 <sup>th</sup> Period Health/PE
4 <sup>th</sup> Period Science 8	4 <sup>th</sup> Period Science 8	8 <sup>th</sup> Period Math Foundations 8	4 <sup>th</sup> Period Science 8	8 <sup>th</sup> Period Math Foundations 8
5 <sup>th</sup> Period Civics				
6 <sup>th</sup> Period Reading 6/ HS Elective				
7 <sup>th</sup> Period Health/PE				
8 <sup>th</sup> Period Math Foundations 8				

In order to accomplish this schedule, JRMS would need additional complement to offer the Math Foundations 6 class. Current complement figures for the 2015-16 school year reflect 53. For this sample 6<sup>th</sup> grade schedule to work, the following is needed (Based on current 2014-15 enrollment):

	Math 6 Badgett, Deforest, Flynn	Math Foundations 6	Math 7 Baessler, Washington, Ray	Math Foundations 7	Math 8 Cherry, Kelly, McCoy	Math Foundations 8
No. Students	293 (includes Collab)	0	289 (includes Collab)	0	231 (includes Collab)	0
No. Sections	13	0	13	0	9	0
Average Class size	23	0	22	0	26	0
No. Teachers (current @ 5 sections each)	*3 (16 sections Math 6, 2 sections- 3115K)	0	*3 (18 sections= 16)	0	*3 (15 sections = 19 students/class)	0
No. Students (Estimated DB)	0	147 (50% students in need)	0	202 (70% students in need)	0	127 (55% students in need)
No. Total sections (/20)	0	*7	0	10	0	6
No. Additional Math Teachers	0	1.0 (6 sections each)	0	1.0 Additional 6 sections	0	1.0 Additional 6 sections
*Notes	3 teachers w/6 classes each = 16 sections 18/students/classes	-16 Math 6 sections +6 MF sections = 22 total sections	3 teachers w/6 classes each = 18 sections -14 sections Math 7 =20 stds/class	*4 sections taught with current complement  *additional 6 sections cover all classes	*3 sections left open to cover Algebra	*Algebra can double-block with this complement  -Geometry can double-block with Math Coach teaching daily

 Represent current figures  
 Additional Complement needed for 2015-16

\*Estimated figures based on current enrollment, NWEA scores (percentage who would benefit from double-block math), and final SOL scores from Spring 2014

- Academic teachers will now teach 6 classes,
- All teachers will maintain common planning,
- Elective teachers would teach 6 classes and have common planning during 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> period. This is done in an effort for students to begin each day in an academic class.
- Math Foundations offers students an additional 225 minutes per week in math,
- Tier II classes will be offered through foundation classes,
- Students receive Reading in addition to English daily,
- Elective teachers are not affected by this schedule and will maintain current programs,
- Students who do not need Math Foundations can take another class (Spanish A, Exploratory, etc.)
- PRIDE will not be offered,
- Decrease in class size

NWEA and SOL data reveal 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at JRMS test below 70%. Reading is not currently offered to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. There are currently 230 students in Reading 7. Based on this figure and multiplied by 50% of the students not passing tests, these 115 students will benefit from an additional Reading 8 class. Using this new 8 period model, the addition of another 1.0 for reading will allow 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to benefit from this course.

### **Conclusion**

By using the 8 period model, teachers at JRMS will have the opportunity to meet with students in need daily. Math and Reading will be offered daily to enhance student understanding of difficult concepts. The addition of “seat-time” will increase student performance on universal screeners. In summary, JRMS requests an additional 4.0 for the 2015-16 school year.

**1.0 Reading and 3.0 Math**