



Central Bucks Middle School

Student Focus Group Feedback



1. What are your needs as a middle school student?

- More time within school day to:
 - complete homework
 - meet with teachers
 - receive extra help
 - participate in extra-curriculars
- More exposure to specials
- Clear learning expectations and feedback from teachers
- More time for practice and teachers assisting in class

2. What are your needed learning behaviors as a middle school student?

- Time to learn organization and time management
- Rotating schedule
- Smaller class sizes
- Consistent expectations from all teachers
- Time to socialize with peers
- Resource: in order to get homework done
- More options for specials

3. How important is it to have a choice or be exposed to all 'specials classes'?

- Music track limits specials options for students
- More options for specials
- 9th grade - music students limited- want to take PE requirement; however, PE & music leaves little option for other classes

4. Do you feel prepared to use technology?

- Teachers' use of technology varies based on class
- Technology (Office 365, OneNote) should be a course
- Need more to learn and practice technology skills
- Students' level of comfort varies on individual basis - some learning from elementary and some from home use
- Accessibility to technology at home not same for all students

5. How important or valuable is the Resource Period—Scale 1 to 5

- Average rating score was a 4
- Time to complete homework is important
- Versatile use (homework, teacher help, tutoring, clubs)
- Majority of students wanted it longer – felt rushed with different activities

6. What does the middle school schedule lack if anything?

- More specials' options
- 9th graders should have longer class periods than 7th/8th graders to prepare for high school
- Difficult to get help from teachers due to availability
- Student choice – what time of day certain classes are scheduled
- Possible rotating schedule
- More transition time between classes
- More “down” time/social time after lunch

7. Does the current length of the periods meet your needs?

Shorter periods

- More time for resource
- More transition time
- More specials' opportunities

Same

- Perfect for teaching and getting work done
- Keep specials and core classes the same

Longer

- Would allow for more homework done in class

8. What else would you like to share about your current middle school experience?

- Stress – A majority of students feel stressed/Most felt “self-imposed” stress
- Later start time – More sleep needed
- Homework – Majority of students reported too much homework
- Choice – Need more options for specials in 9th grade
- Resource – Need more time to get work done, get help from teachers, and offers flexibility