

Durant schools finalize 8-period schedule

By Colby Gast

Durant students and teachers are coming to terms with the new period schedule that is being implemented in the 2024-2025 school year.

Durant's high school and middle school are moving into an eight-period schedule that will consist of daily 46-minute classes on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. The Wednesday schedule will consist of eight 36-minute classes with a 20-minute seminar to end the day.

Durant has been using a block schedule for the last 13 years, but students will now be seeing each teacher and each class everyday.

However, the new schedule will come with learning curves for all.

Lunch will be a big change for some students. The high school lunch has been pushed back from 11:18 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. The middle school lunch has also been pushed back from 12:42 p.m. to 12:47 p.m.

Seminar will also be changed, which may affect some of the clubs in the high school. It will only occur once a week on Wednesday at the end of the day for 20

minutes. This may affect students who are a part of multiple clubs that generally meet during seminar.

The new schedule does come with a few downsides, though. Several classes are being dropped from the previous block schedule, most of which are newly added skinny classes. This includes Life Skills, which will be dropped as a required one-semester course for seniors.

Middle school and high school English teacher Curtis Lilienthal is looking forward to the new period schedule.

Mr. Lilienthal has previous experience teaching with a period schedule while he was student teaching.

"Overall, I felt like the shortened classes made myself and the students more productive, leading to a better education for the students," said Mr. Lilienthal, who started teaching at Durant at the beginning of the school year.

Mr. Lilienthal believes the biggest advantage of the period schedule is the chances it gives the students to see each teacher everyday.

"Each student will be able to see ev-

ery teacher each day, so there is less layover and time for some lessons to be forgotten," said Mr. Lilienthal. "When students have class on Thursday during block scheduling, they won't have that class again for another three days, making it more difficult for them to retain all of the information that they had learned."

Mr. Lilienthal also understands the disadvantages that may take place with the new schedule.

"I think the biggest disadvantage of this new schedule would be the time the students might be losing to ask questions about certain homework assignments," Mr. Lilienthal said.

"There is going to be less class time to work on certain assignments, so that class time is going to be much more valuable."

High school science teacher Andy Strunk is also excited with the advantages the period schedule can bring.

"Hopefully, students will have better attendance due to the fact they would not want to make up the work for seven different classes they would miss in a day," said Mr. Strunk.

Mr. Strunk does acknowledge the downsides this schedule may bring, though.

"All students work at different paces; some just naturally take longer than others, and that is perfectly okay," Mr. Strunk said.

"I liked that blocks provided the necessary time for students to work and ask questions during class time."

The students at Durant have shown a change in attitude towards this new schedule because now they understand that it is in effect and isn't under discussion.

Sophomore Reid Hollenback is excited for the changes and believes it will help a lot of the students' education.

"Many kids mess around at the end of class with the time we get to do assignments, so with the periods, we'll have time to learn and get our homework done at other times of the day," said Hollenback.

Junior Josh Peel is also accepting the new schedule.

"When they first talked about it, I was very against it, but now that it's official, I have accepted it and am now starting to see some benefits it may bring," said Peel.

Tragic parade shooting leaves local family shaken

By Kaetlyn Hansell

The Kansas City Chiefs Super Bowl parade was supposed to be a fitting end to another successful season, but a longtime Chiefs fan and Durant teacher, Mrs. Tracy



Photo contributed by Tracy Tappendorf
The Tappendorf family attends the Super Bowl parade on Feb. 14 in Kansas City.

Tappendorf, said a tragic shooting just two blocks from her spot on the parade route left her and her family shaken.

The Feb. 14 shooting took place after an argument that started because of a staring issue, according to a report from the *Quad-City Times*. Two men were charged with second-degree murder. One woman died in the shooting, and more than 20 were injured.

Mrs. Tappendorf, her husband, Ryan, and their three children, Kaleb, Kolton, and Kamrie, ended up being late to the mid-day rally, so they had a spot in the back of the crowd lining the parade route.

"When everything happened, we didn't hear anything; we didn't get mobbed, but we saw all of the cop cars like rushing the area," Mrs. Tappendorf said.

When the news of the shooting was shared on social media, local Durant residents were worried about the Tappendorf family. Several people texted the family, and some even asked the next day during school if they were ok.

All these worried people made Mrs. Tappendorf realize how horrific this event really was.

"When we came to school that next day, tons of people were texting us because they know we're Kansas City fans," said Mrs. Tappendorf. "What was crazy was when I walked my daughter to her kindergarten class, and three little girls came out and said, 'Kamrie, I saw in the news, what happened? We were so scared. Are you okay?'"

The Chiefs also won Super Bowls in 2020 and 2023, and the Tappendorf family

went to those parades as well. Now, they are not so sure they will go back if the Chiefs win another.

"We've never had any problems, and this time we actually had some problems," said Mrs. Tappendorf. "There were just some disgruntled people because it's crowded, and there were some arguments happening."

Mrs. Tappendorf and her family were right next to a smaller argument, where

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Girls make up almost 20% of shop classes

By Kylee Hahn

At Durant High School, girls now make up almost 20 percent of Mr. Tim Rouse's shop classes. Durant's shop classes reflect a national trend as trade jobs used to be male-dominated, but Mr. Rouse said that is changing.

"Certain jobs in today's market place do tend to be more male-dominated, especially when it comes to the trades," said Mr. Rouse. "Yet there is the highest number of females going into the trades in history."

Data suggests that 60 percent of the jobs in the future will be in the trades, said Mr. Rouse, "mainly because of the retirement of the 'Baby Boomers.' Many of those trade jobs required a lot more technology skills."

The influx of females has had an impact. For example, his and her porta potties are required on every job site now.

"It has changed the culture of the job site and shops all over the country," he said.

Mr. Rouse and Mrs. Kristy Badtram, the high school guidance counselor, also agree that more people from both sexes are deciding to go into trades because

of the high cost of a four-year college.

"Careers in the trades/apprenticeships are offering students an alternative to a college and offering to pay for their education, or maybe they are heading to community colleges, which cost much less than a university," said Mrs. Badtram.

Mr. Rouse says only one of his classes does not have a girl this year. But that class, Residential Construction, has had several in years past.

One junior girl, Katelynn Toft, plans on being an interior architect after graduation, so she is currently taking Architectural Modeling and Construction Technology.

She plans on taking Residential Construction next year as a senior, and Toft recommends shop class to all girls at Durant.

"I like that it's hands-on," said Toft of her classes. "He [Mr. Rouse] allows us to make our own vision with minimal teaching."

Freshman Jocelynn Richardson also enjoys taking shop in high school.

"In middle school, every class had to take shop, but now in high school instead of only one or two girls, there is a lot more

that have joined his class over the last few years," she said.

Senior Maddie Utter loves getting

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Photo by Nic Poston

Junior Katelynn Toft disassembles a lawnmower engine in Advanced Technology class.

FASFA glitches worry students

By Royce Richman

Delays in the new FAFSA application process have caused headaches for seniors and parents across the nation.

One Durant parent, Mrs. Jenny Paper, says that she has still not been able to finish the application for her youngest daughter, Avery Paper.

"This is my fourth time completing this and yes, I did run into obstacles trying to complete this on several instances," said Mrs. Paper. "I should be a pro at this by now, but with the deadline extensions constantly changing, I'm unable to complete this process."

The Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is an online form filled out every year by students attending college and their parents to help the students pay for college. Depending on their parents' income, students may be eligible for government aid such as grants or federal loans.

According to Katy Rush, the assistant director of financial aid for Eastern Iowa Community Colleges (EICC), Congress passed the FAFSA Simplification Act in 2019. The purpose of the update was to make the process even more smooth and easy, but it has caused glitches in the software.

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