

Dear Parents,

We are changing start and end times for school next year. This decision is driven by the need to serve more students in our schools with limited resources.

As you know, this past school year we adjusted start and end times for elementary and secondary schools as student growth outpaced our small bus fleet's ability to continue busing as we have in the past.

We appreciate your patience and understanding while we navigated bumps in the road of this new process, and it was exciting to see students and families quickly adapt to this change.

We listened to parent feedback asking if other options could be considered including returning to a common time at every school. District staff, the superintendent's parent advisory council, and an outside consultant reviewed six scenarios.

They learned that returning to a common start time was too costly requiring more than \$1 million to buy at least 10 buses. More staff also would need to be hired, a challenge as schools across the valley struggle to find drivers in a tight job market.

Last year, we learned that our buses need about an hour to complete the secondary routes. Keeping this in mind as well as the need to ensure students are supervised while at school waiting for buses, we've revised the bell schedule for 2019-20.

The biggest change is at the elementary schools which will now open for breakfast (free for all students) at 8:20 a.m. and instruction will start at 8:50 a.m. School will end later at 3:50 p.m. but with the changes, students are expected to arrive home earlier than last school year.

Bus stop times will change to reflect the new schedule and be published later this summer.

We appreciate the concerns we've heard so far and as always, we want to partner with families in positive problem solving. The decision was made early so families could make plans during the next six weeks. However, we recognize some may not find solutions, so we invite you to email the principal later in August if:

- Your family is struggling to find a solution for childcare in the morning
- If you are able to help other families who might need extra support for their children in the morning.

We are confident that our community will come together as our neighboring districts have to support one another.

We've received several questions about this change, and we have posted answers to the Frequently Asked Questions page on our website: [www.kunaschools.org](http://www.kunaschools.org).

Have a great summer!

Kuna School District Leadership Team