



May 12, 2022

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

Subject: Mount View Middle School Start Time Adjustment, 2022-2023 School Year

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide further information regarding efforts to mitigate traffic concerns at Marriotts Ridge High School (MRHS) and Mount View Middle School (MVMS), and inform you of an adjusted start time at MVMS for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year.

Traffic congestion concerns have been raised by the MRHS and MVMS communities for numerous years, especially given the minimal difference of only 15 minutes between the two schools' start and dismissal times. Over the years, staff at both schools have implemented numerous changes to the arrival and dismissal procedures with limited success. Earlier this school year, the Student Transportation Office requested an evaluation from the Howard County Police Department, which led to the removal of school-based staff directing traffic onto Woodford Road, as it is not school property.

The offices of Student Transportation, School Management and Instructional Leadership, and MVMS administration met and made additional adjustments to mitigate the impact of this immediate change. In coordination with the office of Communication, the changes were shared with the communities of both schools in a coordinated effort to minimize the amount of traffic on the campuses at the same time. Slight improvements were recognized; however, the issue has not been resolved.

Last month, the office of Student Transportation did an on-site visit with the Howard County Department of Public Works, Bureau of Highways, Traffic Engineering Division. It was determined that there are no short-term improvements that can be made by the County that would resolve this traffic issue that lasts for about fifteen to twenty minutes in the morning and afternoon. A longer-term capital project would need to be analyzed in more detail as a potential solution.

The analysis, efforts, and implementation changes over the previous years, have not produced results that eliminate the traffic and congestion. Prior to investing in a capital project, staff has been directed to **adjust the start time for MVMS for the 2022-2023 school year from 7:40 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.**, increasing the gap between the two schools to a total of 35 minutes, potentially eliminating the community concerns.

This information will be shared with the staff, students, and families at MVMS and its feeder elementary schools prior to the end of the school year, as well as communicated to all HCPSS families via email. Once Synergy updates for the 2022-2023 school year in August and schools can email those families, the time adjustment will again be communicated. The HCPSS and MVMS websites will be updated with the new start/dismissal times once this current school year is over.

Please note this time adjustment is separate from the school start time initiative which could cause additional changes in the 2023-2024 school year. Questions may be directed to Brian Nevin, Director, Student Transportation Office at [brian.nevin@hcpss.org](mailto:brian.nevin@hcpss.org).

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Board of Education Office