

## **New MS Schedule/Convocation FAQ**

**1. What is Convocation?**

**A: Convocation is what has been traditionally known as Advisory in other schools across the country. A Convocation is a flock of Eagles and therefore represents the group of peers and a teacher coming together to form a tight community. This time replaces a traditional homeroom period and instead allows time to explicitly support school skills (i.e. checking Infinite Campus, staying organized, study skills, etc.), while also developing a set of skills to be successful in middle school (i.e. how to resolve conflict, who to go to in the school for different needs, how to send emails to teachers, etc.). The overall goal is to create a safe space and a trusted adult to start each day with a positive and focused goal for the day.**

**2. Why is Convocation needed?**

**A: Convocation is important because it gives students time that is specifically designed to help them succeed academically by allowing them to prepare for the day. Allowing time to regulate and mentally and emotionally feel good about the day ahead, allows students to feel ready to learn. This form of our mission of Embrace truly allows students to know that they are cared for and reminds them that they are a part of a community of teachers, administrators, and friends that wants them to succeed, be happy, and be healthy.**

**3. What type of activities will my student be participating in during Convocation?**

**A: Teachers will have access to a core program called Purpose Prep through Imagine Learning that offers videos and discussion topics on social-emotional learning topics around Character & Leadership, Goal Setting, and Social & Emotional Success. These topics and discussions allow students to identify short and long term goals to make learning more engaging and relevant. The lessons focus on how to communicate effectively and regulate emotions to proactively resolve potential conflicts or issues. Students learn to advocate for themselves, take responsibility for learning, and become leaders. Teachers will also tailor to individual needs depending on student needs, such as staying organized, taking notes, study skills, etc. Assemblies and pep rallies will also occur during this time to keep students motivated and set a positive tone for their day and year.**

**4. Did you take time away from academic periods for Convocation?**

**A: No. This new schedule actually increased academic time by a few minutes. A few minutes were taken from the former study hall, known as Tutorial, lunch and special areas.**

**5. Is my student's lunch shorter this year?**

**A: Lunch was shortened by 2 minutes, which is now the same as all other schools.**

**6. Is Convocation a counseling session?**

**A: No. Staff is there to make connections and give students another adult to seek out for support. If students need extra support during Convocation, school counselors will be available to meet with individuals during this time. Counseling sessions will always be facilitated by our certified Guidance Counselors.**

**7. Will my student be given a grade for Convocation?**

**A: Convocation will not be graded.**

**8. Are all students participating in Convocation?**

**A: Yes, all students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade in both Alder and Fernwood have been assigned a Convocation teacher. This will occur for the first 45 minutes of each day.**

**9. What if my student skips Convocation and comes in for 1st period? Will they be considered late?**

**A: School begins promptly at 8:15. All students who are not present by that time will be considered tardy.**

**10. Will breakfast be available during Convocation?**

**A: Breakfast will be available during Convocation. Breakfast is grab and go. Students who are taking part in the breakfast program will report directly from the bus to the cafeteria to retrieve their breakfast and then report to Convocation.**

**11. What about Special Education students?**

**A: Special education students will be participating in Convocation. Any student who has specific needs during Convocation will be accommodated. Our students in our Multiply-Disabled program will have social skills during this time.**

**12. What is WIN?**

**A: WIN is short for "What I Need." This period is designed for students to receive extra support in areas where they may be struggling. They will be able to work with their pod/content area teachers during this time. This will also be an Enrichment period for some students. Teachers will utilize the built-in PLC sessions to analyze student performance to determine where each student may need extra support or enrichment. This will then be provided during the WIN period. This is similar to the previous Tutorial period but will be more structured. This is NOT a study hall.**

**13. Will my student have all of their classes daily?**

**A: Yes. All students will have the same classes daily. The order of classes will rotate over the course of 4 days. As in prior years, these classes include ELA, Math, Social Studies, Science, PE/Special Areas, World Language/WIN (What I Need).**