

Important Upcoming Meetings Affecting School Schedule/Band Impacts

The San Juan School District is implementing new graduation requirements, starting with next year's 9th graders. This change may necessitate a change in Rio's daily schedule. These changes could have major implications for Rio Band.

Forum Meetings in the Rio PAC:

- **October 3rd (Wednesday) 6:00-8:30 (FYI – this meeting conflicts w/Senior Info Mtg- Call Mr. Ginter's office ASAP if this is a conflict for your family - (916) 979-8860.)**
- **October 24th (Wednesday) 6:00-8:30**
- **November 28th (Wednesday) 6:00-8:30**

Rio's administration is pushing very hard to adopt a 4 by 4 block schedule, in which students take 4 classes per semester, and classes are 90 minutes each day, rather than 60 minutes currently. Each semester class would contain a year's worth of curriculum. There are many concerns about such a schedule, but from the standpoint of Rio Band, without major concessions this schedule may make it impossible for students to take band all year, which would end the program as we know it. Please understand that Rio's Administration is trying to find a solution that will work best for the entire school, and they have no desire to adversely impact Rio Band. However, they do need to see that any change in the schedule **MUST** fully accommodate the needs of our band program to be seriously considered. Please be courteous in all interactions.

Here is what Rio Band would need from any schedule (especially a 4 by 4 block), to remain strong:

- Maintain 0 period Jazz Band classes as they are currently constituted.
- Guarantee that all band classes are year-long, and that taking them for one semester is not an option.
- Avoid scheduling certain high-level classes at the same time as certain bands
- **Do NOT make AP courses year-long if we go to a 4 by 4 block.** This would hurt our students and the band program by making them choose between taking AP courses and staying in band. This is the one item that could make or break the success of the schedule change.

A few talking points:

1. Rio's band program is the **ONLY** thing about Rio that is known and respected nationally and internationally.
2. Rio's band program has been one of the finest in the nation for 35 years. Rio's band program attracts fantastic students to Rio who would otherwise go to a different high school. These kids come from all over SJUSD, as well as Sac City, Roseville, Elk Grove and other school districts.

Mr. Murray's feeling is that we should wait another year before making any changes at all to the schedule. That way, we can see as a site how (if at all) the new requirements affect next year's freshman class during the schedule-making process.

Please know that any change in Rio's schedule must be voted on and approved by the Rio teaching staff. It cannot be unilaterally decided by the district or by site administration. Please attend if at all possible, and let it be known that the Rio Band community will fight any change that will adversely affect our beloved band program. Unfortunately, Mr. Kiesner and Mr. Murray are both scheduled to be out of town October 3rd. Parents and students are needed to represent band interests.