

## Learning Improvements for the 2016-17 School Year

The High school and Middle school have noted important improvements that can only be addressed by extending the school day by a small number of minutes.

The key area High School has identified is the delivery of **social emotional learning** through a program of advisory classes delivered during a 30 minute lesson we are calling 'Panther Period'. This will better prepare our students for their future learning and wellbeing. An additional issue for High school is the provision of more time for higher level (HL) courses. This will apply to those students in grades 11 and 12 by extending instructional time - at the discretion of the teacher - through the period previously set aside for flex time (2:25 - 3:00pm).

The Middle school would like to better serve students' **social emotional and wellness education needs** through a morning advisory program. These learning goals are also best served by extending the school day and next year the MS school day will start with a 20 minute advisory. The remainder of the school day will remain unchanged with no loss of instructional time. In essence we are pushing back the existing schedule by twenty minutes to make space for the advisory program. Current class times will not be affected.

The goal of the advisory program is to prepare students for their future. In particular, they will develop:

- Skills for Success - Study Skills, Academic Planning Skills, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Creativity, Technology Skills, Goal Setting Skills
- Positive Mindsets - Resilience, Growth Mindset, Self-reliance, Self-advocacy
- Local & Global Citizenship - Multiculturalism, Respect, Responsibility, Activism, Moral & Ethical Behavior

The Elementary school will continue to embed and improve **social emotional learning** within their existing school time. In order to ensure that all students Pre-K to 12 are dismissed at the same time, the ES school day will begin at 7:35 with supervision available from 7:00am

We are excited about the positive impact these changes will have on our students and we thank you for your support and feedback.