

GREETINGS SKYLINE SPARTANS!

I hope this finds you enjoying a sunny spring day in the Northwest! The purpose of this eNews letter is to share important and relevant 2009-2010 scheduling information with you (a hard copy to follow in the mail).

We are all facing challenging times with the current economic conditions. The educational system is no exception. The concrete details of the effect on the [Issaquah School District](#) in general and [Skyline High School](#) specifically are, as yet, unknown. In fact this year, due to the extraordinary complexity of budgeting in Olympia, we may not know our [school budgets](#) until as late as the summer. We do know, however, that budget tightening due to lost revenue is unavoidable. For this next year, the most significant changes for Skyline that I anticipate will be larger class sizes, schedules available later than last year's June timeframe, and no ability to make schedule changes.

As a brief review, the number of students who select a particular course, graduation requirements, teacher availability, and budget constraints determine courses offered in our Master Schedule. Because of those constraints and scheduling on a yearlong basis, we ask students to select alternatives to provide the greatest possible options for receiving a full schedule. Therefore, the choices you make are CRITICAL. **When you select a course you signal not only your interest but also your commitment to complete that course to the best of your ability.** Often students and parents believe we are making arbitrary decisions on courses. Instead, we are trying to juggle a nearly impossible number of factors in order to produce a master schedule that optimizes students' educational goals in the framework of our budgeting and staffing realities.

Last year we were able to create a system with some flexibility to change classes in August. Also, students were able to view their completed schedule before leaving school in June. Because we cannot create a master schedule and secure staff until a budget is solidly set, that flexibility will not be possible for students this year. With increased class size and few empty seats it will be impossible to change classes once they are set. **Therefore, due to our unusual budget constraints this year, this is the ONE AND ONLY TIME you have an opportunity to alter your schedule requests.**

This is how the process will work for this spring, summer and fall.

- **REVIEW REQUESTS**- You can look on Family Access for the first 6 course requests that you made in February. No alternates are viewable online due to the software setup, but we will include your alternates in the letter to follow. [Please review your requests with care.](#) **This is the time to make your final decision about courses; the flexibility to change your decision later will not exist. This is more significant than I can adequately express.** (Current year juniors, if you haven't had your conference with your counselor yet, don't worry—when they meet with you, they will make any appropriate changes.)
- **CHANGE REQUESTS** –The [Schedule Change form](#) to alter your requests is available on the [Skyline home page](#) of our website or from the counseling office **beginning April 21. Schedule change requests will not be accepted after April 29th.**
- **MASTER SCHEDULE** - Upon receipt of a concrete budget from the state and school district, we will create a Master Schedule. This could occur as late as July/August. Staffing decisions for next year will be made based on student's course choices, staff credentials, and budget availability.

- **COMPLETION OF STUDENT SCHEDULES** – We will do our best to honor your 6 course requests. If that is impossible we will substitute an alternate. During this time we will also be checking for prerequisites (proper sequential courses, grade requirements, graduation requirements for seniors, etc.), and if necessary, we will alter your schedule to reflect proper placement.
- **BACK TO SCHOOL** – We will handle all business – forms, fee payment, and schedule viewing – online again this year! You will receive instructions for accessing this information this summer via eNews and mail.

In spite of the challenges we face, we look forward to next year and a [beautiful building completed](#) in April! We anticipate an educational experience that will continue in our work of creating honorable, thinking, skillful citizens.

Thank you for working with us and sharing your students,

Lisa Hechtman

Principal