

## Talking Points

1. County-wide Programs: Just like Dillard, Parkway draws students from all over Broward County. We are one of the few middle school magnets that reach county-wide. How does it save money to duplicate the bus routes in order to separate the middle & high school students? It seems like the cost savings would have to come in the elimination of the after school activity buses, which would decimate the quality of the performing arts magnet. Is the intention to ultimately draw students away from Parkway?

2. Changing the school start and end time: This proves problematic. Parkway is an "elective" magnet, not an academic as most magnets. As such, we rely on lots of extracurricular activities. Our performances, generally 22 per year, are not tied to one particular class, but span the entire arts curriculum:

a. Because of that, we hold lots of clubs and rehearsals and county-wide performances after school so that students in all areas can be included. If the time changes, then activity buses which leave at 5pm would be a moot point.

b. And since our students come from all over Broward, they would not have rides home without these buses. If we can't hold the clubs and rehearsals after school, then we would most certainly lose students.

c. We certainly could not have our 3 major inter-departmental performances.

d. Many of our programs utilize the after school rehearsal time for advanced and honors curriculum as an extension of the classroom, which is part of what draws so many students to the school.

e. As it is, our kids get home at 6 or 7 pm. If we have to hold clubs and rehearsals without activity buses, then parents would probably have to come and get them and if they did, it would be very late indeed. The activity buses are a big PLUS for Parkway.

3. No one is thinking of changing the time of the Dillard Middle School students, so there would be at least ONE middle school with the high school time frame.

4. Middle vs High students on the bus together: In the 8 years Ms. Meillier has been with Parkway, there have been NO issues with our middle school students riding the buses with the Dillard students.

5. PMS isn't like every other middle school. Not only is it a magnet; it's a performing arts magnet. It requires classroom instruction as well as group rehearsals. Rehearsing during class isn't enough to maintain what PMS does because it offers programming that isn't & shouldn't be grade level specific. Gifted students should have the ability to rehearse and socialize across age and grade levels.

6. Competition - PMS students achieve at a high level in various competitions & assessments (band, drama, math club, vocal, robotics, etc). They have the awards to prove it. That level of achievement prepares kids for high school and higher level education. It's not possible to achieve at that level without after school practice/rehearsal.

7. Due to the unique nature of the special programs offered at PMS, late hours equate to late arrival at home. Which means it cuts into family time and the ability for kids to explore and participate in other activities.

8. PMS is one of the very few middle schools in the district that accepts kids from the entire county. The growth and development young Cavaliers make at Parkway is spread throughout the district and isn't reduced to one feeder pattern.

9. The way PMS students adjust to their after school activities and activity buses makes the transition to high school easier and more successful.

10. Most middle schools are on 6.5 hr day. Parkway had been on a high school schedule of 7 hrs until last year, when we started our waiver to begin school at 8:00am. This has allowed for extra morning time for tutoring & rehearsals as well. We routinely use morning and after school rehearsal time because the scope of our arts programs is much larger than that of arts programs offered at the non-magnet schools. To maintain the quality of our programming & instruction, & to continue to gain recognition as a leading training ground that produces highly sought after high school candidates, we need to consider options that allow for this outside concentrated rehearsal/study time in a manner suitable to returning students home across the entire county at a reasonable hour. Why does it seem that this proposal both lengthens our day to a full 7 hrs & eliminates all possibility of a reasonable extra-curricular rehearsal period?