

Whittier Elementary: Spotlight on the schedule

At Whittier, 170 students in grades four through six will be part of two multi-age learning communities called “houses.” Each house will be led by an educator team of three certified teachers joined by two MLFTC teacher candidates. Additional members of the educator team may include an instructional assistant and community educators.

The schedule at a glance

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning meeting				
Session one	Session one	Session one	Session one	Session one
Mindfulness	Session two	Mindfulness	Session two	Mindfulness
Session two	Session three	Session two	Session three	Session two
Students: Specials, recess and lunch Educators: Co-planning time				
Session three	Deep dive	Session three	Deep dive	Session three
Reflection		Reflection		Reflection

A closer look

Morning meeting: During this time, students will set daily goals in collaboration with the educator team. The morning meeting may also be used for the entire learning community to assemble together, depending on need.

Sessions 1, 2 and 3: Within each house, students will engage with three inquiry-based learning sessions daily (English language arts, math, and science/social studies) in varied groupings, receiving instruction and support from educators with expertise in specific content areas. The sessions, each 60–80 minutes, will rotate to ensure students engage with different subject areas at different points in the day.

Mindfulness: Students will engage in mindfulness activities (e.g., yoga) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Specials, recess and lunch/educator co-planning time: Educators will meet daily for co-planning time while students engage in specials classes (e.g., visual arts taught by a schoolwide visual arts teacher), eat lunch and enjoy recess. During this time, educators will examine student data, adjust routines, discuss classroom management and craft standards-aligned learning experiences that build on students’ interests and passions.

House 1	House 2	Educators
Recess	Specials	Co-planning time
Lunch		
Specials	Lunch	

Deep dive: One way house teams will personalize student learning is through “deep dive” sessions offered two afternoons each week. Each deep dive will be a themed, project-based learning unit, and learners will select the deep dive topics that interest them most. The two house teams will collaboratively build the deep dive offerings each quarter, thereby allowing learners to interact with a broader group of adults and peers. Community educators will either provide support during sessions led by team members or offer additional deep dive learning experiences on their own. Each five- to eight-week unit will culminate with showcase presentations that learners share with the house, school and/or larger community.

Reflection: During this time, students will self-assess and reflect on progress toward goals and revisit their personalized learning profiles.