

Plus Another Period!

Polina G

Russian Writer says yes, but does the school agree? Study hall period, flexible period, or a free period, anything you want to call it, they are all the same thing. These periods are the period of time in a school curriculum set aside for the preparation of schoolwork. In other words, it is a period in junior and high schools that students use to do schoolwork, read, study, or prepare for the next class.

Allison and Cheyenne, two 7th graders, say “eliminate nutrition and replace it with a free period. With free periods, you can catch up on schoolwork, and study for tests.” Mrs. Paniz, our school librarian, says, “Great idea especially concerning homework. If only there was time in the day.” Sara Williams gave me a great example of why we should have free periods. “Kids who are slow in school and get a lot of homework can’t finish it at home. Plus, they might have after school activities, which adds to the non-doing of homework. They finish their homework late in the night and not get a good night sleep. The next day, it repeats. Students don’t have time to study and/or do extra curriculum or outside activities. Some students, like me, don’t have time to do homework at home, so we have to waste our Lunch, Nutrition, and most mornings to do the homework. I sometimes even have to wake up at 5 in the morning to finish the homework from the day before. I think teachers give way too much homework, and to conclude, this is why MCMS needs a free period.”

33 out of 40 people that I have interviewed, say that Medea Creek should have free periods. A lot of people answered that why they think this is because they want time to study, socialize, or do their homework during this time. Several even say that they

could use this time to speak with teachers concerning their homework, or just clarify directions, and that this period, if everyone uses the time wisely, will help the students' grades improve. The 7 people out of 40, that said no, say that most people would goof off and not use the time to do their homework and study for tests. Others say that we have enough time at nutrition, that some students would waste this period of time, and that we also have homework club.

I took some time to speak with Ms. Bagheri and see what she thinks. Her answer was, "It's a good idea, but it's complicated. Kids who don't have enough time to do their homework shouldn't have that much school activities, and homework should not be hours and hours. We do have homework club, and study hall in the library at 7:30-8:18 at the beginning of school. But there are 4 questions that aren't easy to answer that need to be answered in order to have a flexible/free period: Where do we get the time? Where does everybody go? How long is the period? and What time of day does it happen? If we don't answer these questions, we might think about adding another day of homework club, or kids who can't get homework done because of school activities should balance their time and maybe not have those activities."

That was Ms. Bagheri's answer, and now, we need to face the fact: Do we REALLY need a free period? After hearing Ms. Bagheri's answer, Amanda D. says, "I agree with Ms. Bagheri. Students who have too many activities outside of school should not have them because I think schoolwork should come first. If we did have a free period, without eliminating nutrition, then would we have to extend the school day? I don't like that idea. I oppose the idea of creating a flexible period at Medea Creek."

If you would like to add a free period or talk about why we should/shouldn't have the period, contact either Ms. Bagheri or Mr. Benioff. This is Russian Writer, bringing you the news!

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