

Boaz City School System


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Dr. Mark Isley,
Superintendent

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Vice President
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Mr. Rick Thompson

DATE: April 1, 2013

TO: Boaz High School Students, Parents and Guardians

FROM: Dr. Mark Isley, Superintendent 

RE: Boaz High School: credits required, schedule, and Alabama Diploma One

On Thursday, March 21, 2013, the Boaz Board of Education approved two motions. Both motions have an impact on how we move forward as a school system at Boaz High School. One motion deals with the required credits needed to earn a high school diploma. The second motion approves the Alabama Diploma One. In this correspondence, I will also address a schedule change that will occur beginning in the fall at Boaz High School.

1. Effective immediately, ALL students earning a diploma from Boaz High School are required to earn a minimum of 24 credits. In many cases, students will earn more than 24 credits. This is a positive change for Boaz City Schools as we are now aligned with the Alabama State Department of Education. I applaud the Boaz City Board of Education's decision to approve this motion.

For ALL students **currently enrolled** at Boaz High School, all diploma options remain the same. We have been purposeful to make this transition as smooth as possible. Students may revise their plans, if they desire.

2. Although this does not affect students currently enrolled at Boaz High School, Boaz City Schools is pleased to announce that the Boaz City Board of Education approved the transition to the new Alabama One Diploma beginning with next year's rising ninth grade class. This means that this year's eighth graders will each develop a college or workforce entry plan that aligns with this new diploma and aligns with their personal interests and needs. These plans will be developed during the month of April. Counselors are charged with providing guidance based on individual student's interests, needs and plans. Students will have the option to earn Distinguished Scholars Distinction by taking the most rigorous classes offered at Boaz High School. This diploma will be thoroughly discussed with 8th graders during the month of April. I am committed that students, parents and guardians will be informed.
3. Finally, Boaz High School will move from an eight period day to a seven period day. We have evaluated the impact of the eight period day, and we are convinced that it is too taxing on our students. Students attending college do not take eight (8) subjects per day. This schedule change may prompt some students to revise their plans for the remainder of their high school careers. This is an individual decision. We encourage you to make an appointment with your high school counselor. Ms. Dina Hays and Ms. Becky Boddie are ready and equipped to provide guidance regarding any questions and revising of plans. In fact, the counselors at Boaz High School have scheduled meetings with ALL students to discuss all of the changes covered in this correspondence. These meetings will occur during the month of April.

We are entering an exciting window for education in Alabama. I am committed that as we move forward that the school system will make all decisions based on what is in the best interest of our students.

As we move forward, you will receive further clarification and procedures from the principal or counselors. If you have any questions, I encourage you to contact:

- Vivian Lea Brown, Director of Student Learning, Boaz City Schools: 256-593-8180 or at vbrown@boazk12.org
- Allen Johnson, Principal, Boaz High School: 256-593-2401 or at ajohnson@boazk12.org
- Becky Boddie, upper classman counselor, Boaz High School: 256-593-2401 or at bboddie@boazk12.org
- Dina Hays, lower classman counselor, Boaz High School: 256-593-2401 or at dhays@boazk12.org