

Callout 12.1.21

This is James Island Charter High School, with an update on our bell schedules and lunch models.

Before Thanksgiving break, we moved from our one lunch model, Independent Learning Time (ILT), to a traditional two lunch model. The decision to change the lunch model was made partly due to the increased number of fights this year, which we usually have very few, but also because the overall student behavior has been a concern. We've had fruit, carrots, and entire lunches thrown against our walls and floors. Students have been excessively loud in the hallways making it difficult for students to get the help they need from their teachers. We held students accountable and disciplined those responsible for these actions. This behavior is not exclusive to JICHHS. The year and a half disruption to school as we know it due to COVID has dramatically impacted students across the country. We are providing extra support for our students through CREW, the Clinic, and additions to our Guidance Department and mental health services.

Our first priority is to provide a safe, respectful environment conducive to learning for all students. ILT has many benefits. The overall goals of ILT are to give students discretionary time during the school day so that they learn personal responsibility and time management. These are essential life skills beyond high school. ILT provides time within the school day for academic support and clubs and other groups to meet. The administrative team and the Leadership Team will be getting feedback from parents, students, and our board on ways to improve ILT to attempt to implement ILT for the second semester. The vast majority of staff want ILT to work, but with more structure and supervision. We also need help from our students. We need them to understand and follow our expectations, which at the most basic level is to behave like young, mature adults that care about their school, the staff, and their fellow students.

I genuinely believe we can make ILT work again because we have an outstanding student body with supportive parents and community.

We will be using the attached bell schedules for the remainder of the first semester. For bell schedule 1, the second lunch will begin at 12:30 pm so that students and staff are not having to eat lunch starting at 1:15 pm. As always, students may get academic help before and after school or during lunch with a pass from their teacher.

Thank you for your patience and support as we work through these issues together.

Have a good night. Go Trojans!

[Bell Schedule 1- Revised 11-30-2021](#)

[Bell Schedule 2- Revised 11-30-2021](#)

[Bell Schedule 4- Revised 11-30-2021](#)