



What makes Woodside Special?

**Dedicated Teams of Teachers
Integrated Solutions Block (ISB)**

Mission

Woodside is committed to providing its student population with varied learning experiences that promote the lifelong development of a strong self-concept and high academic achievement. Students will acquire the knowledge and skills needed to collaborate, reason, and become productive citizens in a global community.

Belief Statements

- All people deserve respect.
- Learning is a continuous process.
- All students deserve a safe and positive learning environment combined with consistent school policies and rules.
- Students are responsible for their achievement with the guidance and support of teachers and parents.
- Students who are actively engaged learn best.
- Students need a variety of instructional tools, methods, and activities.
- The integration of curricula promotes student learning and growth.
- Student outcomes increase with increased expectations.
- Effective communication between school and home enhances student development.
- Real-life applications promote interest and learning.

Woodside incorporates smaller learning communities, block scheduling, teaming and Integrated Solutions Block (ISB) to accomplish our mission

Integrated Solutions Block - ISB

Woodside is fortunate to have a portion of our schedule devoted to enhancing learning and making connections that extend beyond the classroom walls. Integrated Solutions Block (ISB) is a ninety-minute class devoted to integrating academic disciplines with technology for outcomes that have value and meaning outside of school. Our focus centers on these concepts:

1. Additional time to extend, enrich, and remediate academic needs
2. An environment that fosters personal achievement along with group interaction
3. The merging of advisor/advisee issues (consultation, teacher-student connections, and social skills) with the learning process
4. An opportunity to practice problem-solving, communication, and group processing skills

Your child will receive a grade for ISB based on his or her performance in the technology lab and work completed during ISB class time.

Block Scheduling

Because we believe that block scheduling best meets the needs of young adolescents, Woodside Middle School has been using the 4 x 8 block schedule for over ten years. Our students learn best when they have the time to share, explore, question, discover, practice, and move! Students have that time to learn in our ninety-minute classes.

Advantages of Block Scheduling include the following

- More time in class for students to participate in hands-on activities
- Group projects
- Research
- Science labs
- Experiments
- Technology use
- Problem-solving
- Reflecting on learning
- Provides the opportunity to differentiate instruction and utilize smaller learning communities.
- Only two to three academic classes per day, resulting in homework assignments for no more than three academic classes each day.
- An additional day between classes to process new material, ask questions, and clarify understanding.
- Fewer passing periods means more time for learning
- Use of district facilities such as the swimming pool, tennis courts, and environmental center are possible during a 90-minute block.
- Additional time in the schedule for Woodside's unique program called, "Integrated Solutions Block

Teaming

Woodside values smaller learning communities; therefore each academic team of four to five teachers works together to meet the needs of the same team of students.

Outcomes of teaming include the following

- Students have a sense of belonging in a team environment where positive relationships among students and teachers can grow and thrive.
- Students experience common expectations across the team.
- Teachers have a common planning time to collaborate on strategies to improve learning and student success.
- Parents may meet at the same time with all of their child's academic teachers to address questions or concerns.
- Team classrooms are located in close proximity for easy communication among teachers and students, providing a flexible learning environment.
- This student-centered approach increases achievement!