

Good morning,

My name is Scott Stelter, and I am an English teacher at AHS. This is my first year in the district, though my wife (also an English teacher) has worked here for seven years. I have taught for eight years, two in a nearby district, and five in the Cleveland area.

Regardless of how difficult it is to join a new school during a pandemic, I think everything has gone well during this semester. This schedule has worked well for me, because not only do I have more time to focus on mastering the curriculum and how to teach it effectively, but I have more time with my students. I can see their work in real time (as they type on Google Classroom assignments) and meet with them individually during every class. They can ask for help whenever they need it. I really appreciate the dedicated class time we have each day. Additionally, remote teaching allows me to focus more on how to meaningfully teach the curriculum, rather than having to worry about keeping track of numerous cohorts and who I would be seeing that each day.

Our current schedule has helped me because I have the time to prepare lessons and materials, efficiently electronically collaborate with my peers, and use student performance to adapt or shift any plans. We've worked so hard to adapt our curriculum to online learning that having to re-adapt the curriculum again would be quite difficult and make us less successful.

Of the three suggested plans, I believe that the Department Shift model is the most effective because it does not drastically change how we are currently operating. I think what we are doing now, which is obviously not ideal, is the best way to ensure students are getting the most face-to-face learning time with teachers. The Department Shift model would help add some in-person time, without seriously disrupting the established routine. The majority of my students are comfortable with how things are running now, and have expressed anxiety about having to learn a new system.

Obviously, I wish we could go back to normal. But in the interest of safety, and making sure we teachers can do what's best for our students, I think we should choose the Department Shift model for second semester.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Scott Stelter