New security, schedule implemented

by MAIA LISPSON & AUDREY PARK

From a new schedule to safety initiatives, the start of the 2023-24 school year brings a slew of in-coming changes to student and faculty life, and some people have spent the past warm months preparing for a change.

Safety: Lab is implementing new safety measures that will require more frequent use of student IDs. In August, a fence was installed along the north border of Kenwood Mall, and students will need to scan their IDs to enter the campus once the school day begins. Students will also need to scan their IDs for mandatory assemblies.

Schedule: In addition to the new safety initiatives, the new schedule, which was announced nine months ago, pushes the school day's start time to 8:30 a.m. and end time to 3:30 p.m. daily. The schedule standardizes class times to 50 minutes and adds four designated lab periods a week. During eight co-curricular weeks, assemblies and additional programming replace some or all lab periods. Five new classrooms were converted to accommodate middle and high school needs due to the schedule change.

New U-High principal Martin Woods, who is among the many new faces this fall, is excited for the community-building opportunities the new schedule provides.

“I’m very optimistic about the schedule,” Mr. Woods said. “Obviously, with anything, we have to test it out to see how things flow, but I think from the impressions I’ve gotten from the administration and from teachers these past few weeks, they’re very excited about at least trying it out, and the opportunities that it will yield, particularly with the co-curricular weeks.”

Science teacher Daniel Bohnenkamp said, “One of the most fun things that happens is that everybody has the same number of meetings with us within a week, given a student missing a day, Friday holidays, Monday holidays, and co-curricular weeks, and that takes quite a logistical hur- dy-did.” said Mr. Bobo-Jones, who is also the faculty chair. “It sets up for a challenge that we will just jump right into.”

Lab periods also present new difficulties in scheduling their various classes that each require a lab period. However, for extracurriculars, the later end time increases their difficulty in scheduling their vio- lence-issues.

“I haven’t quite hammered out the details of my weekly sched- ule with my music teachers yet, but the changing of the school day does make things a little dif- ficult,” Wendell said. “This com-ing school year, I’m going to try to schedule morning lessons before school because otherwise there simply won’t be enough time for my extracurricular teachers to get to meet with all of their students.” According to Luke Zavala, a P.E. teacher and baseball coach, the team has long been familiar with changes in practice times due to shared spaces.

Even with the new schedule, he said he believes the baseball team and others will continue to find balance and adapt.

“We’ve been trying to make sure that everybody has the same num- ber of meetings with us within a week, given a student missing a day, Friday holidays, Monday holidays, and co-curricular weeks, and that takes quite a logistical hur- dy-did,” said Mr. Bobo-Jones, who is also the faculty chair. “It sets up for a challenge that we will just jump right into.”

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“I mean, the first year in any new schedule there are going to be changes that everyone has to make,” Mr. Zavala said. “I think we’ll probably start to see some teams moving to before-school practices with space issues being what they are, and it wouldn’t surprise me.”

“Peer leading will now have more time to plan and really work on things and work together,” Ms. Janda said. “In the weeks we go in- to advisory, the peer leaders have a meeting right before that time, so we will be able to really go over our plan before we ease into the advisory experience. It’ll be great.”

During course selection, the new schedule allowed junior Wendell He to take multiple science classes that each require a lab period.

ATHLETICS APPRECIATION. Athletics Director Matt Manley taught at Sacred Heart Schools for 11 years and has a love for coaching and sports.

Manley intends to increase spirit around sports

by AUDREY PARK & SAMAHU UNN

After working with elements-ry and middle school students for 11 years at Sacred Heart Schools, new Director of Athletics Matt Manley wanted a change.

“One of the most fun things that I did is just be able to watch the kids who graduate move and go on to play high school sports,” he said. “I got to watch that a little bit, but I lost them at eighth grade and there’s so many more fun things that happen.”

As Mr. Manley settles into his position, he looks forward to getting to know U-High traditions and hopes to improve school spirit for Lab athletics.

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“Manley said his passion for basketball and coaching was fueled by his father, a physical edu- cation teacher, who coached bas- ketball for 50 years.

“I came to love it; a love of coaching and a love of a sport that led to a love of coaching and a love of working with student athletes and kids,” he said.

Mr. Manley said one of his pri- mary goals is to bring more atten- tion to the athletics department and student athletes.

“Our students are doing so many cool things,” he said. “They’re winning, they’re performing in really amazing ways, they’re representing us in really, really successful ways.”

Matt Manley, director of athletics

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In his first year as the athletics director, Mr. Manley hopes to im- merse himself into the culture of the Lab community.
Fresh faces: High school welcomes 10 new faculty

What should students know about your style of teaching?

“I like to challenge the students. That's important, I think. I expect everybody to work hard, I expect everybody to try. Even if it's something that they find difficult, even if it's something that they are not super comfortable with, we can try to work towards solutions focused in my practice but also just really being here to witness whatever the student or child is experiencing and help them process that and just be a safe space.”

By ROBERTS

TUESDAY, SEPT. 5, 2023

By creating a more collaborative and supportive learning environment, educators can help students develop confidence and resilience. As a student-run newspaper, we have always emphasized the importance of student voices. As we develop our relationship with the Lab community, we also plan to improve our online presence more to increase our engagement for readers and allow them to be included in conversations. As a student-run newspaper, we have always emphasized the importance of student voices. As we develop our relationship with the Lab community, we also plan to improve our online presence more to increase our engagement for readers and allow them to be included in conversations. As a student-run newspaper, we have always emphasized the importance of student voices. As we develop our relationship with the Lab community, we also plan to improve our online presence more to increase our engagement for readers and allow them to be included in conversations.