

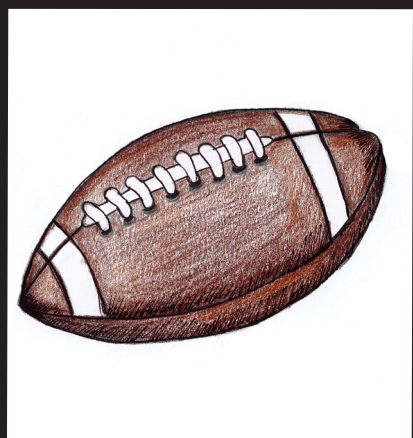


•PHOTO BY SAUL JANIAC STIEN

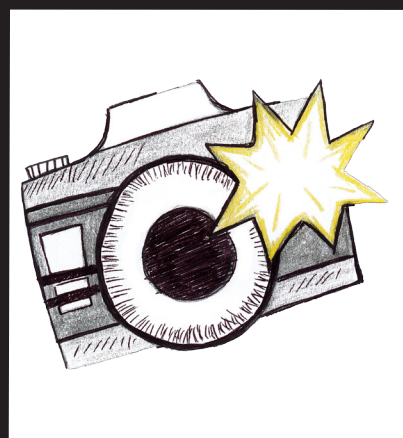
The Pirates' Hook



**Hispanic
Heritage
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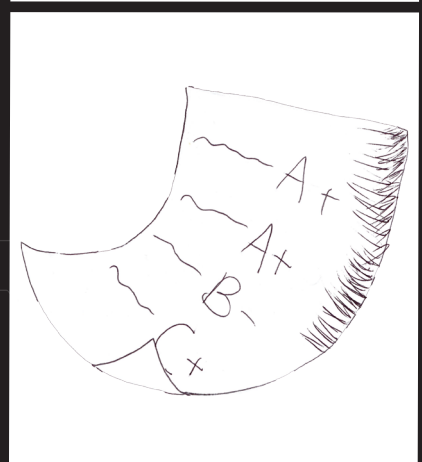
**Picture
Day**



**Haunted
House**



HOCO



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•GRAPHICS BY DUNYA OMAR AND SADIE IRBY

EDITORIAL

This could work, but questions remain

In theory, the new lunch schedule sounds like the perfect balance between freedom and safety. But after two weeks there are some major drawbacks.

The new Pirate Block lunch schedule allows for more freedom than the A-B-C lunch that other DPS high schools use. Students are allowed in classrooms in addition to the cafeteria, and no one is forced to wait until 2:30 to eat.

However, our model still restricts student movement. After the first five minutes of lunch, students are no longer allowed to switch locations. Teachers and administrators are posted throughout the halls to ensure students remain where they are.

This may even amplify conflict. When a fight broke out in the girls' bathroom off of the cafeteria during B lunch on Sept. 8 the cafeteria was crowded. Since the new schedule confines students to a smaller area, incidents could escalate more quickly.

In addition, popular school-wide activities like basketball tournaments will be altered, if they are allowed to continue at all. And we're still waiting to hear anything about clubs.

For those who may not need tutoring but do want time to work with classmates, with lunch split into two periods they can't always work on group assignments during lunch unless all group members happen to be on the same schedule that day.

And for upperclassmen who eat off campus, 45 minutes is simply not enough time. If a restaurant is 10 minutes away, that is a 20 minute round trip not accounting for Riverside traffic. That gives students about 10 minutes to get food and eat in order to rush back to campus and return to class on time. It is a recipe for reckless driving.

Pirate Block does have its advantages. Since most teachers do not use the time to teach new material, it provides students with the opportunity to ask clarifying questions or complete homework. It also provides students with a structured study hall period, which was missing under the old schedule. But so far we are still struggling to adjust.

Podría funcionar, pero preguntas permanecerían

En teoría, el nuevo horario de almuerzo parece el equilibrio perfecto entre libertad y seguridad. Pero después de dos semanas aparecen algunos inconvenientes importantes.

El nuevo horario de almuerzo de Pirate Block permite más libertad que el almuerzo A-B-C que utilizan otras escuelas preparatoria de DPS. Los estudiantes pueden ingresar a los salones además de a la cafetería, y nadie está obligado a esperar hasta las 2:30 para comer.

Sin embargo, nuestro modelo todavía restringe el movimiento estudiantil. Después de los primeros cinco minutos del almuerzo, los estudiantes ya no pueden cambiar de ubicación. Los maestros y administradores están ubicados en los pasillos para garantizar que los estudiantes permanezcan donde están.

Esto puede incluso amplificar el conflicto. Cuando ocurrió una pelea en el baño de niñas fuera de la cafetería durante el almuerzo B el 8 de septiembre, la cafetería estaba llena. Dado que el nuevo horario confina a los estudiantes a un área más pequeña, los incidentes podrían intensificarse más rápidamente.

Además, las actividades populares en toda la escuela, como los torneos de básquet, se modificarán, si es que se les permite continuar. Y todavía estamos esperando saber algo sobre los clubes.

Para aquellos que no necesitan tutoría pero quieren tiempo para trabajar con sus compañeros de clase, con el almuerzo dividido en dos períodos no siempre pueden trabajar en tareas grupales durante el almuerzo a menos que todos los miembros del grupo estén en el mismo horario ese día.

Y para los estudiantes de último año que comen fuera del campus, 45 minutos simplemente no es tiempo suficiente. Si hay un restaurante a 10 minutos, ese es un viaje de ida y vuelta de 20 minutos sin tener en cuenta el tráfico de Riverside. Eso les da a los estudiantes alrededor de 10 minutos para conseguir comida y comer para regresar rápidamente al campus y regresar a clase a tiempo. Es una receta para la conducción imprudente.

Pirate Block tiene sus ventajas. Dado que la mayoría de los profesores no utilizan el tiempo para enseñar material nuevo, les brinda a los estudiantes la oportunidad de hacer preguntas aclaratorias o completar la tarea. También proporciona a los estudiantes un período de estudio estructurado, que faltaba en el horario anterior. Pero hasta ahora todavía estamos luchando por adaptarnos al nuevo horario de almuerzo.

Students anxious to resume club meetings

By ISAAH HEINZ

In the past, Riverside students have utilized clubs to socialize with like-minded students, but many worry this year will be different.

Last year, under SMART Lunch, clubs were on a specific day during the first or second half of lunch. But the new lunch schedule brings challenges to club scheduling.

The new club schedule depends on when the supervising teacher has their Pirate Block. Upstairs teachers have A lunch and downstairs teachers have B lunch. Assistant principal Will Okun said that clubs will meet during one lunch or the other.

"The student will go to the teacher of that Pirate Block and say 'The Uno club meets right now and here's my pass for that club,'" Okun said. "If you have an A or a B [in the class] the teacher will let you take that pass to leave the block and go to the club. Or if you're in the lunch room at that time you'll be able to leave the lunch room and go to that club."

A few clubs have started to meet during lunch, but at the time of publication no official announcement had been made. Okun said the administration isn't ready to finalize the Pirate

Block club schedule until students are comfortable with the new lunch schedule.

"We still have students who are struggling to understand the schedule," Dr. Okun said.

The administration believes that clubs will start soon, though.

Some student club leaders are struggling to keep their clubs going.

"When they killed SMART Lunch I just gave up," said junior Math Team leader Andrew Pipeling.

According to Ms. Simpson, the supervising teacher, the Math Team hasn't met this year.

"We haven't met yet, but we're planning to," Senior Emma Wilcox, a student leader of the Science Olympiad Team, said. "We're ready, but we're just waiting."

The Science Olympiad team plans on meeting after school on Thursdays from 4:30-5:30.

"Once we have the Pirate Block successfully integrated, teachers who wish to have a club or advise a club will be doing that during their lunch-time," assistant principal Darryl Bradshaw said. "Pirate Block itself is ready, but as far as clubs, [it is still] to be determined."

"It could be next week, it could be the week after, but it's going to be soon," Okun said.



Students eat and socialize during B lunch on Sept. 7. More students are eating in the outdoor area behind the cafeteria this year.

PHOTO BY TATE GASCH

Admin changes lunch schedule to enhance academic opportunities

By HANNAH POSNER AND LANA MCILVAINE

Riverside's administration changed SMART lunch to Pirate Block to help students utilize educational opportunities.

"It was so that we could maximize on the time we had for instructional differentiation," assistant principal Darryl Bradshaw said. "Part of [SMART lunch] was for clubs, but the other part was for remediation and classroom tutoring."

Multiple administrators said students were not using SMART lunch for its intended purposes: tutoring and clubs.

"About 75% of our students were not utilizing the tutoring piece," said Bradshaw. "During SMART lunch students had an option to engage in extra exposure to lessons if their grades were not well. If their grades were not well, the students still did not take part in tutoring opportunities...Pirate Block schedules it for them."

"I don't think [SMART lunch] was serving its purpose of offering tutoring and academic interventions for all students," said Assistant Principal Dr. Will Okun.

Contrary to the rumors that SMART lunch was removed because of too many fights, Bradshaw explained that fighting and safety only made up about 30% of the issue.

"[The decision] wasn't just for safety and also it wasn't just for fights... You also had elements like trespassers. You had students that were leaving campus that didn't have passes,

different cars that were on campus, and then you also had tardiness in between classes," he said.

Riverside used some of the new safety measures after Friday, Sept. 8, when two fights occurred during B lunch.

"There was a fight in the girls bathroom in the cafeteria on Friday that prompted us to end lunch early and return all students to their fourth period block," principal Gloria Woods-Weeks said in her weekly phone message to Riverside families. "All students were given the opportunity to eat lunch and I am pleased to report that no child was seriously injured."

Bradshaw also noted that the administrative team made sure students had multiple places to avoid congestion in the cafeteria.

"Microwaves were moved, corridors were opened up," he said. "So now students will have access to [a] courtyard here versus being restricted to the student patio."

One new feature of Pirate Block is social-emotional learning on Wednesdays.

Riverside now has access to Character Strong, an online curriculum designed for social emotional learning and character development.

"Character Strong is centered and built

around creating a community of people that care about others in their community," said assistant principal Gregory Goble. "It affords opportunities in a small classroom environment for students to really talk about and flush out some of the challenges that they're dealing with on a regular basis and how to address some of those challenges with regard primarily to social emotional learning."

The Character Strong website includes curricula for elementary through high school.

"Our curricula and professional learning are grounded in research and focused on fostering the Whole Child with vertically-aligned lessons that teach SEL and character, side-by-side," according to the Character Strong website.

Administration sought outside opinions to develop the new lunch schedule.

"We had a few meetings with parents, with student representatives, teachers, school administration, and we determined different schedules that would be able to accommodate our enrichment, which is tutoring as well as our club schedule," said Bradshaw. "And the one that we decided on is the current schedule that's in place now."

The selected students were recommended by school counselors and involved in various programs or clubs. Parents who helped with the planning were from the Parent Teacher Association. The administrative team

refused to provide names of students involved. Senior co-president of Student Government (SGA) Riley O'Connor said that Bradshaw did come to a meeting and explain the situation to the club. But after initial contact, SGA did not receive any information about when the meeting was being held.

"[Bradshaw] asked us to come put a team of people together from SGA to sit at meetings and propose ideas. And then we didn't really hear anything after that," said O'Connor.

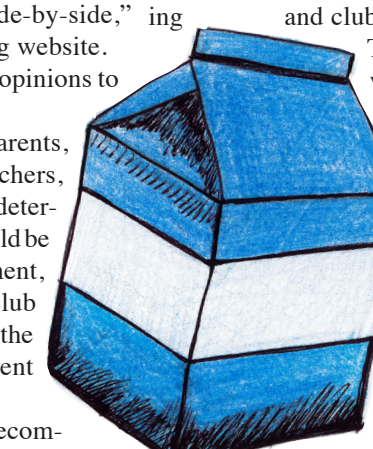
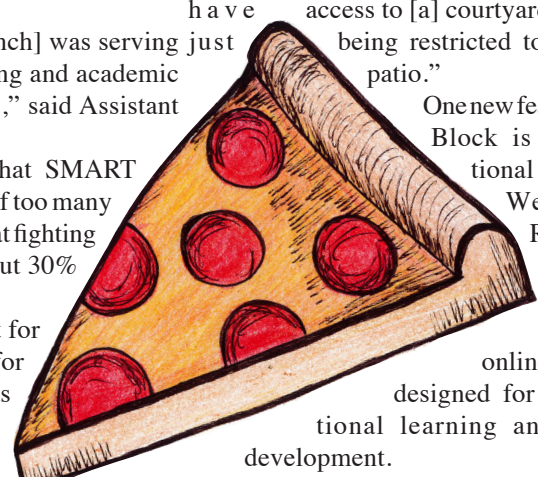
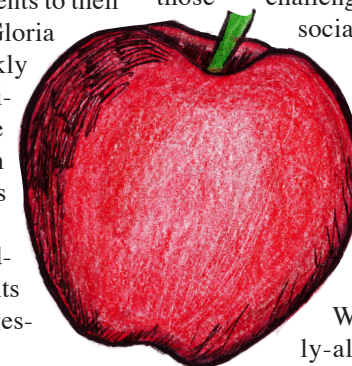
Administrators did not share the names of the students who attended the meetings with The Hook.

Despite the changes, there was one priority when creating the new lunch: maintaining clubs and tutoring during the school day.

According to Okun, Riverside remains the only high school in Durham offering both tutoring and clubs during the school day.

The Pirate Block system was created to maintain lunchtime clubs and tutoring while making sure students take advantage of the tutoring opportunities.

"The disadvantage of [SMART lunch] is the allure of eating with your friends every day was too much," said Okun. "We couldn't figure out how to get students into classes for tutoring who needed tutoring when the other option was to eat lunch with their friends."



How do students feel about the new lunch?

"We don't have much enough space out here. You know, you don't get to see the people we want to see."
Cole Schweitz, junior

"I think it's better than other schools, like Jordan. They have A and B and C. But I wish that we could get SMART lunch back."
Nourah Musleh, Sophomore

"The cafeteria is really crowded. It's really overstimulating, and it's going to be harmful for students with autism and other neurodivergent issues."
Finn Lueck, junior

"It's especially hard because I'm new. This lunch schedule doesn't help me meet people."
Adelina Coronado, senior

Dear Lenny,

What do you wish you would have known when you were a wee first-semester freshman?

Sincerely,
Clueless

Dear Clueless,

Although it may be hard to believe, I was once a baby pirate, just like you. I wish someone would have warned me about how frightening the school bathrooms are. Their only redeeming quality is the occasional inspirational quote about dumping your boyfriend or voting XBOX or PS5 on the walls of the stall.

This school is so big! It's easy to lose your way. Personally, I like to find my way using temperature.

For example, the science hall downstairs is about the same temperature as a Russian winter. On the contrary, the upper English hall is between 80 and 90 degrees. It does switch every other day, so make sure to stay prepared for all weather! If all else fails, just run around screaming "HELP" until someone points you in the right direction.

The football team might not win, but the games will be fun either way! Also, Chromebooks are basically just really bulky portable chargers. Thank me later.

In all seriousness though, high school is really just a figure-it-out-as-you-go kind of thing.

There will be a lot of uncomfortable moments, but also a lot of fun. Spirit week, clubs, sporting events...and of course, the pool on the roof. Put yourself out there. I promise no one will remember that one embarrassing thing from freshman year as much as you will. You go.

Good luck,

Lenny



SPORTS BRIEFS



Field Hockey

The women's field hockey team is on the rise.

The team got its first win in two years on Sept. 11 in a 1-0 thriller against Cape Fear Academy.

Sophomore Nehir Volkan scored the game's only goal two minutes into the third quarter on a reverse.

The win improved the Pirates to 1-2.

"I think it's only the first one of many and we're gonna have a fun time this season," said senior Eva Monson.

After going all season without scoring a goal last year, they already have 3. Junior Quinne Rizzuto and sophomore Isabelle Abadie scored the team's first two goals of the season in a game that went into overtime against Cape Fear Academy earlier this fall.

Not only has field hockey won its first game but the team has also grown in size. Last season the team had sixteen players and now they have 22.

The Pirates next play Carrboro on Sept. 20.

"I think we're getting more confident in ourselves and we've learned a lot from last year," Rizzuto said.

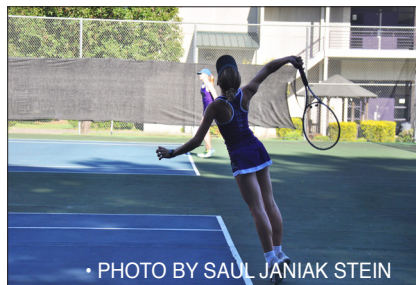
By Delia Aguilar

Women's Tennis

Despite weather disrupting three of the women's tennis team's first five matches, the Pirates are excited for the season.

Currently 1-2 overall, the team lost to Chapel Hill on Monday with one match unfinished due to low light.

"This is the best I've seen the team working together



Freshman Tinsley Johnson serves against Chapel Hill.

than I have in the last four years, so I'm really excited for the rest of this season," said senior Rachael Ades.

A promising group of freshmen, two of whom are already in the top six, has head coach Steve Rochkind looking to surpass last year's 6-11 record.

"[This] may be the best incoming freshman class in my experience," said Head Coach Steve Rochkind.

Rochkind also praised all the players for their academic strength in addition to their athleticism. Many of the players are straight-A students, and senior Emma Wilcox is even in the running for valedictorian.

"They have the ability to solve problems on the court, which is a real talent for a tennis player," he said.

The Pirates continue conference play on Sept. 13, against Jordan and host East Chapel Hill on Sept. 18.

By Austin Wymore

Men's Soccer

Although the men's soccer team started off with a similar record to last year, the dynamic is vastly different.

"I think that the varsity team this year looks like they are more engaged, more excited, and more prepared for the endurance that it takes to make it through an entire season compared to last year," Assistant Coach Sarah Cade states.

Head Coach Alex Ramirez decided to focus on unifying the team this season. He organized a team bonding trip to North Myrtle Beach, SC during the summer, something that the team has never done before.

Many of the players

believe the trip did help the team come together.

"We got a lot of

team bonding going and we really improved ourselves," junior captain John Fellers said.

In addition to hanging out at the beach, the team scrimmaged New Hanover High School in Wilmington.

On the field, with an addition of 10 new varsity players, and 10 returning players



Junior Amir El-Tanany high-fives teammates before a game against DA.

Ramirez thinks the team has a lot of potential this season, especially offensively.

"We have a lot of talent as far as trying to score goals. The four boys who are rotating [at forward] in there are really hard workers," he said. "They're talented. They like playing with each other."

Currently 3-3, the Pirates have three more non-conference matches before taking on Hillside on Sept. 21.

By Yadira Martinez-Reyez

Volleyball

The varsity volleyball team had a rough season last fall, but the players are optimistic that this season will be different.

According to senior Lauren Powrie and sophomore Kensey Craft, players have already shown improvement.

"I feel like we are becoming more of a team rather than playing individually," said Craft.

By establishing teamwork early on, they hope the team will be able to beat opponents whom they lost to last season. And so far, the players' predictions are true.

The team is currently 3-3. Last year the team began with a 4-2 record but Powrie believes this year's opponents have been stronger.

Craft is also hopeful about the talent new freshmen bring to the team.

Freshman Nureen Khan is on course to fill the position of libero (a back row player who specializes in defense and is allowed to go on and off the court behind the ten foot line) after Rachel Kirsch graduates.

"Our libero is a senior, so she'll be moving up next year and won't be here anymore," Craft says. "Having [Khan] for the next four years will be helpful," said Craft.

Riverside opened conference play at Hillside on Sept. 14 and will host Chapel Hill on Tuesday.

By Saul Janiak Stein

Cross Country

Despite losing some of their top senior athletes, the Pirate runners have high hopes for the upcoming season.

The team broke two school records on Sept. 8. Junior Philip Blum placed sixth overall with a 15:50 in the 5k. Junior, Elizabeth Healy came in twelfth, breaking her own record with a time of 18:41.

"[Last year's seniors] were incredible leaders and motivators, but we are still a strong team," said senior Eli Pope. "For example, on the boys' side we have 9-10 guys ready to fill out 7 spots and the girls' side is very similar, so we are very prepared for a great and productive season."

The runners worked hard all summer to prepare for the season. In addition to summer workouts, the team also took its annual training trip to Black Mountain.

"We meet six days a week," said Pope, "at 6:45 in the morning [during the week], and Saturday mornings at 7am downtown for a long run. And all the practices are mandatory."

The Pirates' have upcoming meets on September 16 and 20.

By Emmett Flynn

Football

The Riverside football team hopes a rough start helps them finish the season strong.

After defeating Cedar Ridge in their first game, the Pirates were blown out by Sanderson and South View, then lost in overtime to South Granville on Friday, Sept. 8.

Despite starting 1-3, the team is still confident they will make the playoffs. Teams qualify for the playoffs based on how they perform in conference games. Riverside's first conference game is Sept. 29 against Hillside.

The team placed fourth in the conference last year, but head coach Cory Lea is optimistic they can improve.

"We are set up to finish third this year, no worse than that," Lea said. "[The goal is] to finish the season just being a lot better football team than we were in the beginning."

Players remain optimistic, too.

"If we work as a real team, we might place higher than we did last year, but we got to work together," said sophomore defensive back Jashawn Wiley.

Wiley is one of several young players on this year's team. The team's seniors hope that the non-conference games

give them the experience they need heading into the most important part of their schedule.

"This is a growing season," said senior defensive tackle Damari Bunch. "We got enough people to go places, but at the same time the young guys haven't been in a situation like this."

By Elodie Page



Junior Mike Allen runs for a first down in the game against Southview.