

# PRESS RELEASE

## **Manhattan Beach Unified School District**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Manhattan Beach Schools to Extend Kindergarten Day in 2017-18**

**Manhattan Beach, CA, January 18, 2017**

For decades, kindergarten students in MBUSD have had a 3 hour and 20 minute day, where they attended either a morning session or an afternoon session. This year, MBUSD teachers and administrators have been working together to try to figure out how to make the day longer. They researched the issue, and made a recommendation to the MBUSD Board of Trustees. At the January 18, 2017 Board Meeting, the Board voted to implement extended day kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year and beyond.

During the 2016-17 school year, a Kindergarten Schedule Committee (with a representative from each school) was formed to discuss the option of moving from a half-day kindergarten schedule to an extended or full-day kindergarten schedule. The committee met several days in 2016. To help inform their recommendation, the team:

- Discussed a variety of kinder schedule options
- Examined a number of research summaries regarding the student impact of extended day
- Observed other school districts' extended day kindergarten teachers
- Engaged in a discussion with Lee Elementary kindergarten teachers and the principal regarding their schedule and their opinion of extended day
- Met with Dr. Murakawa Leopard, Deputy Superintendent of Business Services, to discuss fiscal considerations
- Asked principals to determine available rooms for extended day
- Met with Kim Johnson, Director of Children's Services to discuss the impact on EDP

Based on their work, the Kindergarten Schedule Committee recommended moving from half-day kindergarten to extended day kindergarten beginning in the 2017-18 school year. Committee members acknowledged that some sites may prefer an early/late extended day schedule; therefore, sites have the option to choose either extended day, or extended day with an early/late schedule. If

sites choose the early/late schedule, then students will have the same instructional minutes as those who are in the regular extended day kinder. The district’s Extended Day Program (EDP, after-school childcare) will continue to be offered to complement the new bell schedules.

Dr. Brett Geithman, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, stated, “I am grateful for the hard work of our teachers and administrators on the Kindergarten Committee. They made a recommendation that will provide our kindergarten students with an even higher quality education.”

Jennifer Cochran, President of the MBUSD Board of Trustees, added, “Our Board was proud to unanimously vote for extended day Kindergarten. It’s an extremely positive change that will be appreciated by the families of Manhattan Beach.”

Megi Asano, a kindergarten teacher at Robinson Elementary, stated, “It will give us the opportunity to fit more instruction into the day. I can teach math, reading, and writing much more in depth. Also, the additional time will provide some opportunities for our young students to play. They will have time to develop socialization skills and the fine motor skills that come with play. I love that the day will not feel as rushed. It will be so much better for our students.”

Sample Extended Day Schedule

8:10 Start  
20 minute morning recess  
40 minute lunch  
1:30 dismissal

Sample Extended Day with Late/Early Schedule

8:10 - early bird group arrives  
8:40 - late bird group arrives  
20 minute morning recess  
40 minute lunch  
1:30 dismissal for early birds  
2:00 dismissal for late birds

Kindergarten Schedule for the First 2 Weeks of School

8:10 Start  
20 minute morning recess  
40 minute lunch  
12:30 dismissal  
12:30-2:30 Welcome Conferences (1:1 student assessments and brief conferences with parents)

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## ABOUT THE MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MBUSD serves approximately 6,800 students from preschool to twelfth grade at eight school campuses—one preschool, five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Robinson Elementary School and Grand View Elementary School were recently recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2013. Six MBUSD schools have been honored as California Gold Ribbon Schools since 2015. In 2012, Grand View Elementary was named a National Green Ribbon School, joining just 77 other schools in the United States so honored that year. In 2016, MBUSD was named as a National Green Ribbon District. MBUSD’s Michael Hayden and Maggie Mabery were the *California* Teachers of the Year in 2015 and 2016. In addition to outstanding students and excellent teachers, MBUSD is extremely fortunate to have a high level of parental involvement in the schools and very strong partnerships with community partners such as the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation, PTAs/PTSAs, MBX—Beyond the Classroom, the City of Manhattan Beach, Chevron, Continental Development, the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce, and other local organizations and businesses. More information about MBUSD is available at [www.mbusd.org](http://www.mbusd.org).