

2025-26 School Year - Bell Schedule Update

Throughout the 2024-25 school year, administrators, the Board of Regents, faculty, staff, parents, and student groups discussed potential changes to the daily bell schedule for the 2025-26 school year. After these discussions and appropriate discernment, it was decided to move forward with updating the bell schedule for the 2025-26 school year.

What is new this year?

The normal school day will be:

- *Monday-Thursday: school will start at 8:35 AM and end at 3:15 PM*
- *Friday: school will start at 8:35 AM and end at 2:15 PM*
- *Class periods are 55 minutes in length*

SILAS Period

- 7:45 AM - 8:30 AM will now be referred to as “SILAS Period.” SILAS is designed to Support Instruction, Learning, And Students.
- SILAS Period will allow students to meet with teachers for additional 1:1 or small group support, as well as time set aside for a wider array of professional development opportunities.
- SILAS Period will also provide flexibility for additional for-credit courses, credit recovery, and other academic diploma-based needs.

SILAS Period Attendance

We want to equip students with tools that help them be successful in life after Bishop Chatard. Intrinsic motivation, time management, and personal responsibility are built by students voluntarily utilizing SILAS time to further their own growth. In some instances, SILAS period may be required to better support our students:

- *Optional: Students can, and will be strongly encouraged, to meet with teachers on a day-to-day basis as needed for questions, tutoring, test makeup, and review. If not attending SILAS, students report to the first period by 8:35 AM.*
- *Required: In certain situations, students may be required to attend a SILAS Period support study hall. This study hall is designed to provide more direct support to students. If a student is enrolled in a course that is offered for credit during the SILAS Period, attendance would also be required and follow normal school attendance policies.*

Why is the Schedule Being Updated?

Several reasons led to updating the schedule, some of which are listed here:

- The SILAS Period provides a more conducive environment for 1:1 or small group support.

- The SILAS Period allows flexibility for professional development and common teacher prep time.
- The new bell schedule creates more consistency in class meeting times by incorporating Mass without lessening any class time.
- In preparation for the new diploma requirements starting with the class of 2029, the SILAS Period will potentially afford students course opportunities outside the typical 7-period school day.
- As construction begins on campus, offsetting our morning schedule with Christ the King, as well as spreading out arrival times to Bishop Chatard, will help ease the flow of traffic.

The building will remain open each morning as it does now for students needing to arrive early for transportation reasons. These students will be directed to the new student life center and cafeteria, which will be monitored by Bishop Chatard staff.

Below this letter is a list of FAQs regarding the schedule change.

We are grateful for the trust placed in us to inspire and cultivate lifelong commitments to faith, learning, leadership, and service. We will continue to work each day to build on that mission and inspire our students to make the world a better place, now and in their life after Bishop Chatard. We thank you for your continued partnership.

Go Trojans!

SILAS FAQs

When can my student arrive at school in the morning?

Doors to the school building will open at 6:45 AM. Students not attending a SILAS period session, or seeking help from a teacher, will be expected to go to the cafeteria/student life center.

What days will the SILAS Period be available?

Teachers are available for SILAS every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and every 1st and 3rd Friday of every month. Students taking a course during SILAS will meet every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, unless otherwise specified by the teacher with administrative approval.

Wednesday will be reserved for professional development. The 2nd and 4th Friday will be utilized for faculty Professional Learning Communities.

Students will still be able to arrive at school when the building opens at 6:45 AM on days SILAS is not in session.

What other school activities are permitted during SILAS?

SILAS is designed to support instruction, learning, and students. Only pre-approved student groups can meet during the SILAS period. No other mandatory practices or meetings can occur during SILAS without approval from school administration.

Why might my son or daughter be required to attend SILAS Period?

Students may be required to attend SILAS for the following reasons:

- A student is receiving credit for a course offered during the SILAS period. Courses for credit will have different expectations of attendance specific to receiving credit, outlined in a course syllabus.
- Teacher recommendation for the following:
 - Difficulty in reaching a passing grade for more than a two-week period
 - Multiple missing assignments
 - Difficulty in finding a time to make up a missed assessment
- Academic Probation
 - Following the end of each quarter, students placed on Academic Probation (below a 2.0) will be required to attend the SILAS period three times a week on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings. Students will remain in SILAS until they are above a 2.0 at the next grade checkpoint. Grade checkpoints will occur at both the midterm and the quarter. Students may also enter a SILAS requirement at midterm if deemed necessary by administration.

Where does my student report if he is required to attend SILAS?

This location will vary by semester. The location will be shared in communication with students and parents, should a student be required to attend SILAS.

What happens if my student fails to report to a required SILAS period?

Communication is essential to best support our students. Expectations and possible disciplinary actions for unexcused absences or excessive excused absences can be found in the student handbook.

I saw a flex period on the bell schedule. What is flex?

Flex period is an hour block utilized appropriately throughout the semester for multiple reasons. Any class-specific event that used to take place during seminar will now take place during the flex period. This period also offers the opportunity for specific class Masses, clubs, and other school-related events to take place, without impacting class meeting times.

Who do I reach out to if I have questions about SILAS?

Julia Hasbrook, Vice Principal of Academics (academic-related concerns)

Andy Reel, Director of Student Life (student life concerns)