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NEWS RELEASE

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High School Day Adds One Class Beginning 2009-10

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – As of August 2009, Houston County's high school students will attend seven classes a day, one more class than this school year. The school day has been revised to better meet the State requirement that students must earn an additional credit to graduate.

Beginning with the 2008-2009 freshman class, the State of Georgia increased the required credits to graduate from 22 to 23. With a six-period schedule, students have the opportunity to earn 24 credits over four years in high school. A seven-period day allows students to earn as many as 28 credits by the end of their senior year.

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Dr. Wanda Creel commented, "A seven-period day increases opportunities and provides flexibility for students to earn graduation credits in the classes that they need and/or want during their high school career. The seven-period day will make a tremendous difference in opening up opportunities to explore additional courses in core subjects, fine arts, foreign languages, Career, Technical and Agricultural Education classes, and physical education and health, while maintaining minimal costs to the school system. In addition, the seven-period day will allow for more support classes and more individualized attention for Honors/Advanced Placement, ESOL, and special education students."

Students will have two different schedules during the week. On Monday, Thursday and Friday, students will attend seven 50-minute classes. On Tuesday, students will attend only their first four classes (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th periods) for 85 minutes apiece. On Wednesday, students will attend their last three classes (5th, 6th and 7th periods), again for 85 minutes each, plus have time for either enrichment or remediation. The longer classes held in the middle of the week will allow a greater depth of teaching and learning, time for labs, and opportunities for students to gain immediate instructional feedback. This schedule also allows targeted instructional support during the school day to meet the individual needs of each student, whether a student is ready for more advanced material, would benefit from practice tests such as for the SAT, or is in need of remediation through tutoring.

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In addition, the Houston County Board of Education is considering requiring 24 credits to graduate, one more unit than the State requires, beginning with the 2009-2010 freshman class. Superintendent David Carpenter remarked, "Our school system has a long tradition of requiring more of our students than the minimum required by the State. By offering seven periods a day and the chance to earn 28 credits, our students will be better prepared academically to reach their goals."

The 2009-2010 high school schedule and Frequently Asked Questions are available online at <http://www.hcbe.net/news/index.html>. For more information, Creel may be reached at wanda.creel@hcbe.net or (478) 988-6200.

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