

By Carolyn Lee

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Students at Chase County Schools will find some changes this fall, when school resumes Aug. 22. Class periods have been adjusted, school will start earlier and the lunch program has been revised by federal mandate.

The bell will ring at 8 a.m. for a full day of school on Aug. 22, with classes in all grades beginning at 8:05 a.m. That's also the tardy time. Classes dismiss at 3:30 p.m.

New this year is an "advisory period," 20 minutes in between second and third period for grades 7-12.

Other schools have added this period, which is a time for students in different grades to get together to discuss issues, problems, etc. with a teacher present.

Dr. Brad Schoeppey, superintendent, said groups of 10 students will be assigned to a teacher. "This helps the teachers be more in touch with other kids. It allows kids a small group to connect with at different age levels," he said.

It also gives the seniors a chance to become peer leaders.

Once a week the advisory period will be used for club meetings, such as FFA and FBLA, rather than having those clubs meet before or after school once a month.

Preliminaries to school

There are several events scheduled prior to the start of school next Wednesday.

An ice cream social, sponsored by PTO (Parent-Teacher Organization), will be held for elementary students Aug. 21 from 4:30-6 p.m. at the school.

Elementary Principal Pat Lane said this is a chance for students to meet their teachers, drop off supplies and find their lockers prior to the start of classes the next day.

Computers will also be checked out to students prior to the first day.

For freshmen and new high school students, the laptops will be checked out Aug. 20 at 7 p.m. at the school.

Computers will be checked out to returning high school students as follows on Aug. 21: seniors, 8-9 a.m.; juniors, 9-10 a.m. and sophomores, 10-11 a.m.

Teachers will be returning to school early for two days of in-service Aug. 20-21. Dr. Schoeppey said topics to be discussed at those meetings include an English Language Learner presentation by teachers, math training and the Reading Mastery program for new elementary teachers.

Teachers will also be working in their classrooms Aug. 21.