

**PETITION CONCERNING ST. RAPHAEL'S SCHOOL START/END HOURS -
INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM**

We, the parents of St. Raphael Catholic School would like to raise concern and petition against the recent communication regarding the change of the school hours.

Parent's schedules and lives revolve around the school schedule and moving bell times would have a rippling effect. While 30 minutes may seem insignificant, it's a considerable impact on families when you factor in commute, financial add-ons for possible childcare, lack of local before school programs, increased school zone safety concerns; (The 8:30 drop off is already saturated with parking concerns, moving the start time to later will only increase the urgency in drop offs for some parents so that they can reach their employment locations on time) and so forth.

We feel that there was not enough transparency in communication with parents leading to this decision and that a fair opportunity to raise concerns was not provided. We ask that this decision be reconsidered, and that this petition be factored in with the recent survey sent to Parents with the start time options and that the option to start at 8:30am and end at 3:00pm be in effect.

We, also ask that the International Language Program be revisited and that the 2 hours in question be allocated to curriculum like Math and Language which are suffering in our board. There is no added benefit to the International Language Program especially when a high percentage of the school community is not Italian. Math and Language curriculum is what our children will need to help them be successful in their future. The International Language program is an option that parents can consider outside of school hours if they choose to. Our children however need the added teaching time, please don't impact them with less learning opportunity.

Please consider the parent's signatures below to validate our concerns.