



Vista Ridge High School

A DESTINATION SCHOOL IN LEANDER ISD
LEADING TO A BRIGHT FUTURE

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Dear Vista Ridge Community,

Beginning January 17th, Vista Ridge High School will be making some modifications to our daily Ranger Time classes.

BACKGROUND: VRHS students and staff believe that Ranger Time is essential to our campus culture and provides the instructional flexibility that helps our campus accomplish high academic achievements. Most high school schedules in Texas are essentially the same: block schedule (90 min A/B), or traditional (45 min every day). All high schools offer the same amount of minimum instructional time. So, creative flexible scheduling is a challenge. Beginning in 2014, we decided to try something innovative. We carved out 40 minutes of (flex) time for our students and staff to personalize their own instruction. With the support of LISD, an on-line portal for students was created to self-select learning options, and the program quickly became an integral component of our intervention and academic programs. Ranger Time is essential for students in need of academic intervention to get the tutoring they need, and our advanced students utilize the time for AP student groups, PSAT boot camp, etc. Through this flex-time, we are also able to support over 60 student clubs.

THE WHY: Certain classes we offer, called Career Technology Education (CTE) courses receive weighted funding from the State. One requirement to receive this funding is that we offer 450 minutes of instruction per 2 weeks, for every CTE class we offer. With our current schedule, the total time over two weeks is approximately 410 minutes. To stay in compliance with TEA regulations but maintain the essential time our students have for academic intervention and enrichment we developed a new Ranger Time schedule.

THE SOLUTION: To accomplish this requirement, we changed the current Ranger Time schedule to make it more dynamic. The new Ranger Time schedule will have a “built in” specific time that corresponds to each class over a two week period and will allow each course an additional 40 minutes over a 2 week period. On the students’ schedule, their CTE Courses will be listed as 10th Period, along with their traditional “Advocate” period home room teacher. The addition of this associated 40 minute CTE/Ranger Time satisfies the TEA requirement and keeps us in compliance.

What makes the schedule innovative is that the Ranger Time roster changes every day to reflect each period in a student’s current schedule. So, students go to their Ranger Time based on the period for that specific day. Over the course of a 2 week cycle, students will have (1) 40 minute Ranger Time class in each of their 8 courses. **It’s important to note that the actual Ranger Time is always the same time of day (11:36-12:16). Only the classrooms they report to change.**

SAMPLE Ranger Time SCHEDULE

Day of Week	A/B	Ranger Time (RT)
Week 1		
Monday:	A	1 st Period
Tuesday	B	5 th Period
Wednesday	A	2 nd Period
Thursday	B	6 th Period
Friday	A	Home RT (same as 2 nd period)
Week 2		
Monday	B	7 th Period
Tuesday	A	3 rd Period
Wednesday	B	8 th Period
Thursday	A	4 th Period
Friday	B	Home RT (same as 6 th period)

1st period students report to their 1st period class during Ranger Time. So, students are in the same class as their 1st period on this day

7th period students report to their 7th period class during Ranger Time on this day.

Advantages:

- All students follow the new Ranger Time schedule and students with a CTE class will automatically meet the minimum CTE instructional minutes requirements. This will also address the problem of students who have multiple CTE classes.
- Distributing the Ranger Time rosters across all 8 periods creates a balanced, equitable distribution of students across the two week period and does not unfairly burden one department. No Home Ranger Time class roster will ever be larger than the teacher’s original, corresponding class.
- Teachers will only have the students they already teach assigned to their Ranger Time on any given day. Since the teachers already have the students, they have established a relationship and can use the time more effectively to enhance instruction for all courses.
- Teachers and students will still have access to the Ranger Time Portal to customize their instructional time.
- Students will still have each Friday specifically for club enrichment time.
- Allows us to fully comply with the CTE minutes requirements.
- The schedule will actually allow for a teacher to see EACH of their OWN classes over a 2 week period. This could be a benefit for AP study groups and general classroom make-up activities.

Disadvantages

- May create a bit of a chaotic feel until the students get used to the schedule. We will need to make daily announcements to remind students which home Ranger Time to attend. Example: *“Today, you will attend Home Ranger Time based on your 1st Period. Please go to your 1st period teacher during Ranger Time today.”*

WHAT TO EXPECT?

Students will be locked into their current home Ranger Time on January 9th and 10th to listen to a Power Point presentation regarding the Ranger Time changes. January 11th-13th students will report to their home Ranger Time, but can move to other classes with a pass. The portal will be down the whole week of January 9th to make the necessary changes for the new Ranger Time system. Students will receive a schedule that will show both Advocate (Home Ranger Time), as well as 10th period accounting courses for each of their CTE classes. These classes will appear in the spot that was previously listed as “10th Period Advocate.” This information needs to be reflected on the schedule for documentation purposes. Attendance will be mandatory for students attending a CTE class during Ranger Time, and this will allow them to automatically meet the minimum required CTE instructional minutes.

Sample Student schedule

GRADUATION PLAN: NO GRAD PLAN

ENDORSEMENT 1: MS "MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES" ENDORSEMENT 2: ST "STEM"

SEM	COURSE	SEC	DAYS MET	PERIOD	COURSE TITLE	ROOM	TEACHER
2	1113	12	MTWRF	01-01	ENG1 P AP QUEST	2117	HERRICK
2	4163	21	MTWRF	02-02	HUMAN GEO AP	2314	GIESENSCHLAG
2	8450	32	MTWRF	03-03	COMPSCI 1 PREAP	1614	WENDEL
2	8450	32	MTWRF	03-03	LUNCH A	1614	
2	8310	41	MTWRF	04-04	INTRO ENGR PLTW	1612	WIEDENMEIER
2	5401	51	MTWRF	05-05	LATIN 1	2252	SLONSKY
2	8069	63	MTWRF	06-06	PROFES COMM ACE	1604	YOUNG
2	3212	72	MTWRF	07-07	BIO PRE-AP	1510	FISHER
2	3212	72	MTWRF	07-07	LUNCH C	1510	
2	2230	81	MTWRF	08-08	GEOM PRE-AP	1417	LARSON
2	9999	09	ALL	09-09	FUNDING	NA	ATTENDANCE
2	8069	63	T	10-10	PROFES COMM ACE		YOUNG
2	8310	41	F	10-10	INTRO ENGR PLTW		WIEDENMEIER
2	8573	72	MTWRF	10-10	ADVOCATE 9	1614	GIESENSCHLAG

CTE courses this student is enrolled in

Home Ranger Time class. Student goes here Fridays

An announcement will be made over the intercom system prior to Ranger Time to assist students with remembering which Ranger Time to attend until students get the hang of it. Also, the schedule will be posted on the VRHS website.

A/B SCHEDULE EXAMPLE

The current district A/B Calendar will be modified to include the Ranger Time/Advocate period students should attend on any given day. The Ranger Time schedule will not change throughout the semester.

	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI
JANUARY	2	3	4	5	6
	A1	B5	A2	B6	A2
	9	10	11	12	13
	B7	A3	B8	A4	A2
	16	17	18	19	20
	--	A3	B8	A4	A2
	23	24	25	26	27
	A1	B5	A2	B6	A2
	30	31			
	B7	A3			

Thursday, January 12th, would be an A day, and students would attend Ranger Time with their 4th period class

WHICH COURSES ARE CONSIDERED CTE?

Profess Comm	BIM I	Arch Dsgn	Aud Video Prod
Prin Tech 1	BIM II	Intro Engr Pltw	Adv Aud Vid Prod
Anat & Phy	Bus Management	Prin Of Engr	
Adv Bio Tech	Virtual Bus	Engr Dsgn & Dev	
Med Micro	Global Bus	Aerospace Engr	
Med Term	Bank Fin Svcs	Prin Biomed Sci	
Sci R&D I	Bus Law	Human Body Sys	
Ba Bus Inf Mgmt	Human Resc Mgmt	Medical Interventions	
Bas Ag Mech Met	Prin Human Srvc	Career Prep I	
Bas Cons Tech	Inter Per Stdy	Career Prep Ii	
Bas Child Dev	Child Dev	Prob & Sol I	
Prin Ag Food Nr	Life Nutr Well	Prob & Sol Ii	
Wildlife F&E Mg	Cul Arts	Electr Tech	
Ag Mech Met Fab	Prct Cul Arts I	Adv Elect Tech	
Ag Dsgn Fab	Int Design	Prct Elect Tech	
Prct Ag Mech	Coun Ment Hlth	Const Tech	
Livestock Pdct	Instr Edu Train	Adv Const Tech	
Animal Sci Adv	Prct Edu Train	Prct Const Tech	
Prin Floral Dsg	Prn Hlth Sci	Con Engr Tech	
Horticulture	Health Science	Cosmo 1	
Land Dsgn Turf	Pharmacology	Cosmo 2	
Profes Comm Ace	Prin Bus Mkt Fi	Electronics	
Prof Comm Sem	Adv Sales Prom	Adv Electronics	
Small Animal Mg	Entrepreneurshp	Auto Tech	
Vet Med Appl	Retailing-E	Adv Auto Tech	
Prct Vet Med Ap	Sport Ent Mkt	Prct Auto Tech	
Profess Comm	Fashion Mrkt	Animation	
Prin Inform Tec	Intnet Cisco I	Graph Dsgn III	
Accounting 1	Intnet Cisco II	Web Tech	
Accounting 2	Comp Maint	Video Game Dsgn	

