A Letter A Day.... Just like an apple a day? Yes, we’re referencing the early 20th century proverb, “An apple a day keeps the doctor away.” Apples do have a good claim to promote health. And we believe this is a “healthier” schedule that will maximize the quality and quantity of your child’s time at Colorado Academy. Healthier learning? We believe the new schedule will better allow us to educate the kind of learners and leaders tomorrow’s world will need.

The scheduling shift is a research-based change that takes into account how students learn best. “A school delivers its mission through its schedule,” says Head of School Mike Davis. “The creation of a schedule is a complex endeavor that must satisfy many things, but first and foremost, it must satisfy the educational needs of our students.”

1. **What’s different?** In keeping with educational research and best practices, we will:
   - **Move to a six-day schedule** in which the days are identified by the letters A through F instead the old five-day, Monday through Friday rotation.
   - **Rotate classes across the clock of the school day for Middle and Upper School students.**
   - **Add time**—20 more minutes to the school day—with classes beginning at 8:10 a.m. and ending at 3:30 p.m. for all students.

2. **Why the change?** This kind of schedule:
   - **Fosters teaching** in the ways that children learn best, with adequate time, space, and opportunity for experiential education. With a six-day schedule, we overcome the inherent limitations of the five-day week, and instead let the program that best serves students drive the schedule versus the schedule driving the students.
   - **Provides flexibility** for teachers with more opportunity for student and faculty collaboration and cross-disciplinary work.
   - **Reduces stress** and allows for better use of time.

3. **How will parents and students know the scheduled day?**
   - By following the “Letter-A-Day” calendars and division-specific schedules provided here and in numerous locations: on the CA website and CA mobile, in Middle and Upper School planners, the CA printed calendar. For Lower School students, each homeroom teacher has a different schedule. Schedules will be distributed by teachers, and can be matched up against the “Letter-A-Day” calendar to know which days students will have “specials.”
   - Letter days also will be posted at the entrance of each division building.
4. **How Has CA Prepared? CA has:**

- Conducted extensive research including: gathering data from other schools nationwide, surveying students regarding their school experience, reviewing feedback from faculty and using the work of faculty committees as part of the school’s Strategic Planning work.
- Consulted with national scheduling expert Roxanne Higgins of Independent School Management to inform its decision.
- Devoted professional development to helping teachers teach most effectively during longer blocks of time.

5. **How can parents help? Parents can:**

- Be patient.
- Help your children get to school on time.
- Be a role model for your child in managing change.
- Allow your child the appropriate amount of independence, according to his or her age, to ask questions.
- To the best of your ability, schedule children’s doctors’ appointments on days when school is not in session.