

A Look at Secondary Class Sizes

Each year, Citizens For Education tracks the class size data for the secondary schools in Council Rock (Elementary data is posted on the district website). This is helpful in determining trends in both class sizes and rigor of classes over time at each of the middle and high schools. Citizens only analyzes the class size data for the 5 core areas: Math, Science, Social Studies, English/Language Arts and World Languages.

Middle Schools

At the middle schools, the only dramatic change that has occurred is due to the redistricting of Rolling Hills Elementary (RHE) from Holland Middle School (HMS) to Richboro Middle School (RMS). The redistricting began with just the 7th grade last year (2011-12) and added the 8th grade this school year. With Rolling Hills no longer at HMS, the number of classes at HMS has dropped from a total of 131 to 104 core classes.

It is interesting to note that at Richboro Middle, the Rolling Hills redistricting has a less noticeable impact; the number of core classes running has only increased by one, from 102 in 2011-12 to 103 classes in 2012-13. The major shift at RMS, however, has come in class size. In 2011-12, only 13% of the core classes at RMS 8th grade held 26 or more students; in 2012-13, that number increased to 61%. Looking at the number of classes that were over 30 students, in 2011-12 there were 2 classes; in 2012-13 the 8th grade had 21 classes with 30 or more. For example, all 5 of the Spanish classes have more than 30 students; the highest (and highest in the school) was 35 students.

High Schools

At the high schools, the number of core courses being run at CR South overtook CR North last year as, for the first time, all of RMS began feeding into CR South. CR South went from running 348 core classes in 2009-10 to 360 this year. There is a more dramatic drop in classes being run at CR North; from 388 in 2009-10 to 337 this year. In both schools, the vast majority of classes are enrolled within the 20-29 student range. There has also been consistency in the level of course rigor that students are electing to take. The only interesting item to note is that the numbers of AP classes being run at CR North and the enrollments in them have not declined, although the overall population of the school has decreased over the last few years.

All the data related to class sizes may be found at our website: www.citizensforeducation.com. Click on Supporting Data for 2013 Spring Newsletter => Secondary Class Size Data.