Schedule from page 1A

6:20 a.m. to take required academic classes. This would free up later hours in the day for electives. No bus service would be provided for this early hour. These academic classes would also be offered at times later in the day for students not electing the early morning hour.

North Farmington parents have received information detailing the proposal, as have students at the school who Chiasson said are excit-ed about the option.

or amount the option.

The one-year staff study was done as part of the school's North-Central accreditation procedure, which occurs every seven years, Maxwell, who has severed on several North Central committees for the school, called this year's study "innovative."

"The old method was just a bunch of shuffling paper," he said. "This is work for change, rather.

than looking good for a group of people who comes in. Overall, it's going to make us more professional, better unified and better teachers."

better unified and better teachers.

Clarke points out that the study
was cumpleted during a year when
staff was cut back, class sizes increased, and some programs were
reduced. "To go a step beyond macreate this... Is pretty incredible," she said. Other teachers involved in the study included Cathy
Cunningham, Carl Gippers, Chris
Hosman, Bey Schmitt, Kathy Summerice and Lloyd Wepman.

Class and the stage of the stage of the said.

Clarke stressed that, under the program, North Farmington teach-ers would be expected to work bard during the two-hour block on Wednesdays. "That time will be devoted to learning for teachers," she said. "It will not be for correcting papers. It won't be business as usu-

Program is a take off from one at Holt High

The proposal to give North Farmington High School staff members a black of development time on the staff and the staff that the school day starting shortly therefore. The school has just completed its school mean land may be starting shortly therefore. The school has just completed its second year with the program, and it has, made a spanificant difference in the way things are done, according to Holt assistant principal Nancy Hons.

"We have more ideas from the staff than we can handle," she added "The level of professionalists in much higher."

Thus been so successful, that the district has moved the staff devel opponent program into the junior high school and will likely move it into telementary schools in the future.

Bull-students use their Wedness.

Holt students use their Wednesday morning time to do community service work, spend extra time in the school library, or take commu-nity college courses affered on site

mty college courses affered in site for credit. Others use it simply to catch up on homework. Haus suid it is also a mid-week "stress-reliever" for many students, especially those involved in sports where events run late into Tuesday might

We have more ideas from the staff than we can handle. The level of professionalism is much higher.'

Nancy Haas Holt assistant principal

Hans came to the Lansing area Hass came to the Lansingarea, school this year from a position with the Michigan Department of Education because of the progressive program. She hopes the Farmington district will give it a try, "It's really an important step — I hope it as least gues as a pilot," she said. "It is a significant move."

The Farmington Public School District is already doing steam reaching at a number of schools, in-cluding, on Interdisciplinary block at Farmington High School. In the fall, Harrison High School staff will introduce a similar block program for their students.

Those concepts, and the North Farmington 'proposal,' stemmed from a recent study on secondary education done in the Farmington district. The district is encouraging staff to develop programs which will change the way students are taught, including an increase in thinking skills.

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Parents debate proposed changes

BY CASEY HANS STAFF WRITER

North Farmington, High School-parents are debating the merits of a proposit which would give teachers extra time on Wednesday mornings for staff development and offer early morning time for students to take an extra class.

The pilot program, part of the school's North Central evaluation, would take effect this fall.

Several parents said they were

would take effect this fall.

Several parents said, they were
supportive, but were concerned
about having students at home on
Wednesday mornings and also having reduced classroom time. Several
said they felt-by proposing the
project at the end of a school year,
parents weren't being given enough
opportunity to comment.

opportunity to confinent.

Other purents endorse the pro-posal, which is scheduled to come before the Farmington Buird of Ed-acution on Tuesday, June 16.

"I don't dispute their goals," said Susan Ellis, who will have two sons at North Farmington next full and said teachers there are "doing a be-rice job."

role job."
"But they haven't ironed out the problems with this. There's something to be said about good, old-

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fashined time with the teacher," she added.

Other-parents like the overall idea, including boaster club predicted David Haron. He believes parent concerns stem from a lack of understanding, "We, to a certain extent, have to accept the educative belief", that nine minutes treduction in class time) will not change the educational quality," he said.

He called the tenchers chairing the committee the school's "super-

the committee the school's "super-stars."

"These aren't people who want to get out of work, "he said." I'm excit-ded when teachers key I want to try-something. They're incredible teachers — we've gut to let their try-something." They're incredible the first her "even" hour, proposed for 6:20 n.m., is too early and that if-students don't choose to take the early class they will miss out on ac-demic time. She said site was also concerned that not enough parons. concerned that not enough parents know what is going on with the pro-

posal.

Parent Carole Wilson sold she
understands parents who feel
threatened by the proposed
changes because her family has ex-

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perienced the unknown with High-meadow Common Campus program and through various pilot classes in the district. She said her daughter, who will be a junior in the fall, needs the "zero hour" in the murn-ing so she can fit in electives like music and language later in the achool day.

"If you want the best, sometimes you have to take the risk," she said.
"For the students who chouse it, it can be great."

For the students and the concerns at their High School three summers ago when that district proposed a similar program. The North Farmington, staff has modeled its pro-

ington staff has modeled its pro-gram on Hole's,
"We did have some community concern here," said Holt assistant principal. Nancy. Hass. "The strength of the argument is that teachers are working together, to better meet the needs of the kids."

For example, the "zero h originally proposed for 6:30 a.m., five days per week. After parents voiced concern over what students would do between 7:30 and 9:30 a.m. on Wednesdays, the school changed the proposal to having the class begin at 6:20 a.m., for four days per week.

"For the students with choose, it, it days per week."

There were parental concerns at The Terre were parental concerns at 1 In indiction, the North Farmington booster groups have offered to up a parent network to handle smiller program on Holt's, "We did have some community concern here," said Holt assistant principal. Nancy. Haus. "The strength of the argument in that steacher age working together, to better meet the needs of the kids."

Some, of the North Farmington principal We recipited the said. "We recipite it's an addition," where saying we want to trybe. "We recipite it's an addition, the North Farmington booster groups have offered to up a parent network to handle up a parent network which, might be easily might be said the recognites the students and the recipites and the students and the said. "We re saying we want to trybe the said. "We're saying we want to trybe the said." "We're saying we want to trybe the same, but would it be the school that students really need?"

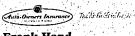
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