



New High School Schedule

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the New High School Schedule

Why was the new 8 period schedule developed?

The new schedule was developed in order to gain efficiencies in scheduling in order to be able to maximize options for students and use of staff. This includes being able to more effectively balance class sizes, offer students more academic choices, and allow flexibility in programming.

Who developed this schedule?

The schedule was developed by a team of teachers and administrators working together this fall. The schedule was formally approved in January 2017.

How does the new schedule differ from the current bell schedule (2016-17)?

In the former schedule, there were seven opportunities for academic courses, and in the new schedule, there are eight. Advisory was reduced to one day a week for 72 minutes.

Does the new schedule alter the start and end times of the school day?

No, school will start each day at 7:25 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m.

How long is the advisory period next year?

Advisory will be 72 minutes in length, once a week on Wednesday, and will be the same format as this year, allowing for advisory lessons and student travel within the building to see teachers.

What will students do to make up work if they miss for school sponsored activities?

In the 9th and 10th grade, students will be scheduled into an interdisciplinary hour with their core teachers that will allow flexibility to make up work when needed. Students will also be able to use the advisory time to make up work. If there is still a need, students can arrange with their teachers to make up assignments before school, after school, or during lunch.

How will class sizes change?

Class sizes will remain consistent with previous years.

What academic supports will be in place for next year?

Every 9th and 10th grade student will be scheduled into an interdisciplinary hour. The interdisciplinary hour will be taught by the learning community English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Special Education teacher. This class will focus on interdisciplinary projects with all four core subjects, and also allow flexibility for support, remediation, or enrichment. There will be support courses available for students who are eligible based on individual needs. These courses are scheduled through the Building Instructional Team (BIT).

Will lunch periods change for next year?

On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday we will have three student lunch periods and on Wednesday we will have two lunch periods. All lunch periods remain 30 minutes in length.

With the new schedule for next year, will the scheduling process change?

The scheduling process and timeline will remain the same for students. Counselors will continue to support students with course selection.

How will the 8th class be determined for students?

For all of our 9th and 10th grade students, the additional class will be a required interdisciplinary course. Our 11th and 12th grade students will have the opportunity to choose another elective. We are working on additional opportunities for next year that will be available in the course description book.

What will colleges think about an 8th class on the transcript?

Colleges will see the additional class as an opportunity to expand interest within the curriculum along with building skills and knowledge for college and career readiness.

How will graduation requirements change?

The number of credits required for graduation will not change. Previously, we had required four credits in advisory. The advisory credits have now been changed to additional requirements, and can be earned in any area/subject.

Will the Counseling assignments (alphabet) remain the same for next year?

Counseling assignments will remain the same for next year.

Will this impact the opportunity for students to take OTECH?

We work very closely with all of our auxiliary programs to ensure success for our students. All auxiliary programs such as OTECH, Oakland ACE, Dual Enrollment will still be available to students.

Will students have increased homework and expectations with the addition of an extra class?

For 9th and 10th grade students, there will not be additional homework assigned through the interdisciplinary class. For 11th and 12th graders, this will be dependent upon the elective course they choose.

What is the interdisciplinary class?

This year-long, required course is designed to enrich, enhance, and support the students in the learning community. Throughout the year, student-centered, interdisciplinary projects will encourage students to deeply explore topics that emerge from their core classes. Learning communities will design themes around which to center students' learning. These themes will allow students to investigate multiple subject areas, including those outside the core, fostering interdisciplinary learning and a global mindset. Students will also receive additional support from their core teachers in an environment that allows for differentiated and one-on-one instruction based on students' individual needs. This collaborative course will foster students' independent learning skills and provide student-growth-focused feedback. In the 10th grade, the personal project will be completed in this class.

Who will teach the interdisciplinary class?

The 4 core academic teachers and a special education teacher will teach the course.

Will the new interdisciplinary class be graded?

This class will be pass/fail based on course requirements.