

VRHS Schedule Modification FAQ - 1

Schedule Modification Update

As you know, we have been engaged in reviewing the current block schedule to determine if we are meeting the needs of our students. The goal of the Schedule Study Committee has been to research schedule options that promote student success. The committee has determined the need to modify the current schedule. Please find answers to a number of frequently asked questions regarding the scheduling modification below.

What was the schedule study process?

We developed a committee including a board member, parents, faculty, administration, and consultants. The committee met three times to study the schedule including surveying staff, students, and parents, reviewing research on scheduling, observing schedules at other high schools, and discussing aspects to include in a possible schedule modification.

What will the schedule modification look like?

We have not developed a specific schedule at this point. Aspects we would like to see in a modification include full year courses, a mix of long and shorter blocks, flex time for students to provide additional support and enrichment, and longer lunch periods.

What are some reasons to modify our current schedule?

A major consideration is continuity of instruction and providing student engagement with subject matter in major subjects for a full year. This will allow students to have more time for content and skill acquisition as well as better preparation for AP, IB, SAT, and CTE testing. The current gaps in learning can result in regression in associated skills. Additional reasons include minimizing the negative impact of student absences, providing a mixture of class lengths to accommodate all learners, providing flexible use time to promote effective academic interventions and personalized learning, and increasing time available for teacher collaboration.

How will this schedule modification benefit my student?

The schedule modification will:

- *Provide a full year to actively engage and master content and skills*
- *Minimize gaps in learning by shortening time that students are not enrolled in specific content courses like math and world language*
- *Ensure that students are enrolled in courses at the same time as assessment*
- *Allow for time during the school day to obtain extra help or participate in enrichment and activities*
- *Extend lunch*
- *Strengthen student-teacher relationships by extending the time that students are enrolled in a certain teacher's course*

We will keep you informed as this important modification moves forward.