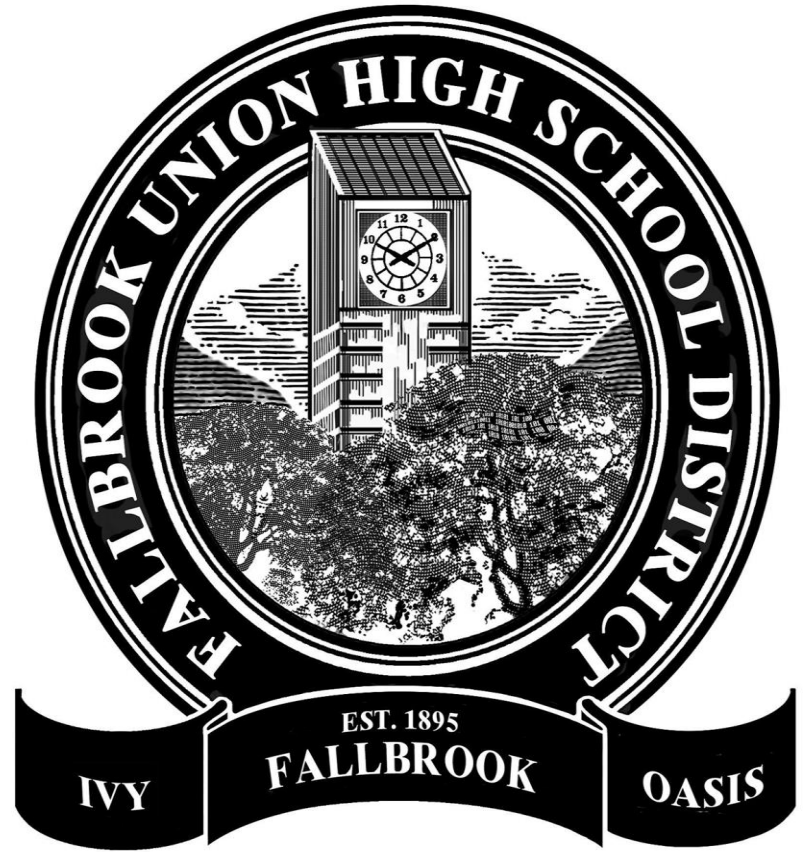


Block Schedule 2021-2022



Block Schedule

- J. Lloyd Trump 1959 Flexible Modular Scheduling Design
- John Goodland argued in the 1980s that traditional school structure does not give teachers adequate time to work with students in a variety of ways.
- The premise is fewer classes for a longer period of time would result in student achievement

Variety of Schedules

- Original Block: 4x4 Block Schedule - 90 minute periods 4 per semester
- A/B Block Schedule
- Multiple Period Flex Block Schedule
- Rotating Block Schedule to complete 8 classes per year
- Rotating Drop Schedule

Pros



- Teachers are better able to engage students in deeper learning (Algozine, et.al.).
- Students take more courses, have fewer disciplinary problems and have higher AP enrollment (Hackman and Water).
- There is an increase in individualized and differentiated instruction (Skrobarcek).
- 4x4 uses less time for review and closures (Canady and Rettig).
- Teachers save time because they keep records and plan for half the amount of students at a time (Gunter, et.al).
- More opportunities exist for students to make up failed Fall classes in the Spring (Isenhour and Queen).

Cons



- Studies have found lower content retention from one level of a subject to another. Also, more work outside of class is expected of students (Queen).
- Sequencing courses appropriately is a challenge (Isenhour and Queen).
- Challenge of changing teaching methods and varying instructional activities and techniques.
- Some studies report teachers use the block to engage in varied instructional practices, while other studies state that the block has no effect on teaching practices (Zepeda and Mayers, 2006).
- Loss of continuity
- Greater loss when absent

A 4x4 Block Schedule

4x4 Block

- 4 classes for 90 minutes to complete
- Depending on the kind of schedule a school is using, adoption of the 4x4 does not necessarily require increases in staffing or class size or larger facilities (Edwards 1993). Schools currently using a seven-period day can easily convert; those using a six-period schedule have adequate facilities but need approximately a 10 percent increase in staff to avoid increasing class size

Before



After



- Teachers in schools using 180-day courses with either a traditional or block schedule teach five or six classes of approximately 30 students at a time for a total of 150.
- In a 4x4 school, they teach six classes, but have only three each semester at approximately 30 for a total of 90 students at a time. In addition to fewer class preparations and fewer students per semester, 4x4 teachers can devote 25 percent of their day to planning instruction
- Students can take up to 32 courses over 4 years instead of 24

A/B Block

- Alternating block schedule
- 8 classes for 90 minutes for a full year
- Fewer class periods a day reduce interruptions and the amount of time spent on routine management tasks like attendance, prep time and closing time.
- Less time in passing periods resulting in more time under direct teacher supervision and a decrease in disciplinary issues

A/B Block Schedule

A Day



B Day



Multiple Period Flex Block

- Some schools split their flex block into multiple periods. This could be two, three, or even more multiple periods. Often, one of these periods are used for lunch, and the others are used as flex blocks, either for enrichment or intervention activities.
- Flex periods are a set time in the daily schedule (usually around 20 to 45 minutes)

A Multiple Period Flex Block

While most commonly students in flex periods go to different teachers for additional academic support, it is also common for students to participate in enrichment sessions, attend a review lesson on a sticky topic, meet with an advisor, make up class assignments for days missed, participate in club meetings, take part in special events they earned, and partake in other extracurricular activities, like sports.



Rotating Drop Schedule

- More classes offered
- Fewer classes during the day
- Subjects will be on rotation with one or two periods being dropped daily and reallocated to the next day
- More continuity of classes than an A/B block or a 4x4
- Built in flex periods for intervention, preparation, collaboration, support

A Rotating Drop Schedule

Total Classes

Period 1
Period 2
Period 3
Flex Period
Lunch
Period 4
Period 5
Period 6
Period 7
Period 8

Day 1

Period 1
Period 2
Period 3
Flex Period
Lunch
Period 4
Period 5
Period 6
Period 7 and 8 Dropped

Day 2

Period 7
Period 8
Period 1
Flex Period
Lunch
Period 2
Period 3
Period 4
Period 5 and 6 Dropped

Rotating Block

- Similar to a normal drop schedule, but one or two classes are prioritized daily for more instructional time.

A Rotating Block Schedule

Time	Minutes	A Day	B Day	C Day	D Day	E Day	F Day
7:20-8:40	80	1	2	1	2	1	2
8:44-9:24	40	Advisory	FLT	FLT	Advisory	FLT	FLT
9:28-10:28	60	3	4	3	3	4	3
10:32-11:32	60	4	5	5	4	5	5
11:36-12:02	26	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:06-1:06	60	6	7	7	6	7	6
1:10-2:10	60	7	8	8	7	8	8

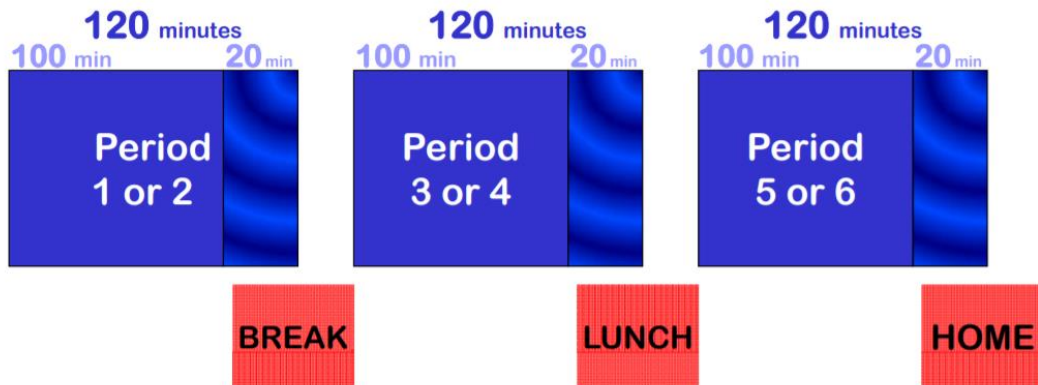
Whittier Union High School District



Whittier Union High School District

...to achieve and maintain excellence

Alternative Block Schedule: Not Allowing Students to Choose Failure



- Four days a week
- Fifth day being a six period day
- Embedded 20 minute support period utilized for students who had not mastered the standards
- Everyone stays in full time for the first 5 weeks and then students who mastered standards begin being released early

Embedded Support to Ensure Mastery

Presentation High School



- 80 minutes a day
- Gold Days (1-4)
- Blue Days (5-7)
- Blue Days include a flexible collaboration period during which students can seek out teachers for academic help.
- Collaboration periods can also be moved throughout the day to accommodate liturgies or special events.
- The schedule also features a 35 minute mid-day flex period to facilitate important programming (student government, college counseling, scheduling, mentoring, homeroom, etc.), provide one-on-one meeting time with mentors and college counselors, and provide students time for rest, snacks, and break.

Presentation High School

Gold Days: Periods 1, 2, 3 and 4

Class	Time
1st Period	7:45-9:05 a.m.
Break	9:05-9:15 a.m.
2nd Period	9:15-10:35 a.m.
Homeroom/Mentoring/Flex-Time	10:40-11:15 a.m.
3rd Period	11:20 a.m.-12:40 p.m.
Lunch	12:40-1:20 p.m.
4th Period	1:25-2:45 p.m.

Presentation High School

Blue Days: Periods 5, 6, 7 and Collaboration

"Blue"	"Blue 56C7"	"Blue 567C"	"Blue 56C7-2pm Dismissal"
5th Period 7:45-9:05 a.m.	5th Period 7:45-9:05 a.m.	5th Period 7:45-9:05 a.m.	5th Period 7:45-9:05 a.m.
Break 9:05-9:15 a.m.	Break 9:05-9:15 a.m.	Break 9:05-9:15 a.m.	Break 9:05-9:15 a.m.
6th Period 9:15-10:35 a.m.	6th Period 9:15-10:35 a.m.	6th Period 9:15-10:35 a.m.	6th Period 9:15-10:35 a.m.
HR/Mentoring/ Flex-Time 10:40-11:15 a.m.	HR/Mentoring/ Flex-Time 10:40-11:15 a.m.	HR/Mentoring/ Flex-Time 10:40-11:15 a.m.	HR/Mentoring/ Flex-Time 10:40-11:10 a.m.
7th Period 11:20 a.m.-12:40 p.m.	School Activity/ Assembly 11:20 a.m.-12:40 p.m.	7th Period 11:20 a.m.-12:40 p.m.	School Activity/ Assembly 11:15 a.m.-11:55 p.m.
Lunch 12:40-1:20 p.m.	Lunch 12:40-1:20 p.m.	Lunch 12:40-1:20 p.m.	Lunch 12:00-12:35 p.m.
Open Collaboration 1:25-2:45 p.m.	7th Period 1:25-2:45 p.m.	Mandatory Collaboration 1:25-2:45 p.m.	7th Period 12:40-2:00 p.m.

- 80 minutes a day
- Gold Days (1-4)
- Blue Days (5-7)
- Blue Days include a flexible collaboration period during which students can seek out teachers for academic help.
- Collaboration periods can also be moved throughout the day to accommodate liturgies or special events.
- The schedule also features a 35 minute mid-day flex period to facilitate important programming (student government, college counseling, scheduling, mentoring, homeroom, etc.), provide one-on-one meeting time with mentors and college counselors, and provide students time for rest, snacks, and break.