

Freehold Regional High School District
Rotating Block Schedule
Parent/Student Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What are the educational benefits of a rotating block schedule?

There are numerous educational benefits to a rotating block schedule:

- Longer periods allow for greater depth of instruction. This increases the opportunity for teachers to utilize differentiated and varied teaching strategies (e.g. cooperative learning, inquiry-based lessons, simulations), as well as student-centered learning experiences and instructional approaches.
- Classes meet at different times during the day, which assists with students' perception and focus. Students will not have a particular class the same time every day; this is helpful for students who miss class time at the end of the day for athletic events and/or students who struggle to focus first thing in the morning.
- Students focus on five classes per day rather than seven. Students have fewer classes to prepare for on a given day (e.g. assessments, homework, projects), which can allow them to give each class greater attention.
- Teachers benefit from more useable instructional time each day because less time is lost with beginning and ending classes.
- Fewer passing times (the time students are in the hallway getting to and from class).
- Additional teacher preparation time is afforded in order to plan student-centered lessons.
- The Unit Lunch provides an opportunity during the school day for extra help and for co/extracurricular activities to meet.

2. How is the FRHSD rotating block schedule structured?

Each day there will be five "blocks" that are 67 minutes in length, as well as a 35-minute Unit Lunch period. The new schedule consists of a seven-day cycle (A, B, C, D, E, F, and G days), with students seeing only five of their seven classes each day. This means that two classes will be "dropped" each day. A feature of the schedule is the rotation of classes, meaning a class meets at different times during the seven-day cycle (see visuals below). The FRHSD rotating block schedule includes four classes that rotate through three blocks prior to lunch and three classes that rotate through two blocks after lunch. On "G Day," a class from the afternoon rotation will occur before lunch.

Sample Student Schedule – Early School

	Start	End	A Day	B Day	C Day	D Day	E Day	F Day	G Day
Block 1 67 Minutes	7:30 AM	8:37 AM	Algebra II Day 1 ¹	Spanish II Day 1 ⁴	Applied Art Day 2 ³	Accounting Day 3 ²	Algebra II Day 4 ¹	Spanish II Day 4 ⁴	Applied Art Day 5 ³
Block 2 67 Minutes	8:42 AM	9:49 AM	Accounting Day 1 ²	Algebra II Day 2 ¹	Spanish II Day 2 ⁴	Applied Art Day 3 ³	Accounting Day 4 ²	Algebra II Day 5 ¹	Spanish II Day 5 ⁴
Block 3 67 Minutes	9:54 AM	11:01 AM	Applied Art Day 1 ³	Accounting Day 2 ²	Algebra II Day 3 ¹	Spanish II Day 3 ⁴	Applied Art Day 4 ³	Accounting Day 5 ²	Phys. Ed Day 5 ⁷
LUNCH 35 minutes	11:06 AM	11:41 AM	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Block 4 67 Minutes	11:47 AM	12:54 PM	English Day 1 ⁵	Phys. Ed Day 1 ⁷	Academic Chemistry Day 2 ⁶	English Day 3 ⁵	Phys. Ed Day 3 ⁷	Academic Chemistry Day 4 ⁶	English Day 5 ⁵
Block 5 67 Minutes	12:59 PM	2:06 PM	Academic Chemistry Day 1 ⁶	English Day 2 ⁵	Phys. Ed Day 2 ⁷	Academic Chemistry Day 3 ⁶	English Day 4 ⁵	Phys. Ed Day 4 ⁷	Academic Chemistry Day 5 ⁶
Dropped Class			4	3	2	1	4	3	1
			7	6	5	7	6	5	2

Sample Student Schedule – Late School

	Start	End	A Day	B Day	C Day	D Day	E Day	F Day	G Day
Block 1 67 Minutes	8:24 AM	9:31 AM	Algebra II Day 1 ¹	Spanish II Day 1 ⁴	Applied Art Day 2 ³	Accounting Day 3 ²	Algebra II Day 4 ¹	Spanish II Day 4 ⁴	Applied Art Day 5 ³
Block 2 67 Minutes	9:36 AM	10:43 AM	Accounting Day 1 ²	Algebra II Day 2 ¹	Spanish II Day 2 ⁴	Applied Art Day 3 ³	Accounting Day 4 ²	Algebra II Day 5 ¹	Spanish II Day 5 ⁴
Block 3 67 Minutes	10:48 AM	11:55 AM	Applied Art Day 1 ³	Accounting Day 2 ²	Algebra II Day 3 ¹	Spanish II Day 3 ⁴	Applied Art Day 4 ³	Accounting Day 5 ²	Phys. Ed Day 5 ⁷
LUNCH 35 minutes	12:00 PM	12:35 PM	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Block 4 67 Minutes	12:41 PM	1:48 PM	English Day 1 ⁵	Phys. Ed Day 1 ⁷	Academic Chemistry Day 2 ⁶	English Day 3 ⁵	Phys. Ed Day 3 ⁷	Academic Chemistry Day 4 ⁶	English Day 5 ⁵
Block 5 67 Minutes	1:53 PM	3:00 PM	Academic Chemistry Day 1 ⁶	English Day 2 ⁵	Phys. Ed Day 2 ⁷	Academic Chemistry Day 3 ⁶	English Day 4 ⁵	Phys. Ed Day 4 ⁷	Academic Chemistry Day 5 ⁶
Dropped Class			4	3	2	1	4	3	1
			7	6	5	7	6	5	2

3. What will bell schedules look like on partial days or delayed openings?

Partial Day Schedules – Half Day (No Lunch)

Half Day (early school)			
Period	Minutes	Start	End
1	50	7:30 AM	8:20 AM
2	50	8:25 AM	9:15 AM
3	50	9:20 AM	10:10 AM
4	50	10:15 AM	11:05 AM
5	50	11:10 AM	12:00 PM

Half Day (late school)			
Period	Minutes	Start	End
1	50	8:24 AM	9:14 AM
2	50	9:19 AM	10:09 AM
3	50	10:14 AM	11:04 AM
4	50	11:09 AM	11:59 AM
5	50	12:04 PM	12:54 PM

Partial Day Schedules – 90 min delay

90 Min Delay (early school)			
Period	Minutes	Start	End
1	50	9:00 AM	9:50 AM
2	50	9:55 AM	10:45 AM
3	50	10:50 AM	11:40 AM
Lunch	41*	11:45 AM	12:15 PM
4	50	12:21 PM	1:11 PM
5	50	1:16 PM	2:06 PM

90 Min. Delay (late school)			
Period	Minutes	Start	End
1	50	9:54 AM	10:44 AM
2	50	10:49 AM	11:39 AM
3	50	11:44 AM	12:34 PM
Lunch	41*	12:39 PM	1:09 PM
4	50	1:15 PM	2:05 PM
5	50	2:10 PM	3:00 PM

4. How many days are there in each marking period, semester and quarter?

The number of days in each marking period (approximately 45-47), semester (approximately 91-92), and quarter (approximately 45-47) does not change. The number of class meetings will range between 32 – 33 per marking period.

5. How will I know what day it is in the rotation?

The school year calendar will be pre-determined. For example, if there is inclement weather on a “B Day” and school is closed, when we return to school the next day, it will be a “C Day.” The calendar will be pre-determined and posted for the full year. The “day” will be posted in many

places throughout the school - for example on the TV screens, on *Genesis*, and on our district and school webpages.

6. How will students get missing work if they are absent, but don't have class the next day? What will the process for make-up work be when a student is absent?

Similar to our current process, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that when they are absent, they make-up any missed work in accordance with each of his/her teacher's requirements. Previously announced projects and/or assessments must be submitted or taken on the day of the student's return to school or on an agreed upon date as per the teacher's requirements. Communication is key. If extenuating circumstances exist, the teacher may grant additional make-up time. If a specific online platform (i.e. Google classroom) is being utilized by the teacher, it is the student's responsibility to check the platform for course information or contact the teacher or a school counselor if a computer is unavailable.

7. How will credit withdrawal be impacted for students who are excessively absent?

Withdrawal of course credit will be adjusted to reflect the difference in the number of class meetings per year (fewer total class meetings in the rotating block schedule). Course credit may be withdrawn if a student's total number of absences (excused and unexcused/unexplained) is excessive. Excessive will be defined as exceeding four (4) days for a quarter course, seven (7) days for a semester course, twelve (12) days for a three-quarter course, and fourteen (14) days for a full-year course. Once credit has been withdrawn and the student has been notified, the student and/or the parent may appeal for credit reinstatement.

8. How will the new schedule affect science courses that include lab periods?

Students will continue to have a lab period for those science courses that currently include a lab period. The lab period will occur one time during the seven-day rotation instead of one time per week. The "day" of the lab period will be noted on the student schedule, i.e. "A day" and will occur during physical education.

9. How will the new schedule affect the variety of courses that are offered to students?

Students will continue to have access to the same variety of courses. Student interest and enrollment may impact course availability as it does currently.

10. How will the new schedule affect the creation and delivery of classroom assessments?

The rotating block schedule will provide teachers and students a sustained period to immerse themselves in classroom activities. Assessments will vary from subject to subject and from teacher to teacher based on the needs of the particular course, subject, and student. The rotating block schedule will provide teachers additional time to create assessments that allow students to demonstrate mastery of the content through authentic experiences.

11. How will the new schedule impact students who participate in a vocational program?

Course programming will be determined collaboratively with each student, parent, and counselor.

12. Will the Work-Based Learning class (“co-op”) still be offered? What about “Senior Leave”?

Students will continue to be scheduled for co-op periods in the afternoon. There will be a set calendar published prior to the start of the school year so employers will know the students’ daily schedules. Senior Leave will continue to be offered, however, students will only be able to leave on the days when their schedule permits.

13. How will Special Education programs be impacted?

Special Education services will continue to be provided according to Individual Education Plans. Students will continue to follow their program according to the 7 day rotation. Additional adaptations will be made as needed to specific programs to ensure that student needs are met.

14. How will information about the new schedule be communicated to the students?

During the 2017-2018 school year, students and parents will have several opportunities to learn about the new schedule. On November 16, 2017, school presentations will take place before Parent Conferences and information will also be available through our website. Students had an opportunity to experience a 67 minute class on October 25, 2017 and October 27, 2017. Incoming 9th graders and their parents will be provided with a presentation at the 8th grade orientation in January of 2018. Additionally, class meetings will be held with each grade level during the Spring of 2018 to discuss the new schedule as it pertains to each class.

15. How will students be supported during the transition?

Student representatives have provided feedback throughout the planning process and are excited about the opportunities available through the rotating block schedule. Support during the transition will be provided for all students in order to ensure they are successfully adapting to the schedule change. Other schools that have made a similar transition report that students welcomed the change and quickly adapted to the change. This type of schedule will allow for the development of time management skills and provide opportunities for students to interact with their teachers and content at different times of the day.

16. How will the Unit Lunch be structured? Where will the students eat, and will all students have enough time to get their lunch?

Lunch time will be increased to 35 minutes (from 28 minutes) and all students will eat lunch at the same time. Lunch will be served in various locations throughout the building during the Unit Lunch. There will be a variety of locations designated by each school where students will be able to sit and eat their lunch. Students will be made aware of all possible eating locations throughout their buildings. Each school has individualized plans for the Unit Lunch in order to accommodate all students and staff, as well as account for the unique layout of the building. Administrators and staff will be assigned supervision duties in designated areas where students eat.

17. Will clubs and activities be able to meet during the Unit Lunch?

Clubs and extra-curricular activities may be available during the Unit Lunch, however, these meetings will not necessarily replace those held before or after school.

Note: This FAQ is a “living document” and is subject to change – it will be supplemented as additional questions arise.