



Block Scheduling

CEHS 2022-2023



Historical Context

2020-2021

- Students were engaged in varying schedules during the school year. One of these was mini-terms, where students took four classes at one time in a given day.
- There was growing sentiment among some staff that a schedule with more consistency and fewer classes per day would be preferable as they saw a reduction in student stress.
- There was some data collected in the spring of 2021 and a push by some staff to collect more data over the summer. This was put on pause for a more process-oriented approach.



2021-2022 School Year

- Throughout the summer administration met with a significant number of staff as part of the principal's entry plan. The schedule concern was brought up a number of times.
- This was discussed during the opening workshop days and staff were informed there would be no change in schedule for the 2021-2022 school year.
- It was determined that the process to discuss any possible schedule changes would be done through a volunteer committee approach.
- This committee was formed and began meeting at the beginning of November.



Schedule Committee Goals

- We want a schedule that is simple and consistent.
- We want a schedule that creates a less chaotic/hectic feeling during the school day.
- We want a schedule that reduces stress on students and teachers long term.
- We want a schedule that allows for additional opportunities outside of school such as internships, experiential learning, job shadowing, etc as well as work and appointments



Schedule Committee Process

Members: Andrew Lupien(chair), David Peary, Drew McNeely, Kevin St. Jarre, Elizabeth Thomas, Nick Rue, Amy deVries, John Springer, Janna DeWan, Rob Wheeler, Sarah McKeown

Session 1: Organizational meeting to set goals, create a draft staff survey and student panel questions. The team also created a list of high schools to research and report on their daily schedules.

Session 2: Our second meeting we welcomed students to share their thoughts on the current CEHS schedule, and gave them the opportunity to share their thoughts on what they would like to see in the future.

Session 3: Our third meeting we looked at the first half of the staff survey, which focused around the strengths and weaknesses of our current schedule.



Schedule Committee Process cont'd

Session 4: Unfortunately this meeting was postponed due to COVID and other scheduling issues. Luckily the committee agreed to a double meeting on January 16th.

Session 5: In the first half of our double meeting we looked at the second half of the staff survey, which focused on creating an “ideal” schedule for CEHS. The second half of the meeting was spent looking at and evaluating schedules from other schools in the area.

Session 6: Our sixth meeting focused around evaluating several possible schedule options.

Committee Survey: The 11 members of the committee were sent a survey a few days after our sixth meeting. Committee members were asked to select the revised schedule options that they felt was the best fit for our stakeholders.

The results: 8 of the 11 committee members selected the block schedule option. (73%).



Committee Report to Staff / Staff Survey

Andrew Lupien, the committee chair, presented the findings at a staff meeting. There were no questions from staff at that time.

Staff were given a survey following the meeting with the following results:

1. 76.4% of staff were satisfied to extremely satisfied with moving to a block schedule.
2. 86.3% of staff were in favor of moving to a block schedule beginning in the fall of 2022 rather than the fall of 2023.



Block Schedule Pros vs. Cons

Pros

- Reduced number of classes and homework per day
- Reduction in student stress
- Students participate in a greater variety of activities in class, with more depth and time to spend thinking critically
- Time to build community in classrooms and work on SEL supports
- Better lab support
- Increased Student Breaks
- More consistent set schedule to allow students to access opportunities outside of CEHS



Block Schedule Pros vs. Cons

Cons

- Less frequent contact points
- Redesign of curriculum will be needed
- New pedagogical strategies will be key to re-establishing new norms of what student experiences in class looks like.
- Change is a process



Connection to School Board Strategic Plan

- Health and Well-Being: Our schools will provide a supportive learning environment in which physical, social, and emotional well-being are valued and promoted.
- Multiple Pathways and Definitions of Success: Our schools will value, promote, and celebrate multiple pathways and definitions of success.



Area Schools Currently on a Block Schedule

- Yarmouth
- Greely
- Falmouth
- Gorham
- Kennebunk
- South Portland
- Scarborough
- York
- Brunswick



So Now What?

1. Staff gathered information in departments about their professional development needs.
2. Administration has met with each department to examine those needs.
3. The staff is engaged in an instructional inventory process and will be meeting collectively and in departments with a representative from the Great Schools Partnership.
4. School Board presentation
5. Students will be talking in advisory about concerns they may have and will select a representative to meet with administration and some committee members to engage in a plan to best support them through the change.
6. Development of an ongoing professional development plan with the Assistant Superintendent for the coming years.
7. Evaluation and Adjustment throughout the 2022-2023 school year and beyond.



Potential Block Schedule:

Period 1: 7:55 - 9:10	Period 5: 7:55 - 9:10
Morning break 9:10 - 9:25	Morning break 9:10 - 9:25
Period 2: 9:25 - 10:40	Period 6: 9:25 - 10:40
Period 3: Class / Lunch - 10:45 - 12:00 Lunch / Class - 11:15 - 12:30 Lunch 1 - 10:45 - 11:15 Lunch 2 - 11:25 - 11:55 Lunch 3: 12:00 - 12:30	Period 7: Class / Lunch - 10:45 - 12:00 Lunch / Class - 11:15 - 12:30 Lunch 1 - 10:45 - 11:15 Lunch 2 - 11:25 - 11:55 Lunch 3: 12:00 - 12:30
AP/adv: 12:35 - 1:00	AP/adv: 12:35 - 1:00
Period 4: 1:05 - 2:20	Period 8: 1:05 - 2:20

Block Scheduled Rotation



Week 1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Period 1	Period 5	Period 1	Period 5	Period 1
Period 2	Period 6	Period 2	Period 6	Period 2
Period 3	Period 7	Period 3	Period 7	Period 3
Period 4	Period 8	Period 4	Period 8	Period 4

Week 2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Period 5	Period 1	Period 5	Period 1	Period 5
Period 6	Period 2	Period 6	Period 2	Period 6
Period 7	Period 3	Period 7	Period 3	Period 7
Period 8	Period 4	Period 8	Period 4	Period 8