

Seymour High School Schedule FAQs

- ***Why we are changing the schedule?***

- We currently have 87 minute classes and based on our experience the administration and staff believe classes are too long.
- Snow days, assemblies, class meetings and other interruption sometimes cause a class or two to not occur on a particular day. When this happens in the 4x4 block sometimes classes do not meet for 3 to 6 school days (not including weekends). This is not good for students. This will never happen in an 8 drop 2 as classes meet every 3 out of 4 days.
- Every person operates differently throughout the school day. The rotation allows students and staff to see each other at different times of the day. This will help to develop more healthy relationships and allow students to have different levels of engagement based on their biological clocks and how they feel throughout the day. As it currently stands if a student does not do well in their first period class because they are still “waking up” then they are stuck in the class at the same time every day and this does impact performance, retention and participation.
- Currently in the 4x4 block many students try to “load up” on classes only to drop them when the school year starts to get a study hall first or last period to take advantage of senior privilege and some parents then drop off or pick up their child late or early every other day. By “loading up” on classes then dropping them this causes a huge disparity in the number of students in the same classes depending on when the class occurs during the day. We often see classes during first and last period end up with a much smaller number than the same class that occurs in the middle of the day. This is not equitable nor is it good for students. The rotation will help to eliminate this mentality and make class sizes smaller for all students.

- ***How does the 8 drop 2 schedule work?***

- Nothing has changed as far as the process of signing up for courses or for the total amount of courses students can take. Students will sign up for up to 8 credits worth of courses. Students that have not signed up for 8 credits will have a study hall to fill in the 8 possible class periods. Currently every student must take a minimum of 6 credits every year.
- Although students will have 8 periods to fill only 6 will run each day with 2 periods “dropping out” for that day.
- There will be a 4 day rotation cycle in order to make sure that each class meets 3 out of 4 days.
 - For example on day A, classes 5 and 8 would “drop” or not occur on that day. On day B class 3 and 4 would “drop”. On day C class 1 and 7 would “drop”. On day D class 2 and 6 would “drop”. On day 5 of school we would return to day A and repeat the 4 day cycle. We are continuing to work with the schedule to solidify which classes will “drop” on which days therefore the above scenario is subject to change.
- Each day classes that are not dropped will rotate.
 - For example and utilizing the above rotation of dropped classes, on Day A classes 1,2,3,4,6 and 7 would occur in that order. On day B classes 6, 7,8,5,1 and 2 would occur in that order. On day C classes 3, 2,4,6,8 and 5 would occur in that order. Lastly on day D classes 4,3,1,5, 7 and 8 would occur in that order. We are continuing to work with the schedule to solidify how classes will rotate therefore the above scenario is subject to change.

- Example of a student schedule

A	B	C	D
English	Science	Study	Math
Business	Science Lab	Business	Study
Study	World Language	Math	English
Math	Social Studies	Science	Social Studies
Science	English	World Language	PE
PE	Business	Social Studies	World Language
Drop 5 & 8	Drop 3 & 4	Drop 1 & 7	Drop 2 & 6

- **How long will each class be?**

- Our draft documents list classes as being 56 minutes long.

- **How will the 8 drop 2 demonstrate balance with extracurricular activities and homework?**

- Department chairs will meet with administration to develop a plan for distribution of homework. We will work on teachers pre-posting assignments for a 4 day rotation to allow students more flexibility in planning with the understanding that snow days, unannounced drills, early dismissals or late arrivals may alter the due dates of materials (push them longer). This will afford students the opportunity to plan to complete work based on their after school schedules.
- Increased frequency of meetings (3/4 days as opposed to every other day) will allow for more feedback which will increase understanding and decrease independent research time needed to complete homework.
- When possible, students in 9th and 12th grade will be in assigned study halls based on their weakness (Math or English Language Arts). This will allow teachers versed in these subject areas to address homework issues prior to bringing them home and decreasing time on homework.

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- **What have you done to alleviate stress and anxiety for students who are concerned about the changes?**

- Administration has met with student council on two separate occasions to address questions. In addition students can speak with administration at their leisure. Administration will attend student council meetings on a monthly basis to continue to address concerns.

- **How will you mimic AP class tests in a 56 minute class when tests are longer than that?**
 - As it currently stands each exam has different time frames with all taking 2-3 hours long. We do not have any classes that run 2 hours long, which is the minimum time an AP exam is. Some exams are split into multiple sections. For example AP Chemistry has a 90 minute and a 105 minute section. We do not have any classes currently that meet for 90 or 105 minutes. AP English Language has an exam that is split into two portions, one is 60 minutes and the other is 2 hours 15 minutes. APUSH has an exam split into 4 sections, 55, 40, 60 and 40. Just as teachers are doing now they will adapt to the current time frames to appropriately mimic exams within the bounds of the 8 drop 2 schedule.

- **How we will measure if it is successful?**
 - Success will be measured both quantitatively and qualitatively
 - Qualitative
 - Quarterly meetings with student council
 - Monthly department chair meetings
 - Monthly staff meetings
 - Quantitative
 - PSAT data
 - MAP data
 - Grade distribution reports
 - Grades
 - Exams
 - AP exams
 - If it is not successful administration will meet with staff and students to first look at classroom practices and modify practices to meet students' needs.

- **It seems like this schedule would reduce the amount of class time that AP classes meet so why would we change our schedule?**
 - The 8 drop 2 offers about the same amount of time as the 4x4 block. Depending on a variety of factors including the rotation, half days, delayed openings, assemblies, fire drills etc. the new schedule will be +/- 75 minutes as compared to the 4x4 block.

- **Does the 8 drop 2 schedule alter the amount of time a class meets when you look at the total time at the end of the year?**
 - Just like the AP question above the answer is not precise as there are many factors that contribute to total class time. Based on the administration's calculations each class will be within +/- 75 minutes of the current schedule.

- **My child will be a senior next year and they are not happy that they are losing senior privilege. Will they still have senior privilege?**
 - As it currently stands, yes they will. The current 4x4 block schedule only seniors who have study hall first or last period qualify for senior privilege. In our current draft schedule, and because of the class rotation, all seniors who academically and behaviorally qualify for senior privilege will have at least one opportunity to take advantage of it. This is subject to change.

4x4 block	8 drop 2
87 minutes – attention span - developmentally	55-58 minutes
Meets 2 – 3 x a week	Meets 3 out of 4 school days – consistency and continuity
Snow days and assemblies possibly not meet for 4 school days (4-6 actual days)	The most will not meet is 2 school days (maximum 4 actual days)
No rotation = different kids at different times of the day	Rotating = different kids at different times of the day
Only seniors with 1, 4, 5, 8 study hall can use senior privilege	Disburses privilege to any senior with senior privilege (if full rotation)
Many students dropping or trying to change 1,4,5,8 resulting in many uneven classes of with high or low numbers	8/8 periods will now occur either at the beginning of the day or end of the day anticipating less jockeying for first/last period study hall .
<p>182 days with students Full year classes meet every other day for total of 91 days (no compensation for exams) – 8 days for exams or 83 days.</p> <p>In addition there are 13 half day. When looking at the half day 4x4 schedule classes are 60 to 65 minutes long. Therefore when comparing them to an 8 drop 2 scheduled half day schedule in which classes are 40-42 minutes there is an average gain of 23 minutes per class in 4x4 block on these days or $13 \text{ (days)} \times 23 \text{ (minutes)} = 299 \text{ minutes} / 2 \text{ or } 150 \text{ minutes}$ (only meets every other day on average) differential over the 13 half day period.</p> <p>83 (full days) – 13/2 (half days) or 6.5 days = 76.5 full days.</p> <p>76.5 (full days) x 87 (minutes) = 6655.5 (min) Plus 240 minutes of exams Plus 150 minute differential of half days Equals 7045.5 minutes of scheduled class time per class</p>	<p>182 days with students Full year classes meet every 3/4 days for total of 136.5 days (no compensation for exams) – 8 exam days or 128.5 days</p> <p>In addition there are 13 half days in which these classes would meet 9 days. Because the class meets 2.5 more days on half days than the 4x4 we need to add back in this time or plus 100 minutes.</p> <p>128.5 (full days) – 9 (half days) or 119.5 full days</p> <p>119.5 (full days) x 56.5 (minutes) = 6751.75 (min) Plus 240 minutes of exams Plus 100 minutes for additional 2.5 half days Equals 7091.75 minutes of scheduled class time per class</p>

<p>AP exams</p> <p>160 days prior to the first exam / 2 = 80 class days minus 4 midterm periods = 76 full classes</p> <p>12 days of planned early dismissal prior to exams / 2 = 6 days of total early dismissal resulting in a gain of 23 minutes each day on early dismissal days or an additional 138 minutes for half days.</p> <p>76 (full classes) x 87 (minutes) = 6612 minutes Plus 120 minutes of exams Plus 138 minutes differential for half days Equals 6870 minutes of class time prior to the exam</p>	<p>AP exams</p> <p>160 days prior to the first exam meeting 3/4 days or 120 full classes minus 4 midterm days = 116 full classes.</p> <p>12 days of planned early dismissal prior to exams in which the class will meet 9 days or 3 days more than the 4x4 block so we need to add back in this time of 120 minutes.</p> <p>116 (full classes) x 56.5 (minutes) = 6554 minutes Plus 120 minutes of exams Plus 120 additional half day school minutes Equals 6794</p>
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