

AGHS Schedule Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

1) Why are we changing the current schedule?

Longer class periods provide a number of increased learning opportunities for all students.

- They allow teachers and students to maximize instructional time, and allow teachers to tailor their instruction for each student.
- Longer class times mean students have a chance to go deeper in their learning instead of covering the base curriculum.
- The change gives students increased flexibility for scheduling, and fewer interruptions and downtime.
- Students will also have the opportunity to take part in intervention periods that address specific learning needs, and will have enrichment options to explore interests and goals while not interrupting or diminishing core instructional time.
- Students who are attending TCHS will have the opportunity to take more credits at AGHS, meaning that when they are at TCHS more time will be available to pursue their certification and shop hours.
- Because students will only see a maximum of 6 teachers on days 1-4, and 4 teachers on days 5 and 6, the study and homework load for students should decrease and allow for more targeted preparation on a daily basis.

2) How many classes will a student be able to schedule?

As in the current schedule, a student will be able to request up to 8 credits per semester, with a maximum of 6 classes per days 1 – 4, and a maximum of 4 on days 5 - 6. The new schedule will not limit or minimize options for students.

3) Will this schedule limit the number of elective courses that students may take?

No. If anything, due to the efficiencies of TCHS student schedules and how labs will be incorporated into the schedule, it should actually create more opportunities for electives and earned credits.

4) What is the I/E Period?

- a) I/E stands for Intervention/Enrichment and will be a scheduled period for each student that provides learning opportunities that are not otherwise possible in the current schedule.
 - i) Intervention can be scheduled by a teacher or requested by a student through PowerSchool. Opportunities for support will be available for all students and will rotate during the year, depending on the timing of state (Keystone) or national (AP) assessments. If a student's specific teacher is not offering an opportunity for intervention on a specific day, other teachers in the same content area may be offering intervention at that time.
 - ii) Enrichment offerings will provide students with the opportunity to explore educational or career interests in an ungraded format from a menu of options available to all students throughout the building. (e.g. – Freshman Transition, College Applications and Financial Aid, Mock Interviews and the Job Search, Teacher Office Hours, Building a Home Computer, etc.)

5) Will students still be able to choose a study hall as one of their 8 periods or just during I/E period?

- a) Students will request a studyhall in the same manner they currently request electives as part of the course request process. The I/E time is not intended to be used as a studyhall.

6) Is there a plan in place for schedule changes (half days, holidays, etc) that will streamline

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disruptions?

- a) Yes. Schedules will be developed for these unique days/circumstances.

7) What support will be available to teachers to make this transition in time for the 2016-2017 school year?

Professional development and support for teachers in planning and incorporating strategies to best utilize the extended learning time will continue throughout the remainder of the current year, as well as during the 2016-2017 school year.

8) What is the reasoning for the differences in period lengths? (i.e. some are 52, 54, 55 and 90 vs 95 minutes)

- a) The differing lengths account for interruptions to these period due to announcements or other logistical needs and transitions.

9) What does a TCHS student schedule look like?

- a) A TCHS student will be present for half of the day as is currently the case. All TCHS students will be at AGHS for the morning classes and then go to TCHS after the I/E period for lunch and their remaining schedule.
- b) In almost every case, students who are attending TCHS will have the opportunity to take more credits at AGHS than is currently possible. This will allow for time at TCHS to be focused on a student's selected area of focus rather than using shop time for courses that could be taken at AGHS.

10) How will the new schedule affect students in Allied Health, Dual Enrollment, Teacher Academy, or TCHS?

- a) Students who attend any of the programs offered off-campus should not have any difficulty in continuing in these programs. In some instances, due to credit requirements, students may need to consider earning credits in a different sequence or timeframe than the traditional process currently in place. To address these needs, the guidance counselors from each grade have been working with administrators and students to identify alternatives that will support the learning goals of each student.

11) How will the new schedule affect students when a class may only be offered one time per day? What if the class only meets when a student is at TCHS or Dual Enrollment?

- a) Each year, the time(s) a course is offered is determined by the number of student requests and the availability of teachers to teach that particular course. Class meeting times are analyzed and selected so as to allow the maximum number of students to receive the classes they requested during the course selection process. This schedule will not eliminate every potential conflict in student scheduling, just as the current schedule is unable to do this as well.

12) Why will there only be 3 lunch periods in the new schedule?

- a) Because TCHS students will be eating lunch at TCHS rather than AGHS and the purchase of new cafeteria equipment and furniture will create efficiencies in the schedule that were not previously possible, only 3 lunches will be needed. Additionally, in scheduling only 3 lunches, fewer class overlaps should occur, making more possibilities available for students throughout the school day. We believe we should be able to accommodate all students in this new schedule without it being overcrowded in the cafeteria.

13) When will students make up their classes if they miss a 90 minute class with extensive work?

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Students will be responsible to make up missed work when missing a block day just as they currently do. They could schedule a direct meeting with a teacher, see the teacher during an I/E period, or get notes and content through the online Learning Management System (LMS) that will be live for all students and teachers in the Avon Grove School District next fall.

14) Many AGHS students participate in sports or other activities that require early dismissal. How will this be accommodated in the new schedule, especially on day 5 or 6?

Since classes don't meet every day, in some instances students will have more time than currently available to meet with teachers and catch up on their work. This also means that students will not always miss the same class at the end of the day as they do in the current schedule. Finally, with the I/E period possibilities, students may be able to get additional support during this time.

15) How will the AP science classes be built to meet the requirements of The College Board?

Through a combination of periods within a cycle, students in the AP science classes (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), will achieve the seat time requirements identified by The College Board. As in the current schedule, this may require double periods that will reduce the total number of courses available to be taken while meeting the unique scheduling needs of each student.

For more information about the schedule change, visit contact the guidance office or main office.