

Rotate & Drop Schedule FAQ's

Why change the schedule? What are the benefits?

- This schedule puts all students and staff on the same schedule and actually shortens the day for students who are currently taking 8 classes beginning at 7:10 am.
- All students will have 8 classes (not including lunch), providing less potential scheduling conflicts. However, only 6 of those classes will meet each day. Currently there are many students who can not take all of their requested classes.
- Additional courses also provide an opportunity for students to explore different interests or take more advanced level classes without having to be in class at 7:10 a.m.
- The new schedule provides the flexibility to add multiple elective courses that will allow students to explore different areas of interest/possible careers.
 - The new schedule gives students the ability to manage their time better.
 - Students wishing to take 8 classes will start their day at 7:50am, not 7:10 am.
 - Students will have the opportunity to take a study hall to give them a jump start on homework.
 - Students will be able to focus on fewer classes per day.
 - Community Lunch will afford students the opportunity to seek extra help during the school day, instead of after school when many students have other obligations.
- The rotating schedule offers the students variety and breaks the monotony of a traditional schedule. Since the rotation is different everyday, classes are at different times of the day throughout the 4-Day cycle.
- Community Lunch allows all students to eat with their friends at a reasonable hour. No more period 4 lunch!
- The Community Lunch will provide additional opportunities for counselors to work with students both individually and in small groups on a variety of topics, including college planning. Students will not be pulled from academic classes to meet with their counselor unless it is an emergency.
- With only one designated lunch the building will be much more secure as there will be fewer times students will enter and exit the building. In addition, administrators will be assigned specific roles during the Community Lunch to increase security.

Is the length of day significantly altered in the new schedule?

- No, students will be arriving 10 minutes earlier and only leaving 5 minutes later.

How many classes meet per day and for how long?

- Six classes will meet per day and each is 55 minutes in length, allowing for deeper engagement within content area.
- Science labs, Algebra I, and AP courses will gain additional instructional time when the class falls adjacent to lunch in the rotation (once every four days).

When will science labs be scheduled?

- Science labs will be extended into the lunch period when the science class falls adjacent to the Community Lunch period.

Why is it necessary to drop one class in the morning and one class in the afternoon? Students won't have every academic class everyday. Won't that short-change students?

- Fewer classes per day allows students to increase focus on academics.
- Students will have fewer classes to prepare for on a given day, thereby reducing student stress.
- The longer class periods will allow teachers to get more in depth within their contents area and offer varied learning opportunities.

How was the decision made to move forward with the Rotate and Drop schedule? Was there a committee? How long?

- A committee of teachers, counselors and administrators was formed in **December 2015**.
- The committee made a list of pros and cons of our current schedule and began to research schedules at other schools.
- A variety of schedules were reviewed including Modified Block, A/B Block, Modified Traditional Schedule, Rotating Block with a 7 day cycle, and a Hybrid Rotate & Drop/Traditional Schedule.
- In **Spring 2016**, the committee met to discuss the pros and cons of each schedule.
- In the **Fall 2016**, the committee watched a video from Lenape High School about the Rotate & Drop schedule. The committee was excited by the prospects but wanted to gather some more information.
- In **Spring 2017** and **Fall 2017**, the committee continued to do research, including sending a survey to teachers regarding length of instructional time.
- In **Winter 2018**, momentum was building for a Rotate & Drop schedule. The committee spoke with other school districts in NJ (Madison, Dumont, North Brunswick, and Manasquan).
- Committee did a thorough review of the Pros and Cons of the Rotate & Drop Schedule.
- In **March 2018**, the committee visited Nutley to gain a thorough understanding of the details within the schedule. Nutley had just made the transition from Traditional to Rotate & Drop and teachers and students were both strongly in support of the change.
- In **May 2018**, the committee presented to the faculty at Point Borough HS.
- During the **summer of 2018**, there were presentations to the Central Office Administration, as well as the Board of Education on **August 20, 2018**.
- In **October 2018**, both students and teachers responded to surveys about adding elective classes.
- In **November 2018**, additional teachers visited Nutley in preparation for the transition.
- Mr. Karcich presented the Rotate & Drop schedule to the PTO in **November 2018**.
- In **December 2018**, Mr. Karcich & Mrs. Ferlauto participated in Department meetings to discuss the Rotate & Drop Schedule and address any questions from teachers.

When will the schedule be implemented?

- The schedule will be implemented at the start of the **2019-2020 school year**.

If the schedule changes everyday, how will students know what day it is?

- Students will receive a schedule similar to the one below. There's no need to remember the order of the rotation. The cycle day (A, B, C, or D) will be posted throughout the building, on the website, on the Genesis portal and on the Point Pleasant High School app.

What would a sample student schedule look like?

Sample Schedule

Time	Day A	Day B	Day C	Day D
7:50 - 8:47 57 minutes	Mixed Chorus	Physical Education I	Italian I	English I
8:51 - 9:46 55 minutes	English I	Mixed Chorus	Physical Education I	Italian I
9:50 - 10:45 55 minutes	Italian I	English I	Mixed Chorus	Physical Education I
10:45-11:05 11:05-11:25 11:25-11:45	 LUNCH Biology	 LUNCH Algebra I	 LUNCH 	 LUNCH
11:45 - 12:40 55 minutes	Biology	Algebra I	Band	World History
12:44 - 1:39 55 minutes	World History	Biology	Algebra I	Band
1:43 - 2:38 55 minutes	Band	World History	Biology	Algebra I

How will Community Lunch work?

- There will be a Community Lunch period from 10:45-11:45.
- All students will still be afforded open lunch privileges.
- Teachers will also offer extra help/office hours during the Community Lunch.
- Clubs may meet during open lunch, giving more students the opportunity to get involved.

How can the entire school be accommodated in one lunch period?

- Point Pleasant High School will still have open lunch for **ALL** students during the Community Lunch time.
- Since student arrival in the cafeteria will be staggered due to additional instructional time for Science labs, AP classes and Algebra I classes, not all students will be eating lunch at the same time.
- Arrangements are being made for additional tables and alternative locations to accommodate all students who wish to stay on campus for lunch.
- The cafeteria staff will be providing pre-made lunch options and satellite stations to accommodate all students who would like to stay on campus during lunch.

Who will supervise the students during Community Lunch?

- Some teachers will be assigned a duty to supervise during lunch.
- Administrators will also be walking around the building and will be a **VISIBLE** presence during the Community Lunch.

How will students know when teachers are available during Community Lunch?

- Teachers will post extra help/office hours in their rooms and on google classroom.
- If the student isn't sure when a teacher is available, the student can also ask the teacher or their school counselor.

Does the new schedule effect after school help and/or club meetings?

- Extra help and some club meetings will now be offered during the Community Lunch.

- This will allow more students to get help or get involved because these activities will not conflict with after school athletics, jobs, or other responsibilities.
- School counselors will be available to meet with students during this time as well.

What does this mean for vocational students?

- Vocational students will still be allowed to participate in OCVTS programs.
- OCVTS will give preference to our students for morning programs.
- If a program is only offered in the afternoon, students may still participate.
 - Students will have to leave their last morning class early to get on the bus, as they do currently.
 - However, because of the rotating schedule, *students won't be missing the same class everyday when they leave early*. Therefore, they will not be losing as much instructional time from the same class.

Additional Questions addressed during the Scheduling Information Forum on Tuesday, December 18th

Are other highly ranked schools using the Rotate & Drop Schedule?

- Of the New Jersey Monthly top 20 ranked schools, more than half operate on a rotate and drop schedule., including Glen Rock, Princeton, Hopewell Valley Central, and West Windsor-Plainsboro South. In addition, there are seven local high schools that have transitioned to this schedule including Manasquan and all 6 Freehold Regional High Schools.

How are we going to accommodate additional traffic flow during morning drop off?

- Mr. Smith, Superintendent of Schools, will be scheduling a meeting with the Point Pleasant Borough Police Department to discuss traffic flow. If needed, a traffic consultant will be hired to make recommendations. Any changes in the drop off procedure will be communicated to parents and students in advance of the new school year.

What time will the building be open for students?

- The building will be open at 7:30 am.