

Burlington High School Schedule Update



FALL 2016

In the fall of 2016 staff and students (in advisory, School Innovation Seminar Class and in Youth Leadership Groups) started discussing the BHS schedule, looking for better ways of meeting student needs. The students and staff identified priorities. Their top priorities are listed below.

Students:

- Accessibility and equity - alternatives
- 8 blocks
- Ensuring they do not lose instructional time
- Late start prioritized over early dismissal
- Variety of opportunities for all (including remediation, English language learning, dual enrollment, Advanced Placement Courses, Tech Center and more)
- Consistency

Teachers:

- Intervention of Reading, Writing Workshop, Math Intervention (being VERY intentional around direct instruction and reinforcement and support)
- Burlington Technical Center alignment
- Advisory

- Teacher Planning and Collab Time
- Dual Enrollment
- AP Courses
- Differentiation of length of instructional blocks

WINTER 2017

On Monday February 20, 2017 a group of community members including parents, student and teachers met to learn about the ongoing process. There were nearly two hundred people present. The participants were asked to list their top three priorities in scheduling.

Individuals were asked to list their own priorities. For those who responded, below are the recorded priorities:

RESPONSES FROM INDIVIDUALS ON 2/20/17	
Priority	Number of Responses
later start	27
8 classes or more	12
transportation	12
availability of classes	11
free blocks (in favor of)	10
advisory revamp	9
BTC alignment	9
consistency	8
access to teachers for call back	6
college prep courses (incl. honors/AP)	6
slow the change	6
teacher planning time in AM	6
dual enrollment	5
differentiation of class length	5

M/W, T/Th	4
equity of opportunity for diverse student needs	4
more time learning	3
adequate time for learning	3
PE requirements change (credit for sports and life activities)	3
manageable homework	3
improved learning opportunities that include flex pathways options	3
full day of classes	3
concurrent enrollment (college courses within the building)	3
no free blocks	3
study hall in place of free block	3
student focused	2
student voice	2
increased assistance (tutoring) to those who need it	2
longer lunches	2
Blue/White Alternating Days	2
hire enough teachers to teach every block	2
have schedules available for course sign up	2
keep kids on campus all day	2
structured learning time	1
new classes	1

safe school	1
keep it simple	1
campus based solutions for classes and internships	1
Monday late start	1
preserve arts education	1
why alternating days? same schedule everyday	1
more scheduling options	1
keep late start Wednesday	1
length of classes	1
accessibility	1
maximize student/teacher interaction	1
allow for multiple electives	1
preserve what works now	1
true PLPs - advisors help students plan projects/internships	1
more core courses vs. electives	1
end late start Wednesday	1
long blocks only	1
community members offer elective course	1
opportunities to work with outside education organizations (online, CCV, UVM, etc)	1

Individuals were then asked to discuss their priorities at their tables. They recorded their priorities at the tables. Below are the recorded responses.

RESPONSES FROM TABLES ON 2/20/17	
Priority	Number of Responses
later start	15
8 classes or more	8
transportation	7
BTC alignment	5
consistency	5
adequate time for learning (preserve contact time with teachers)	4
access to teachers for call back	3
dual enrollment	3
equity of opportunity for diverse student needs	3
improved learning opportunities that include flex pathways options	3
slow the change	3
advisory revamp	2
campus based solutions for classes and internships	2
differentiation of class length	2
full day of classes	2
adequate staffing to accommodate schedule	2
M/W, T/Th	2

student voice	2
allow for multiple electives	1
college prep courses (incl. honors/AP)	1
concurrent enrollment (college courses within the building)	1
free blocks	1
keep it simple	1
manageable homework	1
maximize student/teacher interaction	1
more core courses vs. electives	1
preserve arts education	1
schedules available by end of year	1
study hall in place of free block	1
why alternating days? same schedule everyday	1
YES re-eval	1
small classes	1

SPRING 2017

On Monday March 13 a group representing students, parents, board members, multilingual liaison office staff, teachers and school administrators met. This group, representing a number of stakeholders, analyzed the previously identified priorities that came out of the community discussion. From this work session, the stakeholder group identified key priorities put forward by the community that aligned with their schedule goals. The result was a synthesized list that represents the top schedule goals held by everyone who has participated in the process so far.

The majority prioritized late start, consistency of start time, variety of opportunities (including BTC alignment, different length of meeting time for classes, remediation, dual enrollment, preservation of AP courses and more) and having eight blocks of instruction.

Wednesday Alternating Blue/White: UNDER CONSTRUCTION!

The group anticipates changes to this model over time. The group needs to see if it can be supported by multiple systems (data systems, transportation, food service, and more!). This schedule brings the BHS campus closer to some of the priorities of later start, consistent start time (which aligns better with tech center), variety of opportunities (including different length of meeting time for classes and keeping eight blocks of instruction).

There will be additional opportunities to be announced this spring to share information.