

WENATCHEE HIGH SCHOOL

FOUR PERIOD HYBRID BLOCK OVERVIEW

Starting with the 2017/18 school year, Wenatchee High School has implemented a **four period hybrid block schedule**. This schedule is a blending of a 4x4 and 4x8 block schedule and was implemented to address the state's Core 24 requirements along with the needs of our students. Prior to this school year, WHS operated on a modified block schedule that required students to enroll in at least six classes at a time. The weekly schedule included a combination of rotating block and non-block periods.

In the current four period hybrid block schedule, our students earn up to eight credits throughout the year. Classes are offered in two formats based on teacher and department needs. Some classes (semester) meet for 90 consecutive days. Some classes (A/B rotation) meet every other day, throughout the year for 90 days. All classes, regardless of the format, are worth a 1.0 credit. Classes meet for 65 minutes on Mondays and 85 minutes Tuesday through Friday.

NUMBER OF CLASSES STUDENTS TAKE AT ANY GIVEN POINT

Because students have different combinations of semester and A/B rotation classes, the number of classes they take at any given time varies. One goal in designing this schedule was to provide increased opportunity and flexibility for all students while providing a streamlined schedule for those who need it.

Below is a breakdown by percentage of student schedules for 2017/18. These numbers do not reflect students participating in Running Start or students with extreme disabilities.

Number or Classes at any Time	Percentage of Student Body
4 classes or fewer	24% (including Tech Center students)
5 classes	38%
6 classes	29%
7 classes	8%
8 classes	.4%

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does this schedule force a full year's worth of material into half the time?

No. While the instructional minutes are reduced in classes that were previously a year long, classes that used to end at the semester actually gain instructional minutes. The overall number of instructional minutes throughout the day and year has not changed.

Does this schedule cause gaps in the math sequence for students?

No. No gaps in the math sequence are necessary while taking graduation required math courses. In fact, students who start their freshman year with either Algebra I or Pre Algebra will have more exposure to math than in our previous schedule. The schedule also allows for all students to take more math courses over their four years than was previously available.

Does this schedule cause gaps in the humanities?

No. Schedules have been built so that, starting the sophomore year, students will be in an English or social studies class throughout the school year. Since no social studies class is required at the freshman year, schedules have been built so that students are enrolled in an English or science class throughout the year.

Is this schedule designed only for students who struggle academically?

No. The four period hybrid block schedule allows high achieving students to take more classes than they would have in the previous schedule. These may be electives they choose to explore or additional core and AP classes. The schedule also allows for several new courses that were not previously available.

Is Wenatchee the only district using this schedule?

No. An increasing number of districts including Bellingham School District, Tahoma School District, Federal Way School District, and South Kitsap School District are using some form of a four period block schedule. Several other districts and schools are currently considering this option.

Does this schedule make attending Running Start more difficult?

No. Because the schedule is much more predictable on a daily basis, accessing Running Start classes is actually less problematic. Running Start students who choose to take a semester class (as opposed to an A/B rotation class) at WHS are limited to 13 credits at WVC. This is a very small number of students and alternatives have been provided to avoid this scenario. Otherwise, the schedule does not create any additional limitations for Running Start students.

Are more students taking Running Start classes because of the new schedule?

While every student and family makes the choice to participate in Running Start for various, individual reasons, the number of juniors registering for Running Start this year is very close to the number from last year. In fact the number has slightly dropped. Running Start numbers have risen in other districts in North Central Washington.