

# MHS Double Rotating Drop Schedule

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2019/2020

# Why now?

1. To provide students increased options through scheduling.
2. Innovative scheduling is a valuable tool for school improvement.
3. Innovative scheduling is an essential tool for student achievement.
4. Innovative scheduling can:
  - Result in more effective use of time, space and resources.
  - Improve instructional climate.
  - Assist and establish desired programs and instructional practices.

Canady, R. L. & Rettig, M.D. (November 1995). "The Power of Innovative Scheduling" *Educational Leadership* 53, 9: 4-10.

# Challenges of a Traditional Straight-8 Schedule

- Students only able to enroll in 35 credits during the traditional school day (periods 1-8).
- Numbers have decreased for the instrumental music program and other specialized music programs.
- Scheduling science courses/science labs limit the master schedule.
- Many students required to attend 0-period.
- Many students required to forego lunch 1 day per week.
- Limited flexibility for students to schedule desired courses.
- Habitual attendance issue for 1st and 2nd period.
- Current Blocks prohibit students from choice.
- Athletic eligibility limitations with 35 credit schedule.
- High School graduation requirements/new course opportunities.

# What is a Double Rotating Drop Schedule?

The Double Rotating Drop Schedule is different from the traditional Straight 8-period schedule Montclair High School has been using. In a traditional straight 8-period day, students attend the same 8 classes in the same order each day. Also, in a traditional straight 8-period day, lunch counts as one of the periods.

# Schedule Comparison

Period 0	7:06-7:50
Period 1	8:00-8:44
Period 2	8:49-9:39
Period 3	9:44-10:28
Period 4	10:33-11:17
Period 5	11:22-12:06
Period 6	12:11-12:55
Period 7	1:00-1:44
Period 8	1:49-2:33

	A Day	B Day	C Day	D Day
8:00-8:52	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4
8:57-9:49	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 1
9:54-10:46	Class 3	Class 4	Class 1	Class 2
10:46-11:46	Lunch			
11:47-12:39	Class 5	Class 6	Class 7	Class 8
12:44-1:36	Class 6	Class 7	Class 8	Class 5
1:41-2:33	Class 7	Class 8	Class 5	Class 6

MHS's Double Rotating Drop Schedule allows each student to register for eight instructional classes in addition to a community lunch period. A student has 4 AM classes (Class 1-4) and 4 PM classes (5-8). There are four possible days (A-D); on each day, one class drops from the AM periods and one class drops from the PM periods. Also, on each day, the classes rotate.

# Terminology

At MHS, we will use the words period and class. **Period** refers to the time that class meets. The period times remain the same each day (A-D). The **Class** that meets during that period changes each day.

# Rationale

All students eat lunch every day.

- Students will have fewer periods (6) to prepare for each day, but still take a full schedule (8 classes).
- Students can take 8 classes and still have a lunch period (or “mental break”) every day, allowing students to explore electives/interests or double-up on subjects more easily.
- Transition to a college-style model: class not meeting every day, longer-term planning.



Community Lunch allows for infinite possibilities regarding student activities, service, extra help, programs, the ability to eat with friends, etc.

- Student tardies will not impact the same period 1 class every day.
- Varied instruction time allows for students and staff to interact at various points of the day. Longer periods allow for more collaboration and hands-on application of skills
- Longer periods allow for “deeper” learning opportunities

Creates more substantial PE and elective periods (Art, Foods, Band)

- Science labs will meet more frequently (once every 4 days instead of every 5)
- Longer periods allow for more collaboration and hands-on application of skills in one class period.
- Students have more time for reflection and less information to process over the course of a school day.

# High Schools Utilizing a Rotating Drop Schedule

● Chatham ● West Windsor  
-Plainsboro North ● Kinnelon ●  
Livingston ● Holmdel ● West  
Windsor-Plainsboro South ● Glen Rock  
● Watchung Hills Reg. ● Randolph ●  
Governor Livingston ● Hopewell Valley  
● Madison ● Ridgewood

Highland Park ● Cherry Hill East ●  
West Morris ● Montville ● Cranford ●  
Paramus ● Northern Valley Regional ●  
Morristown ● Lawrence ● Mt. Olive ●  
Mainland Regional ● River Dell ●  
North Brunswick ● Verona ● Egg  
Harbor Township ● Hackettstown ●  
Phillipsburg

# Rotation Schedule

	A Day	B Day	C Day	D Day
8:00-8:52	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4
8:57-9:49	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 1
9:54-10:46	Class 3	Class 4	Class 1	Class 2
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# Community Lunch

- Designated eating areas include:
  - Cafeteria(s) for hot food only
  - Gymnasium & selected hallways for pre-packaged food only
- Food kiosks would be situated at different parts of the building
- The Media Center would be open to students (no food)
- Specific hallways would be shut down during community lunch
- Quiet rooms would be created for students looking to study
- A make-up/re-take testing room would be created
- Students would have access to classrooms - at teacher's prerogative
- The Counseling Department & Child Study Team will be available to students needing services

# Community Lunch Possibilities

Academic	Counseling	Extra Curricular	Professional Staff Development
Extra Help Reassessments Study HW Study Groups Writing/Math Labs Book Clubs Access to Media Center	College Info/Fairs Guest Speakers Counseling Groups Mentor/Buddy Programs Counselor Access	Club Mtgs Student Council Mtgs Service Events Student/Principal Summit School Spirit Activities Athletic Team Mtgs	Common Planning Parent Contact Time Lunch and Learn

# Social Emotional Learning

All freshmen will participate in a mandatory “MHS 101” social emotional learning seminar during Quarter 1.

Topics to include:

- Adjusting to MHS
- Peer Relationships
- Appropriate Social Media Use
- Substance Abuse/Vaping
- General Mental Health Awareness

# Student Sample Schedule #1 - Junior

Period & Time	A Day	B Day	C Day	D Day
8:00-8:52	AP US History	Finance H	Physics H	PE/Health 11
8:57-9:49	Finance H	Physics H	Physics H Lab	AP US History
9:54-10:46	Physics H	PE/Health 11	AP US History	Finance H
10:46-11:46	Lunch			
11:47-12:39	Italian 3	AP Calculus AB	AP Lang and Comp	Forensic Science
12:44-1:36	AP Calculus AB	AP Lang and Comp	Forensic Science	Italian 3
1:41-2:33	AP Lang and Comp	Forensic Science	Italian 3	AP Calculus AB

# Student Sample Schedule #2 - Freshman

Period & Time	A Day	B Day	C Day	D Day
8:00-8:52	World Lit H	Global Studies H	Geometry H	Spanish 1 H
8:57-9:49	Global Studies H	Geometry H	Spanish 1 H	World Lit H
9:54-10:46	Geometry H	Spanish 1 H	World Lit H	Global Studies H
10:46-11:46	Lunch			
11:47-12:39	Carpentry	Biology H	PE/Health 9	Study Hall MHS-101
12:44-1:36	Biology H	PE/Health 9	Study Hall MHS-101	Carpentry
1:41-2:33	PE/Health 9	Study Hall MHS-101	Carpentry	Biology H



# Student Sample Schedule #3 - Sophomore

Period & Time	A Day	B Day	C Day	D Day
8:00-8:52	PE/Driver's Ed.	Geo Science	US History 1 H	French 3 H
8:57-9:49	Geo Science	US History 1 H	French 3 H	PE/Driver's Ed.
9:54-10:46	US History 1 H	French 3 H	PE/Driver's Ed.	Geo Science
10:46-11:46	Lunch			
11:47-12:39	Art 2	English 10	Algebra 2	Study Hall
12:44-1:36	English 10	Algebra 2	Study Hall	Art 2
1:41-2:33	Algebra 2	Study Hall	Art 2	English 10

# Student Sample Schedule #4 - Sophomore SLC

Period & Time	A Day	B Day	C Day	D Day
8:00-8:52	PE/Health 10	US History 1 H	Government Studies 1 H	English 10 H
8:57-9:49	US History 1 H	Government Studies 1 H	English 10 H	PE/Health 10
9:54-10:46	Government Studies 1 H	English 10 H	PE/Health 10	US History 1 H
10:46-11:46	Lunch			
11:47-12:39	Algebra 2 Trig H	Spanish 2 H	Geo Science H	Band H
12:44-1:36	Spanish 2 H	Geo Science H	Band H	Algebra 2 Trig H
1:41-2:33	Geo Science H	Band H	Algebra 2 Trig H	Spanish 2 H

# Student Sample Schedule #5 - Senior

Period & Time	A Day	B Day	C Day	D Day
8:00-8:52	AP English Literature	AP Physics 1	PE/Health 12	Finance
8:57-9:49	AP Physics 1	AP Physics 1 Lab	Finance	AP English Literature
9:54-10:46	PE/Health 12	Finance	AP English Literature	AP Physics 1
10:46-11:46	Lunch			
11:47-12:39	AP Calculus AB	Cultural Pluralism H	AP Spanish Language	Band H
12:44-1:36	Cultural Pluralism H	AP Spanish Language	Band H	AP Calculus AB
1:41-2:33	AP Spanish Language	Band H	AP Calculus AB	Cultural Pluralism H

# What was done

Conferencing with the following schools:

- Nutley High School
- Madison High School
- Ridgewood High School
- Mt. Olive High School
- James Caldwell High School
- Livingston High School
- Morristown High School
- Hackensack High School
- West Orange High School

Other actions:

- Created a staff scheduling council
- Student survey
- Staff Survey
- Met with MPD
- Conversations with local vendors
- Met with the BA and food service
- Research and reviewed
  - NJPSA
  - ASCD
  - State DOE



# MHS Connections

*connecting curriculum to careers*

# What are Connections?

Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, MHS students will have greater **flexibility and choice in their course selections.**

- Each student is required to complete the basic courses called the foundation requirements set forth by the State of New Jersey.
- In addition, students can choose specialized coursework in areas of interest.
- The Connections that have been identified for the 2019-2020 school year have been selected by students based on their overall interests.

# Why is there a need for Connections?

As a result of surveys with staff, students and families, it was evident that students wanted:

- More exposure to career areas that they are interested in.
- Increased opportunities to reach career goals while in high school.
- To prepare themselves for their future.

This results in increased opportunities for staff and families being able to support and guide students through their goals.

# Details for Connections

## 1. Do students have to select a Connection?

NO, they do not have to select a Connection.

- Students may choose to take a traditional route at MHS
- Students can take advantage of having Connections to build opportunities to guide them through career exploration.



## **Details for Connections (continued)**

**Can a student move in and out of a Connection while at MHS?**

Yes.

- A student has the ability to move in and out of a Connection based on what interests the student.
- There are NO consequences for switching Connections.

# Details for Connections (continued)

## What Connections will be available in 2019-20?

1. STEAM
2. Business
3. Visual and Performing Arts
4. Health Services
5. Social Services
6. International Perspectives

## **Details for Connections (continued)**

### **What was the process in developing Connections?**

- ALL Students were introduced to the concept in January and surveyed.
- The survey provided feedback and information on which Connections and career paths students were interested in.
- The results were shared with a Connection committee comprised of over 20 volunteer staff members.
- Opportunities were also afforded to ALL students interested in meeting to share their insights and thoughts.

## Details for Connections (continued)

### Will Small Learning Communities (SLC) disappear?

NO

- Small Learning Communities will continue to be offered for all students.
- Students who participate in an SLC can **ALSO** participate in a Connection.

## Details for Connections (continued)

**Is there a selection process for Connections?**

NO

- ALL students may select or not select a Connection.
- A student does NOT need to apply or go through an interview process.

# CONNECTIONS

- Re-organizes what currently exists for students
  - Breaks down barriers
  - Opens up options
  - Ties curriculum to careers
- Is available for ALL!

# MHS Connections Plan

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# 3 Year Implementation Plan

## Year 1 - 2019-2020

- Program Planning Guide will be revised to reflect Connections that list the courses related.
  - This will be shared with staff, families and students.
  - Revisions will be made based on feedback.
- By the end of the school year, students will be able to select a Connection if interested.



## 3 Year Implementation Plan (continued)

### Year 2 - 2020-2021

- Students will participate in courses aligned to Connection if selected.
- Opportunity to add new Connections and courses.
- Staff may develop new courses or revise curriculum aligned with Connections.
- Guidance will continue to provide college and career counseling.

## 3 Year Implementation Plan (continued)

Year 3 - 2021-2022

- Continue to evaluate Connections and courses available based on student, family and staff feedback.
- Continue to develop new courses or revise curriculum aligned with Connections.
- Guidance will continue to provide college and career counseling.

# Connections for Visual and Performing Arts

**SAMPLE**

Art & Design	Communications & Media	Theatre Dance	Music
3D Design	Digital Imaging & Design	Acting	Band
Intro to Architecture & Design	Filmmaking I, II	Advanced Acting	Orchestra
Architecture Design I, II, III	Marketing Media	Into to Dance	Chorus
Art Foundations	Web Design	Interm. Dance	Choir
AP Art History	Finance	Adv. Dance	Madrigal Choir
Art I, II, III	Intro to Business	Tech Theatre	Mixed Chorus
Amphitheatre	Intro to Marketing	Web Design	Music Theory II
Ceramics	Intro to Advertising	Carpentry	AP Music Theory
Advanced Ceramics	Film & Literature	Finance	Music Appreciation
Digital Imaging & Design	Creative Writing	Intro to Business	Web Design
Drawing & Composition	Journalism I, II	Intro to Marketing	Finance
Fibers & Textile Design	Speech & Communication	Intro to Advertising	Intro to Business
Sculpture		Creative Writing	Intro to Marketing
Senior Portfolio		Satire & Protest Literature	Intro to Advertising