

Upper School Students Mod Schedule Feedback (Round 1)



Data Background

Survey Dates: 10/29 – 11/13

Student Participation: 73 students (61%)

By Grade:

9th: 23 (74%)

10th: 17 (54.8%)

11th: 18 (69%)

12th : 15 (51.7%)



- How satisfied are you with the variety of courses available to you with the mod schedule? 60 (82%) satisfied – very satisfied
- Are you taking any electives or interdisciplinary courses this year that you might not have considered? 45 (61.6%) yes
- Having fewer classes at a time allows you to engage more deeply with the course content: 58 (79%) agree – strongly agree
- 90 minutes – a little too long: 55 (75%); just right: 15 (20%); three (3) students want classes to be longer
- The reduced number of classes in each mod allows you to concentrate more effectively on your academic work: 54 (74%) agree – strongly agree



- Have your classes included more interactive or hands-on activities (e.g., labs, simulations, role-playing, collaborative projects) compared to last year? 63 (86%) - **yes**
- Classroom-based experiential learning activities (e.g., labs, simulations, role-playing, collaborative projects) have helped you better engage with and understand the material in your classes this year. 62 (85%) agree/strongly agree
- On average, how often do you participate in activities that connect classroom learning to real-world applications? 46 (63%) – at least a few times a week; 67 (91.7%) - a few times a mod
- On average, how much time do you spend on homework each day? ~2 hours
- How manageable do you find the current homework load under the mod schedule?: average: “neutral to difficult to manage”



Benefits

Increased Engagement with Hands-on and In-Depth Activities/Discussions

- Longer class periods allowed students to engage more deeply with subjects through hands-on projects and labs, and to better absorb material and dive deeper into topics.
- Students appreciate the ability to conduct experiments and write lab reports in one session, without feeling rushed.
- Students had more time to ask questions and engage in deeper discussions.
- Group reading and discussion sessions allowed students to clarify confusion and analyze texts and concepts in greater detail.
- Field trips were also noted as valuable, as they provided more time for deeper learning.



Benefits

Daily Reinforcement of Learning

A key advantage noted by students was the ability to build on material every day, which helped them retain knowledge better, reinforce learning, and make connections more effectively.

The continuous engagement with the subject matter was appreciated, particularly when topics are complex and require ongoing reflection or analysis.



Benefits

Increased Elective Opportunities

- Many students appreciated that the mod schedule allows for more electives and X-bin options, which enables them to explore a wider variety of subjects.
- Students mentioned being able to try course which they might not have had time for in a traditional schedule.
- The flexibility of the mod schedule was seen as a way to explore subjects outside of core requirements, such as taking STEM classes, art, or specialized topics.
- The ability to experiment with different areas of interest was a clear positive for many students.



Areas for Consideration

Pacing Issues

Students expressed frustration with the fast pace of the mod schedule, where too much material is sometimes crammed into each class. This contributes to feelings of rushed learning and struggles with assessments, especially with frequent summative assessments that don't always best align with the pace of learning.



Areas for Consideration

Limited Time for Resubmits and Extracurriculars

Students noted a tightened schedule, making it harder to find time for resubmitting assignments or engaging in extracurriculars.

The combination of the accelerated pace, more frequent assessments, and additional responsibilities outside of class makes things feel a little more challenging to manage.

Some students reported that after school activities or late evening resubmission windows conflict with their ability to manage homework and catch up on missed assignments.

Courses for the future:



Arts and Creative Courses

- **Art and Creative Expression:** A strong demand for more specialized art courses, such as Ceramics (especially standalone classes, not just X-bins) and Photography. Students also expressed interest in expanding opportunities for music theory, creative writing, songwriting, and performance-based classes (e.g., theater, dance).

STEM and Technology Courses

- **Computer Science and Engineering:** A clear and strong interest in expanding computer science and coding courses, including classes on web development, Python, Java, C++, and AI exists. Students are particularly keen on having more tech-focused electives at all levels.
- **Science:** Students are also requesting more specialized science courses, such as Forensics, Psychology, Biochemistry, and Astrophysics.

Practical Life Skills and Career Prep

- **Business and Finance:** Students are asking for more business-related courses, such as entrepreneurship, marketing, economics, and finance (especially practical financial skills like managing a budget, paying taxes, and understanding mortgages).
- **Life Skills:** Requests for classes that prepare students for life after high school, such as adulting classes (covering topics like taxes, managing finances, cooking, and general survival skills), reflect a growing desire for real-world practical knowledge. Courses like self-defense, personal finance, and law-related classes (e.g., intro to law, and legal studies) were also mentioned.