

Addendum
BUUSD Board Meeting
February 12, 2025

What I've Learned this Semester

We have an amazing group of students!

- They are on competitive teams outside of school.
- They have jobs and help support their families.
- They are looking for their future.
- They are searching for how school improves their future.

We have parents who are dedicated to their students!

- They are looking for ways to improve their students lives and happiness.

We have a community that is supportive!

- Community is looking for ways to support the schools, but is looking for value in their investments.
- Many scholarships have been set up to support students moving forward with their post secondary education.

What I've learned continued -

SHS has a great staff of dedicated caring professionals that were already talking about some of the changes that I will share with you tonight.

They are excited about the adventure ahead of us. But, they are also a little anxious since in any change process there are bumps along the way and they hope we will have the support of the board and the community as we work toward changes that will support our student body and provide additional information to our community.

Students, Parents and the Greater Community are interested in knowing more about what their students are learning and what students are accountable for both academically and behaviorally.

SHS is in the process of building an MTSS system to support students academically and behaviorally. Building this system will take some time but we are starting with the following items:

- Strengthening our **proficiency based grading system** so it more clearly communicates student learning.
- The building of a **Freshman Academy** to better support our incoming ninth grade students.
- Creating **pathways/academic concentrations** to help students in choosing careers. Starting with funding from the **Ron York Scholarship trust** which will be supporting the creation of a program focused on growing young engineers especially in the areas of avionics, mechanics and electronics.

Ninth Grade Academy

- Additional structure for the incoming ninth graders.
 - Teachers will have worked together to develop common language to guide students with academic and behavioral expectations
 - Teachers will have time to meet to discuss student needs and reach out to parents as needed.
- Advisories will be targeted toward building strong study habits.
- Crimson blocks will regularly be used to have students meet with teachers for extra assistance and keep up with work.

How do students benefit from the academy?

- Smaller group of teachers to connect with
- More consistent structure in classes emphasising executive functioning skills and good study habits
- Freshman only classes
- Team Building opportunities in advisory
- Next year the Freshman Academy will provide the Tier I supports for 9th graders.

What would a typical schedule look like?

Semester 1	Semester 2
Algebra 1 A OR Honors Algebra 1 OR Foundations	Algebra 1 B OR Honors Geometry
Physical Science	English Language Arts
Advisory/Lunch	Advisory/Lunch
Wellness	Introduction to PE/
World History	World Language OR a Fine Art/Music
Crimson Block	Crimson Block

Advisory Changes

- Freshman Advisories (Rollout 2025-2026)
 - Focus on study habits
 - Team Building
 - Executive functioning skills and decision making
- Sophomore Advisories (2026-2027)
 - Community Awareness and Community Service
- Junior/Senior Advisories (2027-2028)
 - Transition planning, resumes, applications, interview skills

Pathway Number 1 - York Engineering

Thanks to the York Scholarship Trust, SHS will be able to begin our expansion of building pathways (content concentration and industry experiences) for students. The recent expansion of the York Scholarship Trust will allow us to provide interested students with experiences in engineering. This includes hiring an educator to work with industry professionals, students and educators at SHS. The program will include opportunities similar to those in the WBL program built by Michelle LaFrancis but expand into partnerships with the Vermont Flight academy, Vermont Technical College as well as expanding coursework at SHS.

Additional pathways will be developed as we further tie our courses into the WBL program and determine student interests.

Questions?
