

**HTSD High School Block Scheduling Update**  
**for**  
**February 27, 2025**

Dear High School Students and Families,

Last year, we announced that our high schools will transition to a block schedule in September of 2025. Over the last year we have planned, prepared, and trained for this transition. We will continue to plan, prepare and train throughout the rest of this school year, this coming summer, and all of next year as the block schedule is implemented.

**Some general reminders about the block schedule we will implement next year:**

- We will use a Day 1 / Day 2 Block Schedule. Next year, students will take four classes on Day 1 and four classes on Day 2. Students will take a total of eight (8) classes in their block schedule.
- Each instructional block will be approximately 80 minutes long.
- There will be a lunch block in the middle of the day for the whole school. Half of the students will eat lunch in the first part of the lunch block and half of the students will eat lunch in the second half of the lunch block.
- The second part of lunch will be a 30 minute time period of activities and events. As students are currently scheduling, they will see that time period listed as “Study Hall”. This is just the title being used until we finalize the official name of the activity time. It will not be a traditional study hall period.

**For Seniors in the Class of 2026:**

- You may meet the specific criteria for a modified day (this includes a work program or VIP) if the courses you need for graduation are available. In some schedules, a modified day may only be available on Day 1 or Day 2.

**For Students Interested in Advanced Placement (AP) Courses:**

- HTSD offers 27 AP courses at each high school. Students who take AP courses will take the AP exam with the possibility of earning college credit based on their AP test score.
- HTSD has a dual enrollment program with The College of New Jersey where all 27 AP classes can earn college credit at TCNJ, for those who are enrolled in the program, when a student earns a C or better.

**Dual Enrollment Opportunities:**

- HTSD offers dual enrollment at the below listed colleges in the following subjects:
  - William Patterson - Spanish III, IV, and AP Spanish
  - Fairleigh Dickinson - Introduction to Business, International Business and Economics, Marketing I Essentials
  - Kean University - Tomorrow’s Teachers
  - Thomas Edison State University - Materials Processing I, II, III, and IV

- Mercer County Community College - English 101 and 102
- The College of New Jersey - All HTSD Advanced Placement courses

Click [HERE](#) for more information on dual enrollment opportunities in HTSD..

Each month we will provide you an update on block scheduling. This month's update addresses the basic structure (see above) and scheduling for next year.

### **General Course Selection Information:**

- The course selection process has begun for next year. You will select the same number of classes you do each school year.
- Once students have completed their course selection, each student will meet with his/her Guidance Counselor for a one-on-one scheduling meeting. During this meeting, the counselor will review the graduation requirements and attend to any student scheduling issues. They will also confirm course requests and address any discrepancies in recommendations. Going to a block schedule does not change graduation requirements.
- The master schedule and staffing is determined by student course selections. Upperclassmen are scheduled first, beginning with our seniors. Therefore, it is essential that students and parents carefully and deliberately choose their courses. Not all courses listed in the course of study will run each year. For example, courses with low registration numbers are not guaranteed to run during the school year. Therefore, we ask that students respect course recommendations and honor their commitments to their course selections.

### **Considerations with the Selection of Courses:**

- Students should make an objective evaluation of their general abilities, interests, academic performance and seriousness of purpose.
- Appropriate course selections will positively contribute toward making your high school experience both interesting and engaging. It will best prepare you to fulfill your future educational and vocational plans.

We will continue to keep you updated on our transition to block scheduling at the high schools. Look for more information coming in March.

<i>Scott Rocco</i>	<i>Frank Ragazzo</i>	<i>Bryan Rogers</i>	<i>Brian Smith</i>
Scott Rocco, Ed.D Superintendent	Frank Ragazzo Principal Nottingham HS	Bryan Rogers Principal Steinert HS	Brian Smith Principal West HS