

What is Raider Block?

Raider Block is a flexible block developed based on the philosophy of Scientific Research Based Interventions (SRBI) as a multi-tiered approach to early identification and support of students with identified needs. The goal of Raider Block is to provide interventions, supports, enrichments and extensions for all students during the regular school day.

Key Elements of Raider Block

- Raider Block is considered academic time.
- Raider Block meets as often as any other class and is the avenue for personalized learning for all students.
- All Raider Block activities at WLHS are coordinated through an online scheduling system provided by Enriching Students (<http://www.enrichingstudents.com>).
- The first Raider Block period of the academic week is a planning day (“Planning Days” see below), with mentors and students jointly determining the week’s activities.
- The remaining days of the academic week (2 or 3 periods/week) are intervention, support, extension or enrichment days. On these days, students access identified teachers or other academic resources (e.g. library, computer lab, etc.) to which they have been specifically scheduled.
- Academic teachers are expected to “pre-schedule” students for Raider Block as soon as they notice students are struggling in their class, whether it is in their overall performance or when it becomes evident that an important step in their scaffolded learning was missed.
- Teachers do not need to wait until a student’s grade has fallen to a C-/LP/NE to preschedule and can preschedule students for any reason; however, a C-/LP/NE grade is considered the latest threshold to preschedule a student for interventions.
- To facilitate regular scheduling on the first day of the academic week, pre-scheduled interventions should be completed before the beginning of the week.
- Pre-scheduled interventions will, **without exception**, take priority over individual student preferences for intervention, support, extension or enrichment days; mentors and other academic teachers will not override pre-scheduled interventions.

Planning Days

- Raider Block teachers stay with the same group of students for four years. Besides their school counselors, the Raider Block teacher is the one adult with whom students have the opportunity to interact and connect most consistently. Because of this special relationship, Raider Block teachers should consider themselves as mentors and not merely “travel agents.”
- The first Raider Block period of the week are used by mentors to engage with the students in their group. They discuss academic progress, set goals, and review pre-scheduled interventions, if applicable.
- After students have reviewed pre-scheduled interventions, they request to be scheduled for the remaining intervention, support, extension or enrichment days for specific skills reinforcement, extra help, or other school-related activities.
- Since Raider Block time is academic time, mentors need to be alert to student attempts at “social scheduling” where no academic purpose is apparent. To avoid unproductive time in the library, all students will need to be pre-scheduled to the library by their academic teachers, and with a specific, identified purpose.
- Students need to be specific about the purpose of their presence in receiving rooms so that the mentor can enter appropriate comments for all receiving teachers in the online scheduling system. Comments do not need to be lengthy but have to be specific to the intended purpose of the student’s work in the receiving room. Therefore, a specific comment

Raider Block – WLHS – Teacher’s Guide

of “complete Ch. 16 2-column notes” is preferable over “makeup work” (see appendix). Receiving teachers can now also leave feedback in attendance comments.

- Students who miss a Planning Day, will automatically be scheduled to their mentor’s classroom for the remainder of the week. As soon as they return from their absence, students can request that the schedule be changed to other receiving rooms, with the understanding that the maximums may have been reached by that time.
- Students will be responsible for recording their weekly schedules. As a reminder, mentors will print and post a schedule of student names and their assigned locations.

Intervention, Support, Extension or Enrichment Days

- Raider Block time is academic time.
- On Wednesdays through Fridays of a typical academic week, students will engage in interventions, receive supports, or take advantage of enrichments and extensions.
- Students are responsible for having with them, at the beginning of Raider Block, all necessary materials to be ready for study or work.
- The receiving room teacher will not accept any students who are not specifically assigned to their location that day.
- Beyond scheduling a receiving room for interventions, students are responsible for self-advocacy during Raider Block. Students are encouraged to actively seek assistance and not to rely passively on help being offered to them.
- During Raider Block no students will leave an assigned intervention, support or extension room to go to another room.

What type of things can I do during Raider Block?

- Subject-Specific Help: Classroom teachers will provide assistance to assigned students by re-explaining concepts, conferencing, or by providing time to make up work, quizzes, or tests.
- Enrichment: Students may use Raider Block to enhance their performance in any course that is credit-bearing (i.e. band, chorus, acapella, art). Raider Block may also be used for other approved enrichment activities, such as TED Talks.
- Extensions: Extensions, for example, ELOs and Honors-level work, can be accessed during Raider Block after appropriate documentation and approval.
- Peer Tutors: Students who have strong scholastic ability in a specific area and have been preselected will provide peer tutoring during Raider Block. Peer tutor locations and availabilities will be published.
- Online Courses: Students who are enrolled in an online course (VHS) may access computers to work on their course during Raider Block.
- Library Access: The library will be available for students to complete research and access other library services as needed. Students will be pre-scheduled to the library, but only for a specific purpose identified by their academic teachers.

What are the expectations of students during Raider Block?

- As Raider Block is an academic time the school-wide behavioral expectations apply just as they do all other times of the day.
- Be Present: Students are expected to arrive to their assigned locations for Raider Block on time and are responsible for having all necessary materials needed for work.
- Be There: Students will remain in their assigned location until Raider Block is over.
- Be On Task: Students are expected to be productive during the entire Raider Block. Receiving teachers will mark students as “Present/Maximizes Time on Task – ES”
- Disciplinary issues that arise during RAIDER BLOCK will be handled in the same manner as disciplinary issues that occur during a regular academic class.

Raider Block Buddies

On occasion, it may be necessary for someone other than the mentor to schedule a group of Raider Block students on a particular planning day. Since substitutes typically cannot access the Enriching Students website, and would not be familiar with the Raider Block scheduling expectations if they could, every mentor has a designated “Raider Block buddy” who will take over the scheduling on days that the mentor is absent. Raider Block buddies typically occupy adjacent or nearby rooms so that scheduling can be performed with a minimum of disruption and students wandering the hallways.

Note: It is not necessary for the Raider Block buddy to be a departmental colleague. Please make sure that you know who your Raider Block buddy is and do share your Enriching Students account password so that s/he can perform your duties in your absence.

Appendix.

Recommended Format for Notes

To make the “Notes” function in Enriching Students more purposeful and to allow for the gathering of solid usage data, please review the exemplars below. You should follow this format whenever you pre-schedule students — either to your own room or to special locations, such as the library or world language lab — or when you add intended student activities to inform receiving Raider Block teachers.

Type of intervention, support, extension, enrichment	Detail
Relearn	Irregular verbs
Review Formative	Pathogens
Review Summative	Romeo and Juliet
Extra Help	Analytical Essay
Small Group Work	Plan video assignment
Enrichment	TED Talk on health care professions
ELO	Screen writing project
Extension	Honors level mitosis unit
Research	Low-Frequency Sound and Marine Mammals
Practice	Spring concert
Project	Growing alum crystals
Peer tutoring	Spanish
Edit	Photojournalism assignment
Finish/complete	Pinch pot