



ARDSLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Matthew J. Block
Superintendent of Schools

December 19, 2025

Dear Ardsley Community:

We have been working over the past several months to transition Ardsley High School to a Rotating Drop Schedule for the 2026-2027 school year. We are pleased to announce that we will implement the new schedule starting in September. We are confident that our students and community will benefit in multiple ways from this new daily schedule.

The decision to transition from the current high school structure is rooted in our desire to optimize the time of the school day, increase access to classes and services, and make learning more manageable for all of our students. A few of the most immediate and profound benefits of the Rotating Drop Schedule are:

- The net increase in instructional time provided to students. By reducing the number of daily class transitions (students attend six periods daily instead of eight), we minimize the systemic loss of instructional minutes.
- The opportunity for each student to take an additional class, which will also provide a greater variety of learning opportunities for our students based on interest. Additionally, students will no longer have to choose between an additional class and eating lunch. All students will have lunch each day, since no classes will be offered during lunch. Currently more than 1/3 of our students do not have a daily lunch.
- Our students who rely on bus transportation will no longer have to choose between getting a ride home and taking advantage of extra help, since time to informally access teachers and extra support will be moved from last period to the middle of the day.

Some additional highlights are as follows:

Under the Rotating Drop Schedule, instructional period length will increase from the current 44 minutes to approximately 57 minutes:

- Longer instructional periods provide more time for varied instruction with reduced interruptions.
- Fewer transitions results in a measurable increase in classroom interaction, with an 11% increase in instructional time provided to students each school year without extending the duration of the day.
- Extended class time provides opportunities to further shift instruction away from content coverage toward meaningful, in-depth learning. This allows teachers more time to implement engaging, hands-on, differentiated and active lessons.



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Our Rotating Drop Schedule model utilizes a 4-day rotation cycle (A, B, C, D), where students attend six out of their eight classes daily, dropping two periods each day. There will be three, 57-minute time slots on the schedule before lunch and three, 57-minute time slots on the schedule after lunch each day. Students attend six classes each day in these time slots. Since students are scheduled for eight classes total, one morning class and one afternoon class “drops” each day. The courses that are “dropped” systematically “rotate” each day, so they are dropped once every four days on a planned cycle. Simultaneously, morning classes “rotate” through each of the three time slots in the morning, and the afternoon classes “rotate” through each of the three time slots in the afternoon, providing variety to the time of day that class will be held.. The daily “dropping” of two classes paired with the “rotation” of the others, is why it is called a "rotating drop schedule.”

This rotational mechanism provides immense value for student wellness and learning:

- The rotation ensures that classes are not perpetually scheduled at the same time of day. This variability allows all academic areas to receive attention during varied windows of student peak performance.
- The schedule serves as a load management mechanism, disrupting the cognitive monotony of a fixed routine. The combination of longer periods and fewer daily transitions is positively associated with decreased student stress levels. Each day moves at a more deliberate pace.
- Preparing for six classes rather than eight classes each day should also have a positive impact on the amount of homework students have to complete.

Perhaps the most transformative element of the new schedule is the implementation of the integrated, one-hour “unit lunch.” The whole-school unit lunch:

- Guarantees a scheduled lunch for all students. This is critical, as previous scheduling conflicts could result in students missing a meal.
- Provides time for students to gain a sense of balance and emotional well-being by allowing a break in the middle of the day to decompress and engage in positive social interactions with peers.
- Creates a flexible time during which students can meet with study groups, work on projects with classmates, access math, writing, social studies and science centers, complete an assessment, or connect with teachers for extra help.

We look forward to sharing additional detailed information with our school community in the months ahead. If you are interested in learning more information about the Rotating Drop Schedule now, you can watch [DR. BLOCK'S PRESENTATION](#) to the Board of Education delivered last night. Dr. Block's presentation begins at 18 minutes 11 seconds. The [SLIDE DECK DR. BLOCK USED IN HIS PRESENTATION](#) can be found on our website as well.

We also plan to share additional information, and provide opportunities for Q&A and community input throughout the month of January. Here are some key dates:



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- JANUARY 7th - A digital informational presentation will be sent to all AHS Students by the AHS Administration with detailed information. This screencast will be available on the AHS Website as well.
- JANUARY 8th and 9th - AHS Teachers will share 2026-2027 course options with all students, so students can begin thinking about their schedules for next year.
- JANUARY 13th and 14th - In-person question and answer sessions on the new schedule will be offered during all lunch periods for all AHS students.
- JANUARY 19th - Scheduling information presented to eighth grade students.
- JANUARY 20th - A Parent Forum will be held at 6:30pm in the AHS Auditorium dedicated to the new schedule. At that program, a short presentation will be followed by a question and answer session.
- JANUARY 21st - Eighth grade parent orientation at AHS. Scheduling information shared with eighth grade families.
- FEBRUARY 1st - Scheduling for the 2026-2027 school year will begin at AHS.

We plan to create and share a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document for the community by mid-January. If you have questions about the new AHS schedule that you would like us to include in the FAQ document, please email your questions to schedulingquestions@ardsleyschools.org by January 12, 2026. We will try to include answers to as many questions as possible in the FAQ.

We also invite you to join us for the presentation and community discussion on Tuesday, January 20th, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

We anticipate that the Rotating Drop Schedule will meaningfully enhance our instructional environment, creating a learning experience that is more engaging, equitable, and ultimately more effective for all students.

Thank you for your partnership as we embark on this exciting new chapter at Ardsley High School.

Sincerely,

Matthew Block

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Superintendent
of Schools

Jennifer Bradshaw

Jennifer Bradshaw
Assistant Superintendent
For Curriculum and Instruction

Danielle Trippodo

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Principal
Ardsley High School