

4x4 Block Schedule

What the heck is a 4x4 block schedule?

The 4x4 Block Schedule divides the school year into 2 independent semesters, much like college. The day is divided into 4 instructional blocks of 90 minutes each.

- Classes meet 5 times per week
- 450 minutes of instructional time per class per week.
- There is some flexibility to split a block into two year long courses, if the need arises.

What would it look like for a student?

4x4 Block System: A preliminary look at what a 4x4 system could look like in our school:

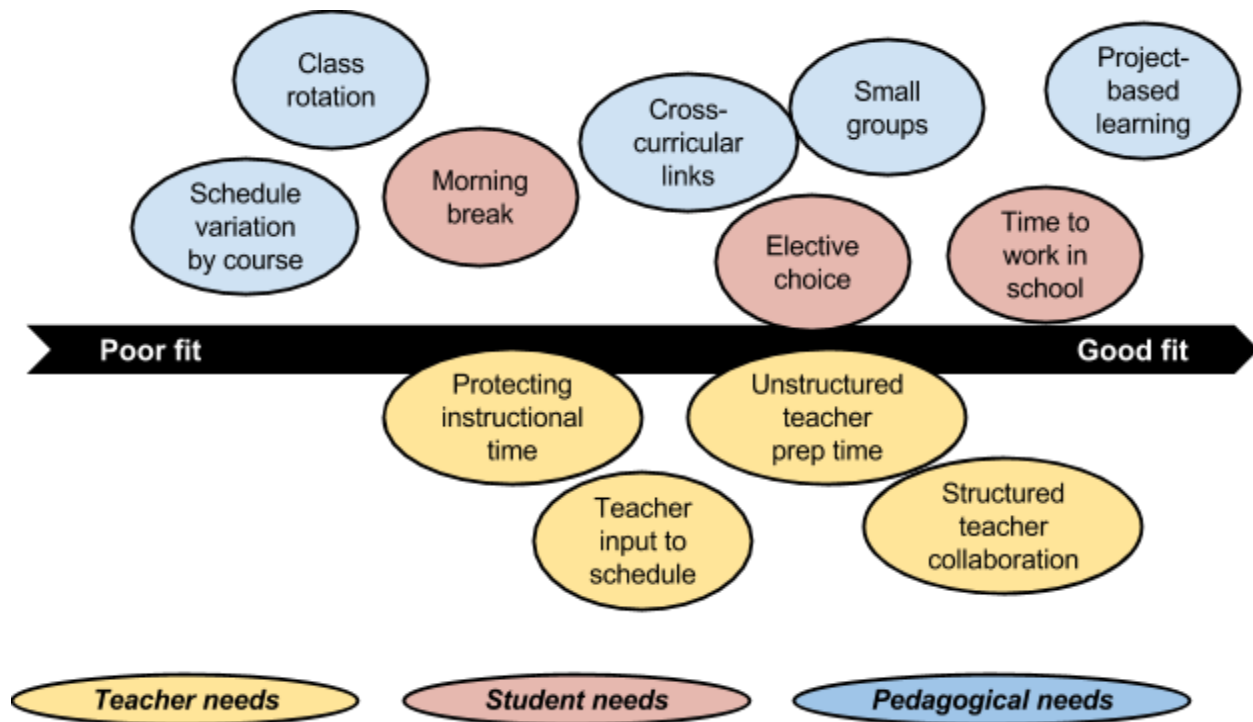
Grade 9		Grade 10		Gr. 11		Gr. 12	
sem 1	sem 2	sem 1	sem 2	sem 1	sem 2	sem 1	sem 2
Science 9	SS 9	Eng 10	Physics	Chem 11	Span 11	Math	Span 12
Science 9	SS 9	Eng 10	Physics	Chem 11	Span 11	Math	Span 12
Eng 9	Math 9	Elect 1	Adv Alg	Pre Calc	MxHist	MxGovt	Bio
Eng 9	Math 9	Elect 1	Adv Alg	Pre Calc	MxHist	Philo	Bio
PHE	ChEd	MWH	Spanish	Eng 11	ChEd	Eng 12	Elect 2
Elective	Comp 9	Comp 10	Spanish	Eng 11	WorldR	Eng 12	Elect 3
Spanish 9	Extra	ChEd	Extra	Elect 1	Extra	Elect 1	Extra
Spanish 9	Extra	Elect 2	Extra	Elect 2	Extra	Elect 1	Extra

What would it look like for a teacher?

Teachers will always have a prep next to a free period: Block 1 and 4 preps give additional time before and after school, Prep during Blocks 2 or 3 are next to lunch.

Does 4x4 block scheduling meet our needs?

The Scheduling PLC identified 12 top needs from our recent teacher survey. Here's how we think this scheduling model stacks up:



Got it. Other pros and cons?

Advantages

- Less stress for students with only 4 classes to manage at a time
- Time for labs and projects
- More opportunities for electives with 32 credits during high school, instead of the current 28.
- Teachers see fewer students for more time per day.

Disadvantages

- This schedule makes it difficult to miss school for trips.
- Having students for only one semester could be a challenge for AP courses.
- Students could have up to a year between classes of the same subject.