Ridge High School: A Master Schedule Alternative

Francis T. Howlett Jr.
Principal
Ridge High School

Objective: To research schedules that would provide for increased instructional time.

Rationale: A need exists to explore schedule options to increase the amount of instructional time. Advanced Placement courses are of major concern. A schedule that may accomplish the objective is currently being used by a number of high schools with similar demographics to Ridge High School.

ROTATING DROP SCHEDULE EXPLORATION COMMITTEE

Administrators

- Frank Howlett
- Brian Heineman
- Jillian Shadis
- Gina Donlevie

Faculty

- Barbara Retzko
- Cathy Willis
- Timothy Howard
- Maria Mensinger

Parents

- George Alexis
- Amy Venetianer
- Jane Kolarik

BOE Members

- Robin McKeon
- Bev Cwerner

Students

- Sarah Venetianer
- Jad Abousleiman

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

- Met three times
- Visited Livingston High School and interacted with colleagues in associated areas, spoke with students and toured the common lunch. A special thanks to Mark Stern, LHS Principal.
- Visited Watchung Hills Regional High School and accomplished same. A special thanks to George Alexis, WHRHS Principal and RHS parent.

COMMITTEE STATUS/FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- Committee agreed to continue to explore the Rotating Drop Schedule.
- Awaiting presentation by principal.
- Expand exploration to the department level.
- BOE blessing to continue.
- Derive a mock schedule during the summer.

ROTATING DROP SCHEDULE

1. Each student schedules **8 classes**.
2. Common lunch for all students (so just like now, students have 8 classes and a lunch).
3. Two classes are dropped each day in the regular schedule.
4. Three classes meet prior to lunch and three after lunch.
5. Blocks rotate on a 4 day cycle.

REGULAR ROTATING DROP SCHEDULE

BLOCK	TIME/DAY	A (4,8)	B (3,7)	C (2,6)	D 1,5)
1	7:30 – 8:30	1	4	3	2
2	8:35 – 9:35	2	1	4	3
3	9:40 – 10:40	3	2	1	4
LUNCH	10:40 – 11:20	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
4	11:20 – 12:20	5	8	7	6
5	12:25 – 1:25	6	5	8	7
6	1:30 – 2:30	7	6	5	8

ALL PERIOD SCHEDULE

- BLOCK 1 7:30 – 8:13 (43)
- BLOCK 2 8:18 – 9:01 (43)
- BLOCK 3 9:06 – 9:49 (43)
- BLOCK 4 9:54 – 10:37 (43)
- LUNCH 10:42 – 11:22 (40)
- BLOCK 5 11:27 – 12:09 (42)
- BLOCK 6 12:14 – 12:56 (42)
- BLOCK 7 1:01 – 1:43 (42)
- BLOCK 8 1:48 – 2:30 (42)

LATE ARRIVAL SCHEDULE

- BLOCK 1 10:00 – 10:35 (35)
- BLOCK 2 10:40 – 11:15 (35)
- BLOCK 3 11:20 – 11–55 (35)
- LUNCH 11:55 – 12:35 (40)
- BLOCK 4 12:35 – 1:10 (35)
- BLOCK 5 1:15 – 1:50 (35)
- BLOCK 6 1:55 – 2:30 (35)

ABBREVIATED SCHEDULE

(NO LUNCH) (ALA CARTE?)

- BLOCK 1 7:30 – 8:09 (39)
- BLOCK 2 8:14 – 8:53 (39)
- BLOCK 3 8:58 – 9:36 (38)
- BLOCK 4 9:41 – 10:19 (38)
- BLOCK 5 10:24 – 11:02 (38)
- BLOCK 6 11:07 – 11:45 (38)

ROTATING DROP ADVANTAGES

- Reduces number of students losing credit in Pd. 1 (Lateness)
- Athletes leaving early for contests do not miss same class each time.
- Breaks the routine
- Schools report less discipline referrals/Less passing time/Reduced class cuts.
- Less stress from homework/ 6 courses each day
- Allows for lunch labs
- Students enjoy the common lunch.
- Club meetings could be held during lunch
- All seniors can enjoy late arrival/early dismissal
- Possibility for expanded tutorial options
- Common time for Professional Development

ROTATING DROP SCHEDULE ANALYSIS OF INCREASED INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

- To compare instructional time per week a 20 day cycle will be used, which is the least common multiple between 4 (Rotating Drop) and 5 (RHS current).

NON-SCIENCE COURSES

- RHS present schedule – 20 meetings in 4 weeks @ 41min/meeting = 820 min
- Rotating Drop schedule – 15 meetings in 4 weeks @ 60min/meeting = 900 min
- An additional 80 min/class over the 20 days

NON-AP SCIENCES LUNCH LAB OPTION

- RHS – 24 meetings over 4 weeks @ 41 min = 984min
- Rotating Drop = 15 meetings over 4 weeks @ 60 min = 900 min
- Lunch lab = 5 lab meetings over 4 weeks @ 20 min = 100 min
- 1000 – 984 = 16 min over 4 weeks

AP SCIENCE LAB LUNCH OPTION

- RHS – 28 @ 41= 1148 min
- Rotating Drop – 15 @ 60 = 900 min
- Lunch Lab = 5 @ 40 = 200min
- Total = 1100 min
- 1100 – 1148 = –48 min over 4 weeks

Band, Choir, Orchestra

- Choir Sectionals and Band/Orchestra Instrumental Lessons will continue to be offered during the common lunch for credit.
- Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra will continue to be scheduled during the same period as instrumentalists are shared between the two ensembles.
- Band/Orchestra would lose the flexibility to have students schedule during lunch.

THE COMMON LUNCH

- Organized chaos
- Would require additional custodians on duty
- Staff supervision options
- Lunch Service Issues
- Lunch time opportunities (Club meetings, tutorials, counselor meetings)
- Facility Concerns
- Students like it.

FACILITIES – ROOM USAGE

- Ridge High School has classroom space for 2632 students.
- 85% of 2632 = 2237
- 80% of 2632 = 2106
- The worst case scenario still only places RHS at 90% capacity.
- With lunch period labs, science rooms may be used 8 times per day, which would allow for some rooms to be re-assigned.
- The cafeteria could house all study halls and free up the lecture halls.

OTHER FACTORS TO CONSIDER

- Vocational School shared time students
- Scheduling advantages/disadvantages
- Credit adjustment
- Teacher contract
- Food Service

SCHOOL USING OR IMPLEMENTING THE ROTATING DROP SCHEDULE

- Livingston HS
- Watchung Hills Regional HS
- West Morris/Mendham HS
- Chatham HS
- Mount Olive HS
- Montville HS
- Hightstown HS
- Paramus HS
- Mainland HS
- Cranford HS