



Good morning, Chairman Edwards, members of the School Board, Dr. Merrill, and members of Cabinet. It is my pleasure to present an overview this morning of the High School scheduling options being proposed for future implementation within our school division.

Why Change Now?

- ∞ Fall 2011 – Increased graduation requirements: (22) Standard or (26) Advanced studies.
- ∞ Enrollment in elective programs is declining. These programs are essential to ensuring our students are successful 21st century learners and citizens.
- ∞ The current 6 class A/B class schedule provides insufficient flexibility to allow students to meet enhanced graduation requirements, and take full advantage of elective offerings.

The need for a change in our class scheduling model has become a pressing matter for our school division. With the recent increases in diploma requirements, it has become increasingly difficult for our students to take the courses necessary to make them well balanced and successful 21st century learners and citizens.

What work has been done?

- ∞ 2003 - a group of principals, propose to implement a 7 – 8 class A/B Block schedule. A lack of external driving forces results in insufficient support for a change in the status quo.
- ∞ Spring 2009 - Dr. Michael D. Rettig, an expert in class scheduling, met with administrators, and members of cabinet to review alternative scheduling options.

Our High School principals have been concerned about the shortcomings of our current scheduling model for almost a decade. In 2003 and ad-hoc group of principals recommended a move to a 7-8 class A/B schedule, however a pressing need for change did not seem to exist at the time.

In 2009, Dr. Michael Rettig of School Scheduling Associates, LLC., and Professor Emeritus at James Madison University, was invited to present to VBCPS administrators at Landstown HS. With increased graduation requirements on the way, attendees were in unanimous in their belief that VBCPS should move to a scheduling alternative to the current (6) class A/B schedule.

What work has been done? cont...

- 2009 – Present – An Ad-hoc committee of high school principals and directors review, research, and develop a proposal designed to address our students' needs.
- The committee recommends implementation of the 4x4 A/B hybrid block and 8 Class A/B block scheduling options.

In the Fall of 2009, a new ad-hoc scheduling committee was formed. Committee members reviewed scheduling solutions used throughout the Commonwealth, as well as the nation as a whole, and visited with representatives from Chesapeake Public Schools, which has been successfully using a 4x4 schedule since 1995. The majority of the committee members reached the conclusion that a 4x4 A/B hybrid option showed the most promise for the future, however they were also unified in their belief that VBCPS, like Fairfax County, is large and diverse enough to support the implementation of more than one scheduling model.

4x4 Hybrid Block Scheduling

Period	Times	4x4 A/B Hybrid			
Transition	7:15-7:20	Select Courses taught on an A/B year long schedule Examples: AP classes, select Fine Arts, COE courses, H & PE etc...			
Block 1	7:20-8:50 (90)	Standard student class load: 4 per semester (8 credits per year) Minimum student class load: 3 per semester (6 credits per year)			
Transition	8:50-8:55	Credits accumulated over 4 years: 24-32			
Block 2	8:55-10:25 (90)	Standard Teacher class load: 3 per semester (6 classes for the year) 183 day schedule; meets Carnegie requirements per VDOE.			
Transition	10:25-10:30				
Block 3	1st Lunch	2nd Lunch	3rd Lunch	4th Lunch	
	Lunch 10:25-10:55 (30)	Class 10:30-11:00 (30)	Class 10:30-11:35 (65)	Class 10:30-12:05 (95)	
	Class 11:00-12:35 (95)	Lunch 11:00-11:30 (30)	Lunch 11:35-12:05 (30)	Lunch 12:05-12:35 (30)	
		Class 11:35-12:35 (60)	Class 12:10-12:35 (25)		
Transition	12:35-12:40				
Block 4	12:40-2:10 (90)				

Currently, for a high school student in Virginia Beach to earn a standard diploma, students typically have a daily schedule consisting of 6 classes and a lunch period. To earn an Advanced Studies diploma, students have to either begin taking high school credit courses in middle school, take courses in summer school, or give up their lunch period to maintain a daily schedule that will enable them to earn enough credits for an advanced studies diploma.

On the 4x4 hybrid or 8 Class A/B schedules, students will be able to maintain a lunch period and have the opportunity to earn an advanced studies diploma without having to attend summer school.

8 Class A/B Scheduling

Period	Times	8 Class A/B			
Transition	7:15-7:20	All courses taught on an A/B year long schedule			
Block 1	7:20-8:50 (90)	Standard student class load: 8 per semester (8 credits for the year) Minimum student class load: 6 per semester (6 credits per year)			
		Credits accumulated over 4 years: 24-32			
Transition	8:50-8:55	Standard Teacher class load: 6 per semester (6 classes for the year)			
Block 2	8:55-10:25 (90)	183 day schedule; meets Carnegie requirements per VDOE.			
Transition	10:25-10:30				
Block 3	1st Lunch	2nd Lunch	3rd Lunch	4th Lunch	
	Lunch 10:25-10:55 (30)	Class 10:30-11:00 (30)	Class 10:30-11:35 (65)		
	Class 11:00-12:35 (95)	Lunch 11:00-11:30 (30)	Lunch 11:35-12:05 (30)	Class 10:30-12:05 (95)	
		Class 11:35-12:35 (60)		Lunch 12:05-12:35 (30)	
			Class 12:10-12:35 (25)		
Transition	12:35-12:40				
Block 4	12:40-2:10 (90)				

Regardless of whether a 4x4 hybrid or 8 class A/B model is used, the start and end times of the day and instructional blocks are the same. Both schedules require a 15 minute extension to the instructional day.

**Current
Sample
Schedule**

**Standard
Diploma
Following one
student
Through grades
9-12**

**22 credits
required for
diploma**

24 credits earned

**4 elective
courses**

Grade 9	1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
Block 1		English 9 (A Day) World History I (B Day)
Block 2		Lunch/Study Block
Block 3		Earth Science (A Day) Algebra I (B Day)
Block 4		Foreign Language I (A Day) Health & Physical Education 9 (B Day)
Grade 10	1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
Block 1		English 10 (A Day) World History II (B Day)
Block 2		Lunch/Study Block
Block 3		Biology (A Day) Health and Physical Education 10 (B Day)
Block 4		Geometry (A Day) Foreign Language II (B Day)
Grade 11	1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
Block 1		English 11 (A Day) U.S. History (B Day)
Block 2		Lunch/Study Block
Block 3		Chemistry (A Day) Economics (B Day) Financial Management (B Day)
Block 4		Algebra II (A Day) Foreign Language III (B Day)
Grade 12	1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
Block 1		English 12 (A Day) Government (B Day)
Block 2		Lunch/Study Block
Block 3		Art Elective (A Day) Tech Ed. Elective (B Day)
Block 4		Discrete Math (A Day) Foreign Language IV (B Day)

The following slides provide some insight into what students individual schedules may look like under both the current and proposed scheduling models. This Standard Diploma student will meet graduation requirements, however he or she will not be a **Career & Technical Education** or Fine arts program completer.

**4x4 Hybrid
Sample
Schedule 1**

**Standard
Diploma
Following one
student
Through grades
9-12**

**22 credits
required for
diploma**

**32 credits earned
CTE & Fine Arts
Completer**

**10 elective
courses**

Grade 9	1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
1	Algebra I/Algebra Lab	
2	English 9	World History I
3	Foreign Language I	
	Health and Physical Education 9 (B Day)	
4	Earth Science	Art Elective

Grade 10	1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
1	Biology	Tech Ed. Elective
2	Health & Physical Education 10 (A Day)	
	Foreign Language II (B Day)	
3	English 10	Art Elective
4	Geometry	World History II

Grade 11	1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
1	English 11	U.S. History
2	Algebra II	Chemistry
3	Foreign Language III (A Day)	
	AP Studio Art (B Day)	
4	Tech Ed. Elective	Journalism I

Grade 12	1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
1	Discrete Math	Journalism II
2	Government	English 12
3	Foreign Language (A Day)	
	Economics and Financial Management (B Day)	
4	AP 3D Art	

With both the 4x4 hybrid, and 8 class A/B models the same student is able to complete course sequences in both Fine Arts and CTE.

**8 Class A/B
Sample
Schedule
Standard
Diploma
Following one
student
Through grades
9-12**

**22 credits
required for
diploma**

**32 credits earned
CTE & Fine Arts
Completer**

**10 elective
courses**

Grade 9	1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
Block 1		Algebra I (A Day)
		Algebra I Lab (B Day)
Block 2		Art Elective (A Day)
		World History I (B Day)
Block 3		Earth Science (A Day)
		English 9 (B Day)
Block 4		Foreign Language I (A Day)
		Health & Physical Education 9 (B Day)
Grade 10	1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
Block 1		Art Elective (A Day)
		Tech Ed. Elective (B Day)
Block 2		Biology (A Day)
		Health and Physical Education 10 (B Day)
Block 3		English 10/Lunch (A Day)
		World History II/Lunch (B Day)
Block 4		Geometry (A Day)
		Foreign Language II (B Day)
Grade 11	1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
Block 1		Chemistry (A Day)
		U.S. History (B Day)
Block 2		Foreign Language III (A Day)
		AP Studio Art (B Day)
Block 3		Lunch/English 11 (A Day)
		Journalism I
Block 4		Algebra II (A Day)
		Tech Ed. Elective (B Day)
Grade 12	1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
Block 1		Discrete Math (A Day)
		English 12 (B Day)
Block 2		AP 3D Art
Block 3		Journalism II /Lunch(A Day)
	Economics (B Day)	Financial Management (B Day)
Block 4		Discrete Math (A Day)
		Foreign Language IV (B Day)

**Current
Sample
Schedule**

**Advanced Studies
Diploma
Following one
student
Through grades 9-
12**

**26 credits
required for
diploma**

**24 credits earned
during HS, 3 in MS**

3 elective courses

Grade 9	1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
Block 1	English 9 (A Day)	World History I (B Day)
Block 2	Lunch/Study Block	
Block 3	Biology (A Day)	Health and Physical Education 9 (B Day)
Block 4	Geometry (A Day)	Foreign Language II (B Day)
Grade 10	1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
Block 1	English 10 (A Day)	AP Word History (B Day)
Block 2	Lunch/Study Block	
Block 3	Chemistry (A Day)	Health and Physical Education 10 (B Day)
Block 4	Algebra II/Trigonometry (A Day)	Foreign Language III (B Day)
Grade 11	1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
Block 1	English 11 (A Day)	AP US History (B Day)
Block 2	Lunch/Study Block	
Block 3	AP Environmental Science (A Day)	
	Economics (B Day)	Financial Management (B Day)
Block 4	Math Analysis (A Day)	
	Foreign Language IV (B Day)	
Grade 12	1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
Block 1	Dual Enrollment English (A Day)	Government (B Day)
Block 2	Lunch/Study Block	
Block 3	Tech Ed. Elective (A Day)	Art Elective (B Day)
Block 4	AP Psychology (A Day)	AP Foreign Language I (B Day)

The only way this Advanced Studies student is able to earn an advanced studies diploma is because he or she obtained HS credit in MS. Additional options for the student would be to attend summer school, or to sacrifice a scheduled lunch.

**4x4 Hybrid
Sample
Schedule 2**

**Advanced
Diploma
Following one
student
Through grades
9-12**

**26 credits
required for
diploma**

**32 credits earned
CTE & Fine Arts
Completer**

**10 elective
credits**

Grade 9	1st Semester	2nd Semester
1	Advanced English 9	Geometry
2	Biology	World History II
3	Health and Physical Education 9 (A Day)	
	Chorus I (B Day)	
4	Public Speaking	Spanish II

Grade 10	1st Semester	2nd Semester
1	Algebra II/Trigonometry	Economics/Financial Management
2	Chorus (A Day)	
	Health & Physical Education 10 (B Day)	
3	Advanced English 10	AP European History
4	Spanish III	Chemistry

Grade 11	1st Semester	2nd Semester
1	AP English 11	AP U.S. History
2	Math Analysis	Tech Ed. Elective
3	Spanish IV (A Day)	
	Chorus (B Day)	
4	AP Chemistry	AP Environmental Science

Grade 12	1st Semester	2nd Semester
1	Double Block AB-C AP Calculus	
2	Dual Enrollment English	Tech Ed. Elective
3	AP Spanish (A Day)	
	Chorus (B Day)	
4	AP Psychology (A Day)	
	AP Government	

With the 4x4 hybrid schedule it is possible for a student to obtain an Advanced Studies diploma without gaining HS credit in MS, attending summer school, or skipping lunch. This student has five classes per semester.

8 Class A/B Sample Schedule Advanced Diploma Following one student Through grades 9-12		Grade 9	1st Semester	2nd Semester
26 credits required for diploma	Block 1	Grade 9	Geometry(A Day)	Advanced English 9 (B Day)
			Block 2	Public Speaking
		Block 3		Biology/Lunch (A Day)
			Block 4	Foreign Language II (A Day)
	Block 1	Grade 10		Economics (B Day)
			Block 2	Chorus II
		Block 3		Health and Physical Education 10 (B Day)
			Block 4	World History II/Lunch (B Day)
	Block 1	Grade 11		Foreign Language III (B Day)
			Block 2	U.S. History (B Day)
		Block 3		Lunch/AP English 11 (A Day)
			Block 4	Lunch/AP Environmental Science
	Block 1	Grade 12		Tech Ed. Elective (B Day)
			Block 2	Tech Ed Elective (A Day)
		Block 3		Chorus IV (B Day)
			Block 4	AP Government/Lunch(A Day)
Block 3	AP Psychology/Lunch (B Day)	AP Government/Lunch(A Day)		
	Block 4	Discrete Math (A Day)	AP Psychology/Lunch (B Day)	
			AP Foreign Language (B Day)	Discrete Math (A Day)
32 credits earned in HS, 3 in MS CTE Completer			AP Foreign Language (B Day)	AP Foreign Language (B Day)
10 elective courses				

With the 8 class A/B schedule it's also possible for a student to obtain an Advanced Studies diploma without gaining HS credit in MS, attending summer school, or skipping lunch. This student has eight classes per semester.

Comparison of 4x4 Hybrid & 8 Class A/B Options	
4X4 Hybrid	8 Class A/B Schedule
Teachers teach 6 classes; 3 per semester with less contractual time before/after school	Teachers teach 6 classes; all 6 all year with less contractual time before/after school
Teachers instruct 75 -90 students per semester	Teachers instruct up to 150 students per semester
Extends the school day for 3 rd block lunches	Extends the school day for 3 rd block lunches
Allows students to earn up to 32 credits	Allows students to earn up to 32 credits
Allows students to repeat failed classes the next semester and possibly avoid summer school	Failing students would need to repeat the next year or go to summer school
Increases on-time graduation rate	Current on-time graduation issues remain

Here we have two slides that provide a side by side comparison of both proposed scheduling models.

Comparison of 4x4 Hybrid & 8 Class A/B Options cont...

4X4 Hybrid	8 Class A/B Schedule
A fresh start for teachers and students, semester 2 (4x4 classes)	Students and Teachers remain together all year (150)
Easier tracking of attendance, grades, homework, and behaviors for 75-90 students each semester (Teachers)	Continues the same attendance, grade, homework, and behavior issues for 150, All year (Teachers)
Maximum student class load, 3 - 4 classes at one time	Students will have 6 - 8 classes all year
Students will have 3 - 4 final exams max at one time, unless SOL exempt	Students will have 6 - 8 final exams at one time (June), unless SOL exempt
Students will have 1 or 2 SOLs at one time	Students will have all SOLs at one time (May/June)
Students will have AP exams in May	Students will have AP exams in May
Textbook/equipment issues reduced	Textbook/equipment issues increase

Questions?



Can we answer any questions you may have?