

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT...

## 4 DAY ROTATING BLOCK SCHEDULE

In September 2023, RFH implemented a new 4-day rotating block schedule. This was after research, analysis of feedback and input from stakeholders, and many exploratory and professional development activities conducted by administrators, teachers and staff. The new schedule provides longer instructional periods to enhance our learning environment and experience, opportunities for deeper and more experiential learning and fosters greater independence among our students preparing them for life after RFH.

As we begin year two of this schedule, we are excited to continue to improve our day-to-day management, offer ongoing professional development and support for our staff, and to build upon the enhanced instructional opportunities this schedule has provided our students.

### THE SCHEDULE

***Although there are a variety of block schedules, we feel that the 4-Day Rotating Drop Schedule provides the appropriate amount of instructional time per class, preparation time for staff, and continuity of instruction for students.***

- Some of the benefits of this 4-Day Rotating Schedule (compared to our previous traditional schedule) are:
  - fewer classes in a given day (six classes since two drop vs. eight in a row)
  - more continuous instructional time per meeting period (57 minutes vs. 42 minutes)
  - more time for multiple student-centered activities in a given period
  - more instructional minutes per course over a four-day cycle (171 minutes vs. 168 minutes)
  - rotating class meeting times (different time slots vs. the same class at the same time every day)
  - additional course opportunities for upperclassmen
  - common lunch that allows for student clubs and activities to meet when necessary
  - teacher office hours during the common lunch (and English and Math LRCs, test make up opportunity, appointments with counselors, Rest and Relaxation Room and Fitness Center availability, etc.)
- In addition to these advantages, the independence that students have to make their own choices, while still within the structure of RFH, better prepares them to be independent thinkers as they transition out of high school.
- Vocational attendance, Dual Enrollment and internship opportunities for Seniors are not affected. The flexibility in scheduling courses allows for accommodations such as these to be made for our students. Since the morning block and afternoon block rotate separately, a student in a vocational program, Dual Enrollment or completing an internship can be accommodated.

### ATTENDANCE/MAKE-UPS

***Regardless of any schedule, attendance is the most important factor in student success.***

- Our make-up policy is clearly outlined in the RFH Student Handbook so that it minimizes stress on our students and teachers yet creates the most efficient scenario for making up work that is missed. RFH teachers use Google Classroom to post documents and assignments which will make it easier for students to see work that was assigned/completed in class and to retrieve assignments that may have been missed.
- Athletic teams are dismissed from school early only when it is necessary. The time that they are approved to sign out is determined by the time and location of the competition and is commonly only a few minutes. Because of the rotation and after data analysis from the 23-24 school year, we are confident that students do not miss the same class each time they may need to leave school early.
- RFH offers an assessment make-up room during each period throughout the school day. A student may take advantage of this during their study hall and/or the common lunch. This benefits students whose study hall may drop on a given day or who may not have a study hall in their schedule and allows all students more flexibility to schedule make-up assessments.

## COMMON LUNCH

**Lunch at RFH looks different than it has in the past. Our "common lunch" provides additional advantages while maintaining the quality lunch program that exists at RFH.**

- With a longer lunch period, students manage their time in various ways that might include not eating/purchasing lunch right at the start of the period. Some students may choose to begin the period in the Learning Commons, meet with their teacher during office hours, utilize an LRC that might be available, meet with counselors, or just relax with friends. With the flexibility and independence that this schedule provides, both our students and staff are able to make appropriate accommodations for both eating lunch and seeking various forms of assistance during that time.
- Throughout the lunch block, we accommodate seating for approximately 550 students at any one time. Many seniors may leave for open campus and about 100 students remain in their science lab during each half of lunch. Seating is not assigned and students eat in the cafeteria, at tables set up in the gymnasium, in the courtyard (weather permitting), in our lounge areas on the first floor, and at tables set up in the hallway near the cafeteria and in the auditorium lobby.
- With adjustments made to the layout of the cafeteria last year to maximize the efficiency for students who choose to purchase lunch or other items, our food service provider has ensured that the quality of food and choice is maintained. Items are also available for purchase in the cafeteria during morning study halls and from our Dawg Den during the afternoon blocks.
- Our facility accommodates any and all Seniors that wish to stay any day for lunch. However, Seniors may choose to leave for open campus during the lunch block with parent permission. Local eateries, a number of which are within walking distance of RFH, now offer lunch specials for our seniors.

## STUDY HALL

**Study hall is built into students' schedules just like any other class and as such, rotates throughout the morning or afternoon and will drop once per the four-day rotation.**

- During study hall, students are able to quietly study/complete work in our Learning Commons, eat in the cafeteria, meet with counselors and if a teacher's schedule permits, meet with them as well.
- When a study hall falls the first or last block in a student's schedule, that student's day may begin at the start of the second block or end prior to the start of the last block (with parent permission, 10th through 12th graders ONLY during MP1). Please know that the study hall is supervised for students who choose to be in the building at that time. This flexibility provides an opportunity for students to manage their time before or after their day's academic responsibilities.
- On a day that a student's study hall drops, they can still meet with teachers before school or during the common lunch as well as take advantage of LRCs that are available.
- If a student has a first block study hall and they come into school any time during the first block, they should report to their study hall and scan in for attendance. If they enter the building at the end of the first block, they should report directly to their second block class to start their day. Students who have a last-block study hall can leave the building at the start of the last block as their day has ended. However, if they remain in the building, they must report to the study hall and scan in for attendance. Parents do not have to sign a student in or out of a student's study hall.
- During MP1, freshmen study hall is replaced with our 9th Grade Academy and takes place in the Upper Learning Commons. Freshmen are required to be present in school from 7:45am-2:40pm each day during MP1 and to participate in 9th Grade Academy.