

Block Schedule to Seven - Period Schedule

FAQ's

- **Why is Hightower High School moving to a seven period day?**
 - Academy practicum compliance was an important part of the decision to move to a seven-period day.
 - Other factors not related to academics, such as student performance on standardized tests and academic performance were considered.
 - Students will receive an additional 50 minutes of instruction per class every two weeks on a seven period day.
 - Students will see their teachers every day verses two to three days per week with block scheduling.
 - The seven-period day will address the inequity of some athletics programs meeting every day, while fine arts programs have not been scheduled to do so with block scheduling.
- **Will students have a chance to update their course selection information?**
 - As per student and parent request, the course selection window has been extended for Hightower students. Students and parents may log into Family Access to update their course selection for the 2015 – 2106 school year to reflect seven class periods.
 - The course selection process window will close on Wednesday, April 8, 2015. The verification process will end on Friday, April 10, 2015.
- **Will students receive guidance during the course selection process?**
 - To ensure their graduation plans and course selections are planned properly for the seven-period day, the counselors have been working with multiple program students, juniors and any students requesting a conference during this first week.
 - Counselors will continue to meet with all grade levels through this process to counsel and assist students with updating their requests for the 2015 – 2016 school year.
 - Ms. Nilsen, the Academy Coordinator, has met with most academy students to show them how they will be able to meet the academy expectations on the seven-period day.
- **How will rising seniors be affected?**
 - Rising seniors are the first priority in making adjustments for next year on the seven-period day to ensure they have the proper classes to meet graduation requirements.
 - The idea of offering 0 period and 8th period classes for students that need 8 courses for graduation (or in order to remain in multiple programs) is being reviewed. Upon the completion of course selection, the campus will look at the needs of the transitioning student population and determine how to meet these needs.
- **What would the criteria for 0 period/8th period be?**
 - Transportation would not be provided.
 - Students with credit deficiencies and or students involved in multiple programs would be eligible, considering graduating seniors first.
 - Students wanting an off campus period would not be eligible.
- **How will 9th grade schedules be affected?**
 - The seven-period day will not affect incoming 9th grade core courses and electives.
 - 9th grade transition class will no longer be offered.

- **What is the impact on the number of credits that a student will receive?**
 - Students will still be able to graduate with the number of credits needed based on their graduation plan and selected endorsement pathway.
 - Incoming 9th graders will be able to earn 28 credits during the seven period day over four years. Rising 10th graders will also be able to earn 28 credits over four years.
 - Most rising 11th graders will be able to earn at least 29 credits.
 - Rising 12th graders could have 23 of the 26 credits required for graduation at the end of this school year and will be able to earn 30 credits.
- **When will AP Science Labs be offered?**
 - Science Labs will continue to be offered after school. Adjustments will be considered for students involved in practicums and AP Labs.
- **Will summer school credit for Health and Speech Communication be allowed?**
 - Credits earned during the summer will still be allowed.
- **Will students be allowed to take non-credit classes/off campus periods?**
 - Seniors will still be eligible to request non-credit courses and off campus periods if they have met all requirements.
- **How will multiple program students be affected?**
 - Multiple program students will work closely with their counselor to determine the appropriate choices and decisions based on their graduation plan, endorsement pathway and post high school/college bound needs.
- **Are the Medical Science Academy students still going to get to visit the medical center?**
 - All students who are enrolled in Health Science will have the opportunity to do clinical rotations. The district maintains contractual agreements with various hospitals including several in the Medical Center, Sugar Land, Katy, Richmond/Rosenberg, and Houston.
- **Are the academy internships going away?**
 - Students enrolled in Practicum courses will complete a portion of their course requirements in the classroom and the other portion at a training site. Training sites provide students with either a paid or un-paid learning experience.

Parents and students: This document will be updated as additional frequently asked questions are received. Our administrators, counselors, teachers and staff of Hightower High School are committed to assisting all of our students as we make this transition to the seven-period day. Thank you for your patience and support.