

Student Schedules and Course Changes:

When will my child get their course schedule?

Students in Grades 12 will receive their schedules via email in the 3rd week of August.

Will they be able to make changes to their schedules?

There will be very few cases where we will be able to make changes to student schedules in September.

Why?

The students' schedules are based on the course selections they made in the Spring.

**Students were also given a print out of their selections in May so that they could verify them and bring any needed corrections to the counselors' attention.

These selections are the basis for the school's timetable which consists of over 500 classes. The decision on which courses to run and how we will staff the school is also based on the course selections. Making this giant puzzle even more complicated is the fact that it is done in the context of considering staffing capabilities, room availability, and adhering to class size and composition legislation.

However, if there are extenuating circumstances, Grade 12s will be able to email their counselors to request changes based on the following criteria:

Course changes in September will only be made for extenuating circumstances:

- incomplete schedule
- change in course request due to summer school
- failed a course
- received courses that were neither primary requests or alternates
- received a course they have already taken
- change in post-secondary plans

However, NO course changes will be made for the following reasons:

- Wanting a class in a different block
- Wanting a different elective
- Wanting a different teacher
- Wanting a class with a friend
- Wanting a study block at a different time

**If the change request meets the criteria and the counselor is able to make the change, they will email confirmation back to the student.

Context:

In addition to the general complexities of timetabling, we are required to make our best efforts to balance the classes as per the Supreme Court of Canada decision pertaining to class size and composition language for schools in British Columbia. Generally, most classes cannot exceed a class size of 30 students. In some courses, such as Science, Computer and Business classes, the class size must not exceed 28. Elective courses such as Tech Ed and Home Economics cannot exceed 24 students. Furthermore, any class which has 3 or more students identified with special learning needs or English as an Additional Language students who are level 1 (have very little English language) must be reduced by 2 students. This means that a general class cannot be larger than 28, Science, Computers, and Business classes cannot be larger than 26, and Tech Ed/Home Economics courses cannot be larger than 22. Since Heritage Woods has approximately 140 designated students quite a number of our classes will be reduced. As a result, we have had to add a number of extra classes to our organization making classroom space even tighter. This was the reason for changing our bell schedule last year to make Block 1 a more useable option for additional classes. At this point we have again managed to keep the majority of students scheduled in blocks 2 through 5, but some will attend 1 through 4 and others 1 through 5 depending on their course selections. The classes most likely to go in Block 1 will be those where space is required in a specialty area, such as PE, Home Economics, Band, and Science. Currently, we already have classes such as PE, Band, Red Cross and Foods running in Block 1 both semesters, but may need to add more given the need to meet the new class size and composition requirements.

Thank you for your understanding. Things will work out. Students take a wide variety of courses over the four years and they all add to depth of their journey.

Todd Clerkson

Principal