

THS Frequently Asked Questions – Updated 7-30-20

We will run a 4x4 Block Schedule, with alternating A/B days, so what does this mean?

- The 4x4 block schedule allows us to adapt better to different learning modes and meet the needs of each student, providing more consistency during the COVID 19 pandemic.
- Similar to college, students will focus on a max of 4 credits each semester. Semester-long courses will now be 1 quarter in length. Year-long courses will now be 1 semester in length. Students will still be able to earn 8 credits for the school year.
- Each day, whether home or at school, students will follow the block schedule. Students will be expected to learn and complete their work virtually on alternating days when they are assigned to work at home. Students are expected to be engaged in school work each day.
- When our calendar reflects a five (5) day school week, Fridays will be a virtual learning day for all students with the opportunity for them to come into school for additional support. This will be done by teacher and student requests, similar to TimberWolf Time. The support is available for any content area. This will be an opportunity for additional face-to-face instruction for students who are taking advanced course loads such as PLTW, honors, pre-AP and AP courses.
- The 4x4 schedule helps us to reduce the number of passing times we will have each day and mixing of groups. This will help us address issues with students being overwhelmed with the number of courses they work with at a given time if/when we must provide virtual instruction. This will also help reduce the number of students our teachers will work with at a given time to allow for more individual help and attention.
- We will no longer offer traditional study halls to help further reduce numbers in classrooms. With blended learning environment, the alternate virtual days and Friday intervention time will provide students with appropriate study time. If we are in 100% face-to-face instruction, we will have TimberWolf Time that will allow for extra study time, as well as the additional class time in each subject that may be utilized for work.

How will the enrollment be split to create an alternating A/B schedule?

- We will work with the middle school to split our enrollment alphabet as close to half as possible, to ensure that we have siblings attending school on the same days. We will work with families who have students with different last names to ensure that they share the same attendance days. As of the information we have right now, it looks like we will divide by students with last names A-K and L-Z. However, this is subject to change.
- We explored multiple options such as regions and grade levels for splitting the enrollment. However, the split by alphabet will allow us to reduce the number of students who ride school busses and who are in the middle and high school each day, closer aligning with recommendations made by the Department of Health Services.

Can my child sign up for a Youth Apprenticeship (School-to-Work)?

- This is the only way students will be able to reduce their course schedule in order to be able to work during the school day, whether students are working virtually or in-person.
- This option is only available for junior and senior students.

- Students are able to sign up for a Youth Apprenticeship as a capstone for a Career & Technical Education pathway of study (i.e. a student must take two metals-manufacturing courses if they look to do a Youth Apprenticeship for welding).
- Being enrolled in a pathway involves two-or more courses in an aligned program of study (career-based instruction such as engineering, business, accounting, foods, child care, vet science, automotive, etc.). A student can be concurrently enrolled in a course (the student is taking the second course of a career pathway at the same time they are doing their Youth Apprenticeship) to be eligible.
- Students can leave school for a max of 2 block class periods each day to work, and it must be a Youth Apprenticeship. Students will receive a max of 2 credits for the year for their Youth Apprenticeship (the state may be changing this to a 1-credit max – we will know more before the start of the year).

What if I want my child to enroll in a virtual-only option? What will this look like?

- You can enroll in the virtual-only option. An electronic sign-up form will be sent on August 7th.
- If you have filled out the 2020-21 Tomah High School Parent Survey and selected virtual as your preferred method of instruction, we will follow-up with you on this after August 7th as well.
- Students will be able to watch teacher lessons/lectures live or on demand during their assigned block times (virtual students will have to follow the same block schedule at home). Students will also be given assigned times when they will have to check in with their teachers through Schoology and/or Microsoft Teams, to ensure that students understand the material taught. All work will be provided to students through Schoology. Students will turn in all work through Schoology as well.

Can my child come into the high school on Fridays to get help on the intervention and advance instruction days, if they are enrolled as a virtual student?

- Yes, students can request that they come in on Fridays for additional help if needed. Directions for requesting assistance on Fridays will be provided at the beginning of the school year.
- Students will have to follow building safety protocols when attending on Fridays. These safety protocols will be provided at the beginning of the school year.

Can I change from the virtual-only option to the in-person (hybrid) option, or vice-versa?

- Yes, we will begin the year by having students commit to enrolling in courses as a virtual student or as an in-person (hybrid/blended) student. We will look to provide students/parents/guardians with the option of changing this enrollment at the beginning of each quarter. However, these details are still being worked out. We will have a more solidified plan for how to provide options for change by the end of the first quarter. This will allow us to adjust to the comfort level of the family as the year progresses.

What if I want to have my child enroll as a virtual student but I don't have strong enough internet to support this?

- As part of the virtual learning enrollment process, we will look at what barriers exist (most likely - access to technology) which hinders a student from being successful with the virtual learning

platform. We will work with families to help reduce barriers, and create adaptations if necessary, to help students be successful with virtual learning.

Will this hybrid/blended schedule last all year?

- We hope not. It is our first preference to be able to engage and teach students face-to-face every day. If we are able to get back to school on a regular basis, we will follow the attached draft 100% back to face-to-face instruction schedule. This will allow us to keep the 4x4 block schedule to help students consistently manage their course load throughout the year.

Additional Questions – 7/30/20

What will the first two weeks look like?

Here is the projected school schedule for the first two weeks of school at the high school (and middle school) since there will only be four school days during each of those weeks. The assigned groups, A-Day or B-Day, will be in school on the dates shared below. When a group is not assigned to be in school, these students will be expected to learn and work virtually from home. While teaching with a hybrid model: A-Day students will always come in for in-person instruction on Mondays and Wednesdays; B-Day students will always come in for in-person instruction on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In the event that we do not come to school on Monday, the A-Day students will be assigned to attend in-person on Fridays. Of course, just like everything else I have shared so far, this is subject to change.

Week 1:

Tuesday, September 1st - B-Day (L-Z)

Wednesday, September 2nd - A-Day (A-K)

Thursday, September 3rd - B-Day (L-Z)

Friday, September 4th - A-Day (A-K) - NO INTERVENTION/COLLAB DAY

Week 2:

Tuesday, September 8th - B-Day (L-Z)

Wednesday, September 9th - A-Day (A-K)

Thursday, September 10th - B-Day (L-Z)

Friday, September 11th - A-Day (A-K) - NO INTERVENTION/COLLAB DAY

Can we change which days my child attends school?

No, not at this time. However, we recognize that there are families who have children with different last names. If this is the case, we will work with your family to ensure that your children attend school on the same days.

Can my student participate in activities and/or athletics if they are enrolled to attend courses virtually?

At the high school, you have to be enrolled in the Tomah Area School District in order to be eligible to participate in activities/athletics. Therefore, your student must be enrolled in a virtual program provided by the TASD. Please contact the activities department if you have any questions/concerns about eligibility.

Will we have Fall sports/activities?

Our activities department and district administration team is currently working with the Monroe County Health Department and the Lacrosse County Health Department to develop a procedures for play, for each Fall sport. This will be available for students/parents/guardians within the next week or so.

Will students be issued a device?

Yes, students will be assigned a Chromebook before the start of the year. More details will be provided about distribution of these devices.

Does my child have to use a school-issued device?

No, your child can use a personal device but the school assumes no responsibilities for the device.

Will we have a Freshman Orientation?

Yes, this will be entirely virtual. The Freshman Orientation will take place on Monday, August 24th. The event is projected to run from 10:00am to noon. Details for the virtual orientation program will be emailed out closer to the day of the event.

How will the high school be creating schedules?

Registration information obtained earlier in the spring will be used to generate modified student schedules. If a student requested a study hall, we will replace that with one of the alternate courses they had elected.

Can my child change their schedule?

Once the schedule is set and staff is hired, it becomes extremely difficult to honor course change requests and still maintain the integrity of the master schedule. Students received a copy of their course list in Spring 2020 and had the opportunity to make corrections by June 3, 2020. Up until June 3, 2020, students were able to submit any course change requests and teacher requests for consideration.

Therefore, any new schedule changes submitted must be for one of the following reasons, otherwise it will not be accepted:

1. Course Upgrade: A schedule change request form, applying for a class upgrade, must be submitted by DAY 5 of the semester the course is offered in. Teacher approval must be obtained for the addition of an upgraded class. Upgraded class examples include dropping an elective for an academic course, changing from regular level to advanced level courses, and adding courses, work experience or a youth apprenticeship which align with an identified career pathway.
2. Complete Graduation Requirements
3. The student is placed incorrectly in a class or lacks prerequisites or teacher recommendation

Will my children be allowed to go home or leave campus for lunch?

This has not been determined yet. It has been proposed to the Board of Education to have campus closed for lunch when the high school is in a blended (virtual and in-person) format, based on recommendations by the Department of Health Services to stop communal dining with multiple

classrooms and to have dining occur in the classroom. I will have an answer to share during the next email update.

How can my student do school-to-work so that they are not in class all day, but are able to work too?

I was corrected after my previous email regarding this. Juniors and Seniors are eligible to enroll in a Youth Apprenticeship (school-to-work). You will need to connect with your child's counselor to see if they are eligible for a Youth Apprenticeship. Students who enroll in a Youth Apprenticeship will be allowed to work for a max of two block class periods each day (half of a school day). Students will be able to earn a max of two credits for the entire school year.

Will we be getting a supply list for the high school?

We encourage students to bring a notebook and pen or pencil with them during their first week. Teachers will provide a syllabus for each course which will give details for additional supplies if needed.