



MADONNA HIGH SCHOOL

150 Michael Way, Weirton, WV 26062
(304) 723-0545 • Fax (304) 723-0564
www.weirtonmadonna.org

Madonna High School Schedule FAQs

Is Madonna moving to a block schedule?

Madonna will be moving to a **MODIFIED** A/B Block with **“Skinny”**. We will implement an alternating A/B Block schedule four days a week, with a fifth “skinny” standard period day where students go to all their classes. Students take eight classes a year (seniors will have 6-7 depending on college course load), attending half their classes for a longer block of time (80 minutes) two days a week, and the other half of their classes two other days in the week. On a fifth day (Madonna is using Wednesday to not conflict with Mass schedule), students attend all their classes with each class lasting a shorter duration of time (a “skinny” period day).

Why is this change being made?

With the current 47 minute class period, many things need to happen: take attendance, settle the class down, collect homework, pass out worksheets, begin a group discussion, separate the students into groups, shuffle the desks around, log in to the computers, complete labs and document results, then pack everything back up. Teaching can never happen the full class time and often results in extra homework simply to keep our students flourishing academically.

What are the benefits to moving to a modified block schedule?

1. Teachers will have endless options with the extra time in a modified block schedule. Some days might include a class lecture and a group discussion time. Other days might consist of independent reading time and a group presentation. In science and math classes, there can be more of much needed lab time. There can be time for enriching firsthand, hands-on project work done in class. There may be opportunities for online academic enrichment assignments given that can be done in class.
2. Teachers are able to utilize more varied or innovative instructional techniques when class periods are longer—they can cover more content with fewer interruptions, provide students with more attention and one-on-one support, and they can engage students in more sustained, in-depth learning activities, including more sophisticated projects, teamwork-based exercises, or other activities that could not be easily completed in 47 minutes. There is time for variety during the class, none of which can happen in 47 minutes.
3. During a 47-minute class period, teachers often only have time for a lecture, leaving students bored, confused and unsure of how to apply the knowledge they were just given. With the block, students have time not only to be introduced to the material but also to complete a full activity where they can apply the information they received and discuss the knowledge immediately with the teacher.



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4. In a traditional eight-period day teachers may need to prepare for up to six to seven courses daily. Consequently, teachers may be forced to rush the grading of work, provide less substantive feedback to students, or hastily plan and organize lessons.
5. Students must also prepare for more courses in a traditional eight-period day, which can be overwhelming and have an adverse impact on learning. For example, homework assignments can often be for six or more classes on a given night, rather than four, causing unnecessary stress on the students and thus their ability to adequately complete each class homework assignment and grasp the concepts that were presented in class.
6. Students also spend more time (30+ minutes) in the hallways and moving between classes in an eight-period day, which further reduces the total amount of the school day that can be devoted to learning and may also increase disciplinary issues.