



RIVERDALE
HIGH SCHOOL

New practices concerning scheduling choices and changes

Schedule changes:

When will I receive my schedule for the coming school year?

Schedules for the first trimester of the school year will be available at the Registration Fair in August. Schedules are only available to registered students. A student is registered after parents complete and sign the annual Registration Form.

When am I allowed to change my schedule?

Schedule change requests must be made by the end of the first full week of each trimester, with the exception of seniors who must commit to their annual schedules by the last five school days of October.

Under what circumstances will I find the school resisting my schedule change request?

- When you are simply trying to have classes with friends.
- When you are trying to avoid a certain teacher because of personal preference or rumors about a teacher.
- When you are trying to avoid your education or are underestimating yourself.
- When your only motivation is to protect your Grade Point Average (“I might not get an A in this class, and I currently have a 4.0!”)
- When you have inappropriately put off required courses (such as Health or P.E.).

Can I ever change my schedule after these dates?

Schedule change requests will be considered any time there are compelling extenuating circumstances involved.

When I drop a class, is it just erased from my transcript?

After students have been in a class for two weeks, either a WF or a WX will be placed on the transcript upon withdrawal. WF indicates “withdrawal fail.” WX indicates “withdrawal due to medical reasons.” Prior to the two-week deadline, classes will not appear on the transcript.

Senior scheduling practices:

There are two reasons for establishing different scheduling deadlines during senior year:

- Colleges request that we do not change senior schedules once they have committed to classes on their Common Application form. Otherwise, students will sometimes claim that they will be taking challenging classes throughout the senior year, only to attempt to withdraw from them after college acceptances are received. We insist that students take the classes that helped get them into college.
- Yearly school staffing and other fiscal decisions are based partly on forecasting requests that students make each spring. For example, students will often decide to not take the third trimester of Advanced Calculus because they are “tired of school.” We can make only limited schedule change requests once staffing decisions and course assignments have been made, and seniors tend to request more last-minute, whim-based schedule changes.

Thus, we have established the following policies:

- **Senior schedule changes must be made by the last five school days of October.** Seniors will receive their full year schedule in September. Be thoughtful about your senior schedule when you receive it and make changes before the deadline. It is your responsibility to inform yourself about classes, talking with teachers and other students, so you are not surprised by the context, the teacher style or what they demand later in the year.
- **Extraordinary circumstances will be considered:** Scheduling requests will be considered if there are compelling and well-documented reason for making them. Requests must be made according to the standard protocols, and must be approved by parents and the Principal.
- **Can I request schedule changes after the October deadline without a compelling case?** No.
- **Required CORE classes for senior year are:** Geology and Physics; English 12A (Literary Criticism or 20th Century Literature) and an English 12B choice; the math classes that the math department recommends for you; History 12A and 12B (one of these can be replaced by a Western Civilization class); and graduation requirements that you have not fulfilled for ART, LANGUAGE, HEALTH and PE.
- **Is there a way to avoid taking these classes?** No. Unless you are graduating with an Oregon Standard or Modified Diploma.
- **Colleges will always find out about schedule changes that are made after college applications are submitted,** and have been known to rescind acceptances based on the discrepancy between submitted Common Application information and final year transcript.
- **What if there is a significant, life-changing event during senior year?** Work with the counselor to redesign the student’s Education Plan. This document, when approved by the Principal, has the power to realign a student’s path through high school.
- **Students may NOT change to the Oregon Standard Diploma during senior year,** unless there are compelling circumstances. Students specifically cannot change to the Oregon Standard Diploma because they are not passing classes required for the Riverdale Diploma. They can, however, graduate with an Oregon Standard Diploma, without officially changing diploma type, if they are ONE class short of the standard Riverdale graduation requirements.