

Proposal for Block Scheduling

Tupelo High School

Block Scheduling Team Members

- Karen Barclay-Fine Arts
- Bethany Bishop-English
- Beverly Brister-SPED
- Timothy Carter-History and AP
- Susan Dudley-SPED
- Ahsaki Games-Math
- Christy Jordan-Vocational
- Clint Jordan-History and AP
- Joni Nolan-Counseling
- Charles Parker-Foreign Language
- Patricia Parker-Fine Arts
- Tommy Smith-Foreign Language
- Lee Stratton-Administration
- Evet Topp-Administration
- Jeramy Turner-History and AP
- Teresa Ware- Science and AP
- Vance Wiggington-Band
- Felicia Woods-English

Currently at THS

- Classes are 50 minutes with 5 minutes between each class
- Students schedule 7 classes and 1 lunch each year unless they are behind- then 8 classes and no lunch
 - Some students are given permission to schedule 8 classes and no lunch for other reasons
- Lunch is 50 minutes except 9th grade. 9th grade lunch is split into two 25 minute sessions

Why Change to the 4 X 4 Block ?

- Flexibility in scheduling to **meet student needs** especially in state tested subject areas and AP classes (**remediation and prerequisites**)-use common assessments, benchmarks, and other tests to help make scheduling decisions
- Students will not be taking three high stakes subject area tests in the same week of their sophomore year
 - Resulting in increased test scores and higher pass rates in subject area tests =increased graduation rate
- Increased planning time for teachers
- Decrease in the number of students per day per teacher by nearly 1/2
- Block meetings vs Faculty Conferences- allows for focused professional development

Schools Visited

- The schools we visited were chosen because they most closely match THS in size and demographics and all are High Performing districts
 - Horn Lake High School
 - Southaven High School
 - Center Hill High School

Systems and Practices in the Schools Visited

- Students not ready for grade level core subjects are enrolled in a **compensatory/remedial courses in the Fall**
- **Rescheduling students** who are enrolled in Subject Area Test Courses before deadlines (Oct.1, March 1)**if the student is not mastering objectives** -much easier to do in a block
 - Algebra I- 98% pass rate and 201 QDI- Horn Lake
- **Training** program-KAGAN- to train faculty to coordinate 90 minutes blocks of time
 - THS purchased iCore-won't replace training but a good resource
- revisited discipline ladders-especially for tardies
- revisited daily attendance policy

Systems in Place, continued

- Seniors who **meet criteria**-2 blocks each semester
 - examples of criteria-on time to graduate, all tests passed, certain GPA, enrollment in higher ed or proof of job, permission by legal guardian
 - late arrival or early dismissal
 - waiver signed by parents- understand my student will leave early, has a ride, if not will be placed in class
- Juniors who **meet criteria**-3 blocks each semester
- Band 1st block-year round
- **Chorus**
- Athletics 4th block or after school

Goals

- Align key reform goals and continuously improve by creating a schedule that will allow students to time for remediation or enrichment
- Involve the staff, students, and school community in understanding block scheduling
 - Staff involvement before and after school visits
 - **“Block nights” @THS and community locations-dates -Feb 8 THS Feb 24 Haven Acres Boys and Girls Club**
- Involve the staff, students, and school community in decision making
- Begin scheduling students asap
- Monitor differential impact on all levels of students
- Focus professional development and support teachers
- Ensure rigorous standards, appropriate instruction, and high expectations for **all** students

Essential Types of Professional Development

- Making effective use of class time
- Discipline Specific Planning-
- Pacing Guides, Common Assessments
- Curriculum Alignment

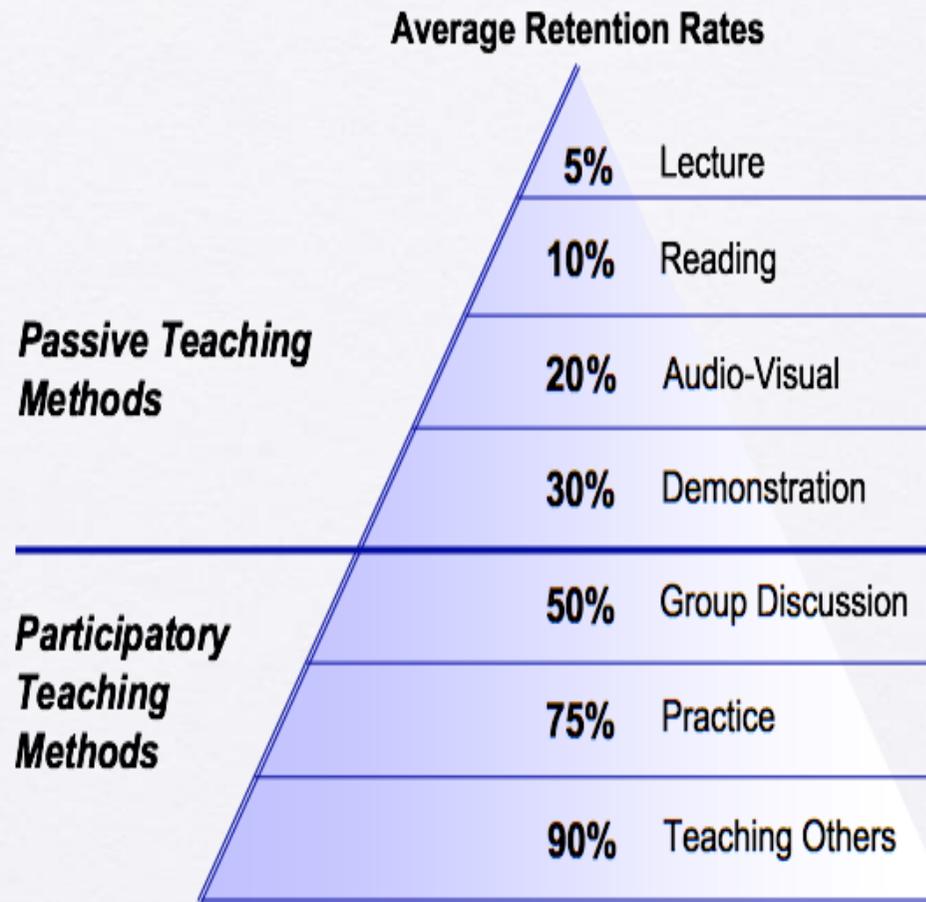
There are many reasons these schools are High Performing

- Reasons are systemic and built around Block scheduling
 - Programs such as Read 180
 - Training such as KAGAN-\$449 per teacher- 3 sessions- March, April, May
 - Software such as APEX-per seat fee
 - used for credit recovery and for AP reviews
 - True Alternative schools- minimized disruptions in instructional time for students in class

2 Scheduling Options

	90 minute classes	95 minute classes
1st block	7:45-9:15	7:45-9:20
2nd block	9:20-10:50	9:25-11:00
3rd block	10:55-12:55 A lunch 10:55-11:25 B lunch 11:25-11:55 C lunch 11:55-12:25 D lunch 12:25-12:55	11:05-1:10 A lunch 11:05-11:35 B lunch 11:40-12:10 C lunch 12:10-12:40 D lunch 12:40-1:10
4th block	1:00-2:30	1:15-2:50
Extended School Day	2:45-3:45	3:00-4:00

The Learning Pyramid*



*Adapted from National Training Laboratories. Bethel, Maine

Sample Schedules

- Provided as hard copies- Student's A, B, C, and D

Student A
if block scheduling was available

9th grade

Semester 1	Semester 2
Read 180/Compensatory	English 1
Ms. Studies/Health	Science Skills
Art 1	World Geo/PE
Transition to Alg	Algebra 1

10th grade

Semester 1	Semester 2
Compensatory/English1	English 10-removed
Biology	Child Dev/Debate
Theatre	PE/Elective
World History	World History

11th grade

Semester 1	Semester 2
English 10	US History
Economics/Env Science	English 11
ACT Prep/Speech	Sociology/Zoology
Spanish 1	Spanish 2

12th grade

Semester 1	Semester 2
Physical Science	Chemistry
Algebra 2	Culm Project/Elective
Theatre	Algebra 2
Gov/ Personal Finance	Elective