



Aligning Time with What Matters Most

Understanding the NBAPS Schedule.....



In this presentation we will share...

- Choice Not Chance and the Bold Vision of the Big Blur
- History of Carnegie units/credits
- Overview of state requirements, registration and scheduling process
- Timeline of events that lead to creating school schedule
- Navigating system change
- Norse Redesign Update
- Discussion





History of Carnegie Unit

- **Origin (1906):** The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching established the **Carnegie Unit** as a way to standardize high school education and define eligibility for college admission.
- **Definition:** A Carnegie Unit represented **120 hours of instruction** over the course of a school year (about one hour per day, five days per week, for 36 weeks).
- **Purpose:** Created to ensure consistency across schools and to provide a measurable way for colleges to judge student readiness.
- **Impact:** Became the **foundation for high school credits**—students needed a set number of units across core subjects to graduate.
- **Expansion:** By the mid-20th century, nearly all U.S. high schools and colleges used Carnegie Units to track progress and set graduation requirements.
- **Criticism:** Over time, educators argued the system emphasized “**seat time**” over mastery of skills and learning outcomes.
- **Modern Shifts:** Many states and districts are moving toward **competency-based education** or **credit flexibility**, but Carnegie Units remain the default framework in most schools.



Choice Not Chance In action

- **New Bell Schedule** that supports CNC:

NBAHS 25-26 7-PERIOD DAY		
1	7:55-8:43	
2	8:48-9:36	
3	9:41-10:29	
4	10:34-11:22	
5	11:27-12:45	
LUNCH A	LUNCH B	LUNCH C
LUNCH 11:27-11:55	CLASS 11:27-11:55	CLASS 11:27-11:55
CLASS 11:57-12:45	LUNCH 11:57-12:45	LUNCH 11:57-12:45
6	12:50-1:38	
7	1:43-2:31	

NBAHS 25-26 WED/THURS BLOCK		
W	TH	
1	2	7:55-9:22
3	ADV	9:28-10:55
5	4	11:01-12:58
LUNCH A	LUNCH B	LUNCH C
LUNCH 11:01-11:30	CLASS 11:01-11:30	CLASS 11:01-11:30
CLASS 11:31-12:30	LUNCH 11:31-12:30	CLASS 11:31-12:30
7	6	1:04-2:31

- **Advisory period** - Once a week 20 min gives space for learners to work inside SchoolLinks (College and Career Readiness Tool)
- **Anchor Time** - Each week students are provided with 60 minutes of time (Extension, Intervention, Passion Projects, Worktime, or just have Fun!)
- **SchoolLinks** - Comprehensive College and Career Readiness Tool

Choice...Not Chance

The high school experience is all about transitioning from a teenager to a young adult. During this transition the ownership of choices that you make on a regular basis now shifts from the adults in your life to YOU! Successful people take time to reflect on their own strengths and interests. When you come to realize what these are, your future path becomes more clear. You no longer feel like school is something that is done TO YOU; it is something that you now have some ownership and control over. I like to call this "Choice, Not Chance."

In this registration guide, you will find a blend of courses that you are required to take and a plethora of elective courses that you have the opportunity to take. Do not take this opportunity lightly, as you take ownership of your future. Here at NBAHS, we have nearly 20 courses that you can earn college and high school credits for at no cost to you. We also have a growing number of Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses that allow you to learn specific career skills. Finally, we have an expanding Work Based Learning Program called Viking Bridge where you can earn high school credits, get paid AND get real life experience while interning with one of our dozens of local industry partners.

As educators, our chief goal is to prepare each of you to be College and/or Career ready. If your career interest leads you to a 2 or 4 year institution, military or directly to the work force, we have courses here at NBAHS to prepare you for that path. The choice is yours! Ask questions, seek advice, the future is right in front of you. Seize it!

SKOL!

Clint Link

Clint Link
Principal NBAHS



State Requirements For Graduation



Credit Requirements (Minnesota Statutes § 120B.024)

Minnesota public high school students must complete a **minimum of 23.5 credits**, distributed across specific subject areas as follows:

- **4 credits in English Language Arts**, covering all ELA academic standards
- **3 credits in Mathematics**, including Algebra II or an equivalent that meets math standards
- **3 credits in Science**, which must include:
 - Earth and space science
 - Life science
 - Chemistry or physics
- **3½ credits in Social Studies**, including US history, geography, government & citizenship, world history, and economics. For students who began 9th grade in **2024–25 or later**, this includes **at least 1 credit in government and citizenship** in grades 11 or 12
- **1 credit in the Arts**, meeting applicable standards
- **Physical Education**—credit amount and standards set at the **local district level**
- **Health Education**—credit amount and standards set by **local districts**
- **7 elective credits**, allowing for flexibility and student choice



School Daily Schedule



Teachers - Teach 6 of 7 periods each day (Prep the other period)

Students - Attend and pass classes that are required for graduation (student could receive a maximum of 7 credits per year or 28 total credits)

Require Courses

- 9th graders - (Core 4, Viking Seminar, and 2 electives)
- 10th graders - (Core 4 and 3.5 electives)
- 11th graders - (Core 4 and 3 electives)
- 12th graders - (1.0 English, 1.0 Social Studies)

CLASS OF 2026 NORTH BRANCH AREA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CHECKLIST

Name: _____ Student ID: _____

4 Year Plan:
Fill in the Courses you will take each year

1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
English 9	English 9
Math	Math
World History	World History
Physical Science	Physical Science
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective

10th Grade

1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
English 10	English 10
Math	Math
Biology	Biology
Geography	Elective
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective

11th Grade

1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
English	English
Math	Math
Chemistry/Physics	Chemistry/Physics
Social Studies	Social Studies
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective

12th Grade

1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
English	English
Social Studies	Social Studies
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective

Subject Graduation Requirements

Subject	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Total
English					4 Credits
Math					3 Credits
Physical Science					1 Credit
Biology					1 Credit
Chemistry or Physics					1 Credit
World History					1 Credit
Geography					1 Credit
US History					1 Credit
American Government & Citizenship					1 Credit
Economics					1 Credit
PE					1 Credit
Health					1 Credit
Art					1 Credit
Electives					8 Credits

Directions: Put the letter grade in the appropriate box after meeting that requirement. All white boxes must be filled in for graduation. Anything filled in a subject area in the gray boxes will count as elective credits.



Schedule Timeline

- October/November - **New Course Proposals and Removal of Old Course**
- November/December - **Registration Guide Work** (Updates)
- January - **Student and Family Communication and Registration**
- February - **Sections of Course** (Which courses are we running and which are we not. How many sections of each, bring dept leads into this conversation)
- March - **Preliminary Schedule Built**
- April - **Discussion with Dept Leads Proposed Schedule**
- May - **Scheduling of Students**
- June - **Communication of Schedule with Staff**
- August - **Release of Schedules to Students**

Teacher Testimonial

Having been able to work on as a team in implementing a new bell schedule as well as the Master Schedule inside this bell schedule, school staff having earlier access to the information has been helpful for everyone by giving extra time to plan and get ready for the year ahead. Students and families having the opportunity to see schedules and make adjustments prior to the end of August will allow for a smoother start to the school year as the majority of schedule changes were made prior to September and the start of the year.



- Rachel Bailey, Special Education Teacher

Teacher Testimonial

Beginning in October, a group of high school staff began researching various schedules used at high schools around Minnesota. We intentionally looked at schedules that were quite different, listed their benefits and drawbacks, and thought about how each might work to meet our needs and goals. We reached out to staff at some of the schools whose schedules we were considering and asked them for their thoughts on their schedule, focusing on successes and challenges. Overall, this process was lengthy, but resulted in our group coming to a recommendation with a schedule we hope will be best for student learning.



- Laura Roth, Social Studies Teacher



Successful Change Management

- Collaboration at our Core
 - Establish Viking Voyageurs Team
 - Bringing in department leaders to help shape the schedule
 - Making this part of the every month work and not an event
- Upcoming First Day of School:
 - NBAHS has been in a redesign process for the past five years
 - We continue to make progress towards our bold Choice not Chance Vision
 - While we have added many courses over the past five years that open doors for student exploration and college credits, singleton courses require individualized scheduling. This used to take up the first two weeks of school.
 - To begin this year, **95%** of our students have full schedules for both semesters
 - **100%** of our students have full schedules for Semester 1
 - This allows our counselors to **be counselors**, not focused on schedule adjustments, right from the first day of school



Other Exciting Changes For Upcoming School Year

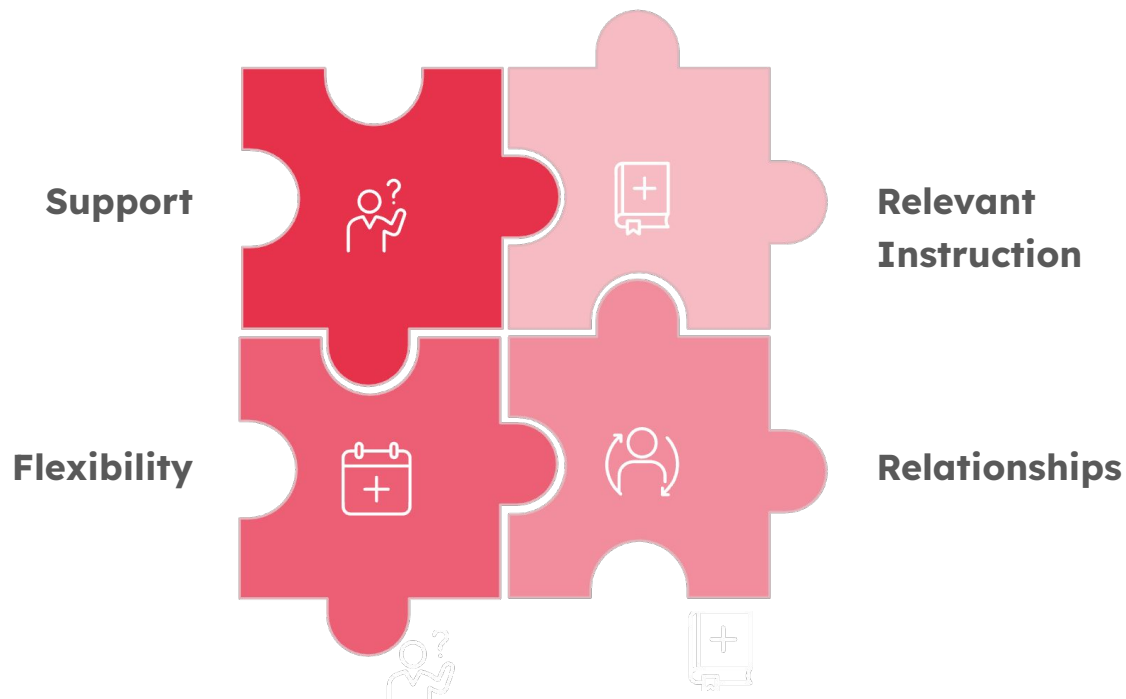
- Enhancing Tier 2 and 3 Supports with addition of Engagement Coach and Addiction Coach.
- Addition of Healthcare Career Pathway beginning 2nd Semester!
- Launch of SchoolLinks with our industry partners, families, students and staff.
- Introduction of Anchor Time into our weekly schedule.



Norse Redesign Update



Students engage in hands-on, high-interest learning that builds real-world skills and meaningful academic engagement through small-group instruction, project-based learning, and individualized plans. We pair high expectations with high support, empowering students to excel academically, prepare for life after graduation, and thrive in a safe, respectful environment.



Discussion

