



Lincoln High School

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WR Lincoln High School

www.wrps.org/schools/lincoln



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Dear LHS Student, Parent, or Guardian,

On Monday, September 8, 2014, the Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools Board of Education unanimously voted to adopt a trimester schedule at Lincoln High School beginning in the 2015-16 school year. The change to a trimester schedule was based upon the recommendation of a LHS scheduling committee that has been meeting for a year focusing on scheduling options that allow us to meet our stated mission of achieving "excellence in academics, activities, citizenship, and relationships."

I would like to provide you with some historical context of this decision and the decision-making process. Beginning in the 2013-14 school year our teaching staff moved from teaching 5 out of 7 periods per day with a sixth period supervising student areas (eg. study hall, tutoring center, etc.) to teaching 6 out of 7 periods. This change led to a direct reduction of available time to meet individually with students who are struggling, as well as those looking for enrichment opportunities. This loss of time also impacted our ability to provide the high quality instruction our students and community have become accustomed. Thus, an examination of our current schedule and possible scheduling options started with a focus on providing the highest quality of instruction for our students.

During the process, our committee reviewed over ten different scheduling options completed in-depth research on two scheduling options to compare them to our current 7 period day schedule. Our focus was on:

- providing additional opportunities to students (allowing them to earn more than 7 credits per school year),
- providing extended time for our curriculum and standards,
- allocating the resource time for our lab classes as well as our STEM/Project Lead The Way classes,
- developing deeper relationships with our students,
- giving more effective and timely feedback on assignments,
- increasing our guided practice opportunities in the classroom,
- meeting the needs of new state graduation requirements, and
- reviewing schedules that provided a neutral or near neutral budget impact.

As our work focused on the trimester schedule, students, staff, administration, and a school board member visited two trimester high schools in the State of Wisconsin--West DePere and Mequon-Homestead. After these visits and subsequent research, the committee was convinced this schedule met the parameters above. An update to the School Board was done in January 2014. Additionally, there was a parent presentation held in March 2014, a student presentation and student focus groups in April/May 2014, as well as faculty meetings and discussion. In May of 2014, the LHS faculty voted 83.1 percent in favor of a trimester block schedule, with 16.9 percent opposed.

For the 2015-16 school year, students will have the opportunity to register for up to 7 ½ credits which will allow them to earn an additional 1 ½ credits during their LHS career. Students will have four or five, seventy minute classes for twelve weeks each trimester. Most current year-long classes will be two trimesters and current semester classes will be one trimester. Many of our music classes will lengthen to three trimesters and some technical education courses will have some changes. Exact details of these courses will be listed in the LHS Program of Study booklet published in January 2015.

This change to a trimester schedule will be new to all of us at Lincoln, but I am extremely confident that we are prepared and ready to meet the new demands placed upon us. Throughout the year we will continue to update you through our monthly newsletters. As I stated above, it is our mission to achieve excellence for each and every student, and we firmly believe that moving to the trimester schedule will strengthen our already strong academic record.

Proud To Be The Red & White of Rapids,

Ronald A. Rasmussen
Principal

To gain more information on the trimester, please visit http://www.wrps.org/schools/lincoln/lhs_trimester.cfm