

## Frequently Asked Questions about Andover High School

### 7+H Schedule

**Q: Why is the schedule changing at Andover High School (AHS)?**

**A:** The schedule at AHS is changing from a 4x4 semesterized block schedule to a modern 7+H year-long rotating schedule for a number of reasons. The 7+H schedule will allow both students and teachers more time with subject material since classes will be offered the entire year, thereby reducing gaps in learning. The 7+H schedule also adds a level of personalization, academic support during the school day, and an advisory period. These are all important opportunities for students that are simply not available with the current schedule. The 7+H schedule creates additional opportunities for authentic learning and innovative programming within the larger community.

Most of the top school districts in Massachusetts have already implemented year-long rotating schedules. The implementation of the 7+H schedule at AHS would allow us to keep pace with other top districts in Massachusetts.

**Q: What does the 7+H schedule look like?**

**A:** The 7+H schedule is a year-long, 8-day rotating schedule consisting of 5 periods per day with a half hour for lunch. Here is a blank schedule.

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
7:44 – 8:44 60 MIN	A1	B1	A2	B2	C3	A4	B4	C5
8:48 – 10:03 75 MIN	C1	D1	H2	A3	B3	H4	A5	B5
10:07 – 11:07 60 MIN	H1	F1	D2	H3	F3	E4	D4	H5
11:07 – 1:01 (LUNCH) 80 MIN	E1	G2	C2	G3	D3	F4	E5	F5
1:05 - 2:05 60 MIN	G1	E2	F2	E3	G4	C4	G5	D5
DROP	B, D, F	A, C, H	B, E, G	C, D, F	A, E, H	B, D, G	C, F, H	A, E, G

**Q: How long will each class be with the 7+H schedule?**

**A:** The total “classroom” hours will be the same. Students will be scheduled for 7 classes plus H Block. The Blocks will vary from 60, 75, and 80 minute blocks. To make sure each course has the same number of minutes per cycle, there needs to be an 8-day cycle. Most classes have one 80, one 75, and three 60. Any discrepancy of minutes will be made up during our 6 half days where we will manipulate the blocks on the half days to equalize time for all blocks.

A Block: three 60 and two 75

B Block: three 60 and two 75

C Block: three 60 and one 75, and one 80

D Block: three 60, one 75 and one 80

E Block: three 60, and two 80

F Block: three 60, and two 80

G Block: three 60, and two 80

H Block: three 60, two 75

The variation is to accommodate a morning and afternoon rotation to support student internships and externships. Any variation in course minutes will be equalized during half days.

**Q: How many days are in the rotation?**

**A:** 8

**Q: How would the number of possible electives available to a student change from the current to 7+H schedule?**

**A:** The number of electives will increase with the introduction of ½ credit elective classes that are being introduced in English and Social Studies

**Q: How would the number of "credits" change from the current schedule to the 7+H schedule?**

**A:** Currently students are required to attain 26 credits. The current requirements for the Class of 2017 are 4 ELA, 4 Math, 3 Science, 2 Social Studies, 2 Foreign Language, 1 Health, 1 PE, 1 ½ Fine Arts and Digital Learning, 7 ½ Electives (core and elective courses)

In the 7+H schedule students will be required to attain 24 credits. The current requirements for the Class of 2020 will be 4 ELA, 4 Math, 3 Science, 3 Social Studies, 2 Foreign Language, 1 Health, 1 PE, 1 ½ Fine Arts and Digital Learning, 5 ½ Electives (core and elective courses).

**Q: Currently students can take 7.5 to 8 credits, how many credits will students take in the**

**7+H schedule?**

**A:** In the 7+H schedule, students will take 7 credits during the school day. The 8th period (H Block) will be for personalization and advisory. Andover High School will be joining a virtual high school consortium in order to allow some students to take courses not offered during the regular school day.

**Q: How would the number of student classroom learning hours change from the current to 7+H schedule?**

**A:** The number of hours will not change; it will simply be extended to 180 days in the year-long rotating 7+H schedule. In the current, semesterized block schedule, year-long classes are compacted into 90 days for one credit courses or for 45 days for half credit classes.

**Q: How would the number of teaching hours change from the current to 7+H schedule?**

**A:** Teachers will continue to have 75% of their time as contact time with students. Currently teachers teach 75% of their time in graded courses by teaching three out of the four blocks. In the 7+H schedule teachers will be teaching 71% of their time or five out of seven blocks and the other 4% will be their H Block responsibilities. The change is that H Block will not be a graded course, but rather an opportunity for students to personalize their learning for support and enrichment.

**Q: How will the 7+H schedule improve life for students?**

**A:** The 7+H schedule allows students to obtain classroom content at half the current pace. Student will have more opportunities to analyze and synthesize material for a deeper understanding. What they are learning in ninety days is now going to be taught over one hundred and eighty days.

In addition, the 7+H schedule will provide students with opportunities in the school day to personalize their learning. Another benefit is that through H1, students will have an adult/teacher/administrator in the building, aside from their guidance counselor, who knows them well and can follow them throughout their high school career to help them make educational decisions. H1 will become our advisory time where students will work on executive functioning skills, social emotional learning, goal setting, and other skills designed to make them more successful academically.

**Q: How will the 7+H schedule improve life for teachers?**

**A:** With 7+H, teachers will reduce their course loads from teaching 6 courses a year to 5. In addition, they will also be involved in professional collaborative learning groups, where they can work on student assessments; analyze student work; prepare lessons; and plan for other school and district initiatives.

Another benefit is that teachers will keep their students and follow them throughout an entire school year, instead of over a single semester. They will not have to restart mid-year with a new group of students as with the current schedule. The continuity 7+H offers may foster stronger student/teacher relationships. Teachers will get to know their students on a deeper level; students will benefit from having the same teacher across the year and be familiar with their

teaching methods, systems and expectations.

H2-5 will give teachers the opportunity to go in-depth in areas of mutual interest with students. Teachers can now provide academic support during the school day and recapture some of the classroom time previously given to students to work on projects during class because now students can work on these projects during H-block.

School counselors will have the added classroom access to students, being able to have time during the school day to teach their developmental guidance curriculum to all students in their caseload.

**Q: How will 7+H improve life for parents?**

**A:** The 7+H has many benefits for parents as well. By the time students return home from their school day, parents can be assured that their child has received academic support from teachers; ample time to complete projects at school, rather than at home; social-emotional support during the school day from their counselors; and a single, consistent set of teachers for the entire school year.

**Q: Do music/arts classes outside of the regular school day (APS opportunities including show choir, band, jazz band, orchestra, etc.) count as high school credit? If no, why?**

**A:** They currently count as elective credits and will continue to count as elective credits. They do not, however, satisfy the required Carnegie units in Fine Arts. This is because they do not count as “Time on Learning” since they take place outside of the school day.

**Q: Will 7+H affect “rigor”?**

**A:** No, the rigor of the Andover High School curricula will not be affected. The same exceptional teachers will be teaching the same rigorous courses, along with new rigorous courses with the same high expectations for which Andover High School is known.

**Q: Will 7+H affect homework?**

**A:** Yes, students will be taking seven classes at a time, and homework will continue to be an important element in all of the courses offered at Andover High School. Teachers are developing homework patterns and strategies so that students will not be overwhelmed changing from 3 or 4 courses, to 6 or 7 courses at a time.

**Q: When will science labs meet?**

**A:** Science labs will meet within the course during their long blocks of either 75 or 80 minutes.

**Q: Will the 7+H schedule affect lunch?**

**A:** No, everyone at AHS will continue to have a 30-minute lunch.

**Q: When will extra help be offered?**

**A:** Extra help will be offered before school, after school, and now within the school day during H Block.

**Q: How exactly does the H block work? What is the structure?**

**A:** H1 is an advisory period where students will have opportunities to gain skills and knowledge for success with a teacher who will monitor their progress for four years. H2-H5 students will have opportunities to work with their teachers on course content or areas of mutual interest to personalize their learning based on their own academic needs, interests and areas of exploration.

**Q: How will students remember what they signed up for during H2-H5?**

**A:** We will be utilizing Enriching Students (<http://www.enrichingstudents.com/>) a software system that allows for real time flexible scheduling within H Block. The software allows students to sign up for H2-H5 during that cycle with their H1 teacher. Students are sent an email to their Google email address, that is their @k12.andoverma.us email account to remind them.

**Q: Can students sign up for different H2-H5 classes during each 8-day rotation?**

**A:** Yes, each 8-day rotation provides students with new opportunities to personalize their schedule.

**Q: Does the 7+H schedule affect extracurricular or sports?**

**A:** No, however in the future with 7+H, clubs and activities may have the ability to meet and plan events during H Block.

**Q: Will the schedule changes impact credits and curriculum?**

**A:** Yes, in that moving forward with 7+H, we will now have more ½ credit courses and an increased number of opportunities for students to take a wider variety of electives. To meet their academic electives students will have the opportunity to take half year electives. For example instead of taking Psychology for a full year a student now could choose to take a half year elective of Psychology and another half year elective of Economics or a half year elective in another department such as English, Fine Arts, Digital Learning, Science or Math.

**Q: What are the limitations of the 7+H schedule?**

**A:** Students will have to maintain 7 courses throughout the entire school year as opposed to 3 ½ to 4 courses each semester.

**Q: What are the limitations of the current schedule?**

**A:** The current schedule is a 4x4 semesterized block schedule with no rotation and an entire course being taught in half a year without a personalization period or an advisory or scheduled academic support during the school day.

**Q: May students come in late or leave early if an H block falls during the first or last block of the day?**

**A:** No, AHS does not have an open campus policy.

**Q: Are students allowed to leave during lunch?**

**A:** No, AHS does not have an open campus policy.

**Q: Will students be expected to take 7 credits?**

**A:** Yes, all students will take 7 credits in the 7+H schedule.

**Q: Can a student take an 8th course instead of participating in H block?**

**A:** No, students who would like to do an 8th class can do so through a virtual consortium or other online offerings. Students who are taking an online or virtual course may be able to utilize time during H2-H5 to work on those courses. However all students will be involved in the H1 curriculum.

**Q: What happens if school is closed due to inclement weather?**

**A:** Same as now. The schedule skips the day that is missed and goes to the next day.

**Q: What are the schedules for half days?**

**A:** Scheduled half days will be used to equalize the minutes for each course to make sure that all course have equal time on learning.

**Q: How do colleges and universities consider schedules as it relates to college admissions?**

**A:** Colleges evaluate students based on whatever schedule the school has with no advantages given to one type of schedule over another. College admission teams base their decisions on what opportunities are made available to a student and what that student did with those opportunities. Colleges are also becoming more selective with their admissions and looking for students who go above and beyond the classroom boundaries. The 7+H schedule gives students the opportunity to personalize their learning and participate in authentic learning experiences both within the classroom and during H block. Most of the top school districts in Massachusetts have year-long rotating schedules and have high success rates for admissions to highly selective colleges.

**Q: How will the senior college application process be affected?**

**A:** Seniors will have more opportunities to meet with guidance counselors due to the personalization block during the school day. Otherwise, there will be no changes. Guidance counselors, teachers, and administrators will continue to support students and their post-secondary aspirations.

**Q: Will AP courses be affected?**

**A:** AP courses will run for an entire year within the rotation. Three classes are moving from 1½ credits to one credit, these include, Environmental Science, AP physics C, AP Calculus BC. Students will now have the opportunity to take more AP courses because these classes can be spread out across seven periods instead of four. Having seven period in which to schedule AP classes will reduce scheduling conflicts. The schedule will loosen the scheduling of courses so that more courses can be offered during more periods thereby adding flexibility to the scheduling process.

**Q: Will the new format affect the number of credits needed for graduation?**

**A:** Yes. We are reducing the total number of credits for the class of 2020 and beyond to 24 credits to graduate instead of the current 26 credits.

**Q: If students have problems with adjusting, what is the plan for helping them with the transition?**

**A:** Students will have assistance in H1 advisory period, where teachers will have same students and more opportunities to teach and strategize. During H2 through H5, students will also be able to work directly with their teachers to feel more confident about their academic achievement.

**Q: When will students take exams?**

**A:** Mid-year exams will occur in January. Final exams will occur in June.

**Q: Do other schools use this type of schedule?**

**A:** Yes, all of the top 10 schools featured in the most recent Boston Magazine survey utilize this type of year-long rotating schedule.

**Q: What does a typical day look like?**

**A:** (See sample grade 9 schedule)

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
7:44 – 8:44 60 MIN	A1 English 9	B1 S1: Health S2: Web Design	A2 English 9	B2 S1: Health S2: Web Design	C3 Algebra 1	A4 English 9	B4 S1: Health S2: Web Design	C5 Algebra 1
8:48 – 10:03 75 MIN	C1 Algebra 1	D1 World History	H2 Math Extra Help	A3 English 9	B3 S1: Health S2: Web Design	H4 Work on Science Project	A5 English 9	B5 S1: Health S2: Web Design
10:07 – 11:07 60 MIN	H1 Advisory	F1 Physical Science	D2 World History	H3 Meet to Counselor	F3 Physical Science	E4 Spanish II	D4 World History	H5 English Extra Help
11:07 – 1:01 (LUNCH) 80 MIN	E1 Spanish II	G2 S1: Project Challenge S2: Foundation Studio	C2 Algebra 1	G3 S1: Project Challenge S2: Foundation Studio	D3 World History	F4 Physical Science	E5 Spanish II	F5 Physical Science
1:05 - 2:05 60 MIN	G1 S1: Project Challenge S2: Foundation Studio	E2 Spanish II	F2 Physical Science	E3 Spanish II	G4 S1: Project Challenge S2: Foundation Studio	C4 Algebra 1	G5 S1: Project Challenge S2: Foundation Studio	D5 World History
DROP	B, D, F	A, C, H	B, E, G	C, D, F	A, E, H	B, D, G	C, F, H	A, E, G

**Q: Where can I get more info on the 7+H schedule?**

**A:** You can visit, : <http://www.aps1.net/1896/7H-Schedule>