



# PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5405 S.E. Woodward / Portland, Oregon 97206  
Telephone: (503) 916-5140 • FAX: (503) 916-2694

FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL

Office of the Principal

May 25, 2011

Dear Quaker Families,

The purpose of this letter is to explain and clarify the new block schedule and course load options available to Franklin students next fall. While there are a few constraints with this schedule in our district, it will allow students continued access to rigorous courses, core curriculum and college preparatory classes. We see many positives and are excited about the opportunities this new schedule brings.

The new schedule will offer eight periods of instruction in a rotating block schedule. The schedule will have 4 classes each approximately 90 minutes in length taught on "A" days and 4 different classes on "B" days. These A/B block days will rotate throughout the year. Teachers will see 3 groups of students per day and have a 90 minute daily prep to plan and assess student work.

We are in the process of developing our master course schedule based on current forecast information. **Counselors will be visiting students' English classes to review their course choices prior to the end of the school year. During this visit, we will ensure that students have access to a full schedule, understand their choices and take advantage of the opportunities in our new schedule.**

We are in the process of developing preliminary schedules based on current forecast information. *Forecasting verification* forms will be distributed to students when counselors meet with students. These forms will list the courses your student has elected to take. Included with this form will be the options and directions for those interested in requesting an additional period.

These forecasting verification forms will be sent home with your student before the end of the school year. Your student will be making a choice of whether to have a late arrival, early release, or an additional class. If s/he elects an additional class, please be aware that your student will have the choice of courses that are under-enrolled, peer mentorships, peer tutoring, or non credit bearing opportunities. Please also note that all 9<sup>th</sup> graders and students in the ELL or SpEd program are already enrolled in an additional class. All under-enrolled options will be listed on the verification forms for you to see. If your 9<sup>th</sup> grade student is enrolled in a study hall, you may elect late arrival or early release instead.

Please review your student's choice with them before the end of the year and contact their counselor with any questions or concerns via email or at 503-916-5140.

## Q & A

**Q- Does my student *have to take 8 classes*?**

A- No! We know that our electives are very rigorous and we don't want students to be overwhelmed balancing 8 classes plus athletics and/or co-curricular activities. S/he can be a TA/Mentor, add a study hall, early dismissal or late arrival.

**Q- What do counselors recommend for most students?**

A- General recommendations by grade level are:

- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade – 7 classes plus Freshman Success, for students who might need additional support with the 9<sup>th</sup> grade academic transition or a study center
- 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Grades – 6 or 7 classes that would include late arrival, early dismissal, TA (11<sup>th</sup> grade only), mentorship, peer tutor, or off campus learning opportunity.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade – classes to meet graduation, athletic eligibility, and college admissions requirement.

**Q- What classes will be available for students to add?**

A- While there are no additional PPS funds for an extra class, most students will probably not add a “core” class such as English or math. This is an excellent opportunity to add an under-enrolled elective class to their schedule. Study centers, peer tutoring and being a Freshman Mentor are also valuable experiences.

**Q- Will attendance be taken during study centers to alert parents if they do not attend?**

A- Yes, attendance will be taken and you will be notified if your student is not attending via the auto-dialer.

**Counselors will be meeting with current Franklin and incoming Marshall students in the next few weeks to review their forecasting choices. *The default for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be 7 classes plus Freshman Success or a study center.***

**If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact our counseling department.**

Sincerely,

*Shay James*

**Shay James  
Principal**