



## THE 4 X 4 SCHEDULE

### What is a 4 x 4 Schedule?

Under a 4 x 4 schedule the school day is divided into four 85-minute blocks. Each class meets every day for a semester. At the end of the semester the student earns a full credit. During the spring semester the student would take three new courses. In the example below, the student's new courses in the spring are an elective (Yearbook and Personal Finance), Algebra II, and American History. The exception in the TNCS 4x4 schedule is Language Fundamentals. LF will meet daily for 40 minutes for the entire year. In the sample student schedule below, you will see the student has Language Fundamentals from 10:05 -10:45 in both the fall and spring semesters.

## Sample Schedule: Upper School

ON-CAMPUS		
	FALL SEMESTER	SPRING SEMESTER
8:15-8:30	Advisory	Advisory
8:30 - 8:35	Class transition	Class transition
8:35 - 9:55	Health (Q1) Art (Q2)	Yearbook (Q3) Personal Finance (Q4)
9:55 - 10:05	Class transition	Class transition
10:05 - 11:30 (A block 10:05 - 10:45) (B block 10:50 - 11:30)	LF (40 minutes) Class transition Break/Study Appointment (40 min)	LF (40 minutes) Class transition Break/Study Appointment (40 min)
11:30 - 12:00	Lunch and cleanup	Lunch and cleanup
12:00 - 1:25 (A block 12:00 - 12:40) (B block 12:45 - 1:25)	Environmental Science	Algebra II
1:25 - 1:35	Class transition	Class transition
1:35 - 3:00 (A block 1:35 - 2:15) (B block 2:20 - 3:00)	English 10	American History
3:00 - 3:10	Class transition	Class transition
3:10 - 3:40	Extra Help & Student Life If off campus - check in	Extra Help & Student Life If off campus - check in

### What are the benefits of a 4 x 4 schedule for students?

In a traditional schedule, students take between six and seven classes. As the name suggests, under a 4 x 4 schedule students take a maximum of four courses per semester. Under the 4 x 4, students focus more intensely on a smaller number of courses on a daily basis. This allows for deeper learning and 1 to 1 support while reducing the cognitive load on the student and helping with organization.

As noted above, students will continue to have Language Fundamentals every day. This is true if the school is meeting face-to-face or

in a distance model. Additionally, if the school moves to a distance model the student's daily schedule would remain the same including electives.

Research indicates that students learning on a 4 x 4 schedule have improved achievement and attendance. Students participating in a 4 x 4 schedule also report greater satisfaction with the schedule compared with a traditional schedule. This could be linked to their perception of more time for in-depth learning and increased attention from teachers.

**Will students still earn the same number of credits?**

Students have the opportunity to earn up to 7 credits a year, the same as under our previous schedule. The 4 x 4 provides opportunities for students to accelerate in areas of interest. For instance, a student could take Geometry during the fall semester and then take Algebra II during the spring semester.

**Will it be more difficult for a student to make up work if absent?**

Under the previous schedule, if a student missed a day of school they had work to make up in 6 to 7 classes. If the student misses a day of school under the 4 x 4 model they would have work to make up for 4 classes.

**Will dual enrollment courses be impacted?**

Increasingly, TNCS students are taking advantage of a variety of learning opportunities including concurrent and dual enrollment coursework through the community college system. The 4 x 4 in many instances mirrors a college schedule. For the upcoming academic year TNCS has offset the dual enrollment courses being offered. In the fall, students who are eligible can take US History. Eligible students can take College Composition in the spring. The benefit is lowering the cognitive load on students, as some students are eligible for both, and under a traditional schedule would be taking the coursework concurrently.