

Academic Calendar and Daily Schedule 2023-2024

In an effort to increase instructional time, the academic calendar, TAP, and the daily schedule each have some notable modifications for the 2023-2024 school year. In the first semester, we removed the Head's Holiday, which typically fell on the first Friday of November. In the second semester, the February in-service on the Friday before Presidents' Weekend will now be held on January 2. Students will begin classes on January 3. Spring break (March 18-29) falls later in March and will include Good Friday and Easter Weekend. Next year, we are also taking a pause on Experiential Education (ExEd) Days, eliminating one day each semester to focus on TAP programming. With these changes, we add five instructional days to the school year. Although they do not impact instructional time, there are two other changes to note. First, we continue to observe Yom Kippur on September 25 and have now moved our annual Parent Open House to September 30, so it no longer falls in the middle of the Jewish High Holy Days. Second, we are also proud to observe Indigenous People's Day on October 9 in lieu of our traditional mid-semester break on the Friday of that week.

The TAP schedule will be markedly different next year. Instead of six full days, we will conduct TAP on twelve half-day Mondays, five in the first semester and seven in the second semester. On those days, all seven periods will meet for 30 minutes, with classes ending at 1:10. Students will need to pack their lunch on these TAP Mondays, as there will be no lunch service. TAP will begin promptly after classes end. For TAP groups that go further afield, students may not return to campus until 5:30. To accommodate these groups, we will not host athletic practices or competitions on TAP Mondays. We are excited about the consistency this new model will provide. We are also pleased that instead of forfeiting six full instructional days in our current model, we are now gaining twelve touchpoints and an additional 360 minutes of class time, which is the equivalent of eight more 45-minute periods per course. Possibly the most welcome result of moving TAP to Mondays is that we will no longer have a Tuesday on a Wednesday or a Wednesday on a Thursday, etc.!

Lastly, the daily schedule holds a few modifications, as well. We will add five minutes to our long blocks, making them 75 minutes. We achieved this change by reducing our Student Life blocks by five minutes and by taking five minutes off the mid-morning break on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Over the course of the year, these extra five minutes of instructional time add up to roughly four more contact days.

Taken as a whole, the changes to the academic calendar, TAP, and the daily schedule amount to a little over three weeks of additional instructional time. We are especially happy that we achieved this increase while maintaining our 8:45 AM start and 3:40 PM end times. We know a later start better aligns with adolescent circadian rhythms, and by not extending our school day, we keep students from missing class time due to dismissals for extracurricular activities.