



Block Schedule Explanation

- The majority of North Carolina Public Schools (not necessarily Public Charter Schools) are on the Block Schedule
- Four courses are taken each semester, Blocks are typically 90 minutes long
- Some schools offer select courses all year on an A Day/B Day schedule. If the school allows, two A Day/B Day classes must be chosen at a time, so one class is on A Day and the other is on B Day.

Example of a Possible 9th Grade Block Schedule

Courses Taken 1st Semester- August to January	Courses Taken 2nd Semester- January to June
1 English I	1 Earth & Environmental Science
2 Math II	2 Elective-Personal Finance
3 Spanish I	3 World History
4 Physical Education/Health	4 Elective-Band I

Example of a Possible 9th Grade Block Schedule A-Day/B-Day

Courses Taken 1st Semester- August to January		Courses Taken 2nd Semester- January to June	
1	English I	1	Earth & Environmental Science
2	Math II	2	Elective-Personal Finance
3	Spanish I	3	World History
4		4	
A-day	Physical Education/Health	A-day	Physical Education/Health
4		4	
B-day	Elective-Band I	B-day	Elective-Band I



Con's of Block Schedule

- You could take a Math class or Foreign Language class, the first semester of 9th grade and possibly not take the second class until the 2nd semester of 10th grade. That means the possibility of an entire year without Math or Foreign Language.
- Some schools offer Math & Foreign Language (and other core classes) on A-day/B-day schedules. Check with your school to see if this is available.
- The pace of the courses is much faster. It makes it difficult to miss school because of how much is missed in one day.
- The High School decides which semester each classes are taken, you don't choose the semester.



Pro's of Block Schedule

- Opportunities to accelerate learning in a particular area by taking multiple courses in the same subject in the same year, i.e. doubling up on Math (for example taking High School Math II and High School Math III in the same school year) or doubling up on Science (for example, taking Biology and Chemistry in the same school year to prepare for other Advanced Placement (AP) Science courses).
- Final exams for the first semester are held in January, and after that time the first 4 courses are complete, so you don't have to worry about the first 4 classes (unless you have A/B Day classes).
- You only have 4 courses per semester to keep up with, compared with 7 at Socrates Academy (unless you have A/B Day classes).

Example of a 4 Year Block Schedule Traditional High School Course Plan

Sample Course Selections for College Bound Students

Required	9th Grade-Freshman	10th Grade-Sophomore	11th Grade-Junior	12th Grade-Senior
4 English	1 English I-Honors	1 English II-Honors	1 English III-Honors 2 AP English Language & Composition	1 English IV- Honors 2 AP English Literature & Composition
4 Math	2 Math I	2 Math II- Honors 3 Math III-Honors	3 Honors Pre-Calculus	3 Statistics-Honors 4 AP Statistics
4 Social Studies	3 World History-Honors	4 Civics & Economics-Honors	4 American History I-Honors * 5 American History II-Honors *	5 AP Psychology
3 Science	4 Earth & Environ Science-H	5 Biology I-Honors	6 Chemistry I-Honors	6 Physics I-Honors
Electives	5 Personal Finance	6 Marine Science- Honors		
1 Health PE	6 Health PE			
2-3 Foreign Lang	7 Spanish I	7 Spanish II	7 Spanish III-Honors	7 Spanish IV-Honors
Arts Electives	8 Theatre I	8 Theatre II	8 Theatre III-Honors	8 Theatre IV-Honors

* Some schools want American History I and II to be taken together in 11th grade.

Example of a 4 Year Block Schedule Traditional High School Course Plan

Sample Academically Rigorous Course Selections for College Bound Students

Required	9th Grade-Freshman	10th Grade-Sophomore	11th Grade-Junior	12th Grade-Senior
4 English	1 English I-Honors	1 English II-Honors	1 English III-Honors 2 AP English Language & Composition	1 English IV- Honors 2 AP English Literature
4 Math	2 Math II-Honors 3 Math III-Honors	2 Pre-Calculus-Honors-2nd Semester	3 Adv Calculus Topics AB-Honors 4 AP Calculus AB	3 AP Calculus BC
4 Social Studies	4 World History-Honors	3 Civics & Economics-Honors	5 American History I-Honors 6 AP US History	
3 Science	5 Biology I-Honors	4 Chemistry-Honors 5 AP Environmental Science		4 Physics-Honors or AP Physics 5 Advanced Biology Topics-Honors 6 AP Biology 7 Marine Biology-Honors
1 Health PE	6 Health PE			
2-3 Foreign Language	7 Spanish I	6 Spanish II-1st Semester 7 Spanish III-Honors *-2nd Semester	7 Spanish IV-Honors	
Arts Electives	8 Band I	8 Band II	8 Band III-Honors **	8 Band IV-Honors
* Spanish Honors is not offered until Spanish III in Union County				
** Band Honors is not offered until Band III in Union County				