



Great Vision

Great Coverage

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Franklin Adapts to 90-Minute Block Scheduling

By Kierra Richardson

The 2022-2023 school year brought some unfamiliar new beginnings as Franklin High students were introduced to block scheduling. Franklin was the only high school left in the county to still use 42-minute classes until last year, but we have now switched over to the 90-minute classes. The 8 classes have been condensed into a 4-period schedule alternating between A and B days. The new schedule has switched up the rotation for many different things.

Period	Time		
	A	B	C
1	85		
HR	5		
2	90		
3	25	40	90
	90	25	25
		45	
4	90	90	90

The 25-minute lunch period has also been added to the list of concerns for students and teachers. The timing is very short; the lunch lines are long, so by the

time some of our students reach the front to get their food, lunch is 5 minutes away from being over. A student could still be hungry, but some teachers' classroom rules are no food and drinks are allowed so they must suck it up and get back to work. Lunch breaks are a time where you eat, catch up on work, chat with friends, go to coach class, or even just spend time on your phone to relax. Coach class is essential during the time, and time studying with your teacher and redoing assignments is cut short. Some may say that they can still attend coach class after school, but not everyone has a ride home, and others ride the bus.

The A-Day and B-Day schedule is an improvement for teachers in helping their students absorb more information in one day without the bell ringing when they are teaching important things. This schedule allows students more time for schoolwork in 4 classes a day, a change from the rush of 8 classes a day. "Well, for me at least, the new A & B Day schedule is making it a lot easier for me to manage my time. It gives me a whole day to study and work on homework," Varsity football player Naji Gregg said. The longer periods give science teachers who do labs more time, so the students won't have to rush through the lab in only 42 minutes. Students benefit from only having to worry about four classes on each day. "My grades have been better this year," junior Carrie Anizoba explains. "Since I'm taking it more seriously. Just because it's junior year, I been trying to maintain above a C in all my classes."

Teaching a subject without any interruption is one of the best things for teachers to finish their lessons. The barrier for completing long term projects and classwork has been lifted. This gives students more time to work with peers to either check answers or review for a group project. A school that has embraced even longer classes is L.V. Rogers secondary school in Nelson, British Columbia. In its second year with the new schedule of 2 1/2 hour long classes, L.V. Rogers saw 'a variety of academic advantages,' Principal Bill Reid said. "The graduation rate increased from 73 percent to 90 percent of 12th graders; attendance is up; discipline problems are down; and the failure rate has dropped dramatically."

For others at Franklin, these new classes have not started the year off right. The classes are extremely tiring to stay in for 90 minutes and not move around as much. With the 42-minute classes, there was more walking around and taking breaks to regain focus and structure. "Yes, it is very hard to focus. I get distracted easily and bored," said sophomore Nyla Moultrie. The new schedule also poses an issue with forgetting what you learned in class 2 days before. It can be challenging to remember most things, so classes like math especially, you may have to restart from where you were the day before last. "Sometimes yes. Since it was two days ago, I do forget some of the content that we do in the class period," Carrie said. Focusing and remembering seems to be one of the hardest things this year, even though teachers or administrators may argue that students can just as easily check and review their notes from the previous class for a refresher before returning to class the next day. "It's very hard to focus," senior Naji Gregg explained. "When teachers give the 5-minute brain breaks, it helps me refocus but not enough. Also with teachers having more time to talk, I lose interest in the class so easily, causing me to be on my phone or doing something else." The 42-minute classes were also an advantage for teachers to prepare shorter lessons for their students to keep up with easier and in only one day, so they aren't forgetting which class did this and which didn't.

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College Prep - How Should We Start?

By Lindsay Adjei

"I hate the letter 'S' Because it's the beginning of everything I hate (separation and sadness) but to condemn an entire letter because of its use in the alphabet sounds absurd, but that one letter changed my life."

This viral essay is a window into what colleges desire from applicants in their essays and overall in their portfolios. In this essay, then-junior, Abigail Mack creates her Harvard application essay surrounding something seemingly inconsequential, the letter S. As she continues, she touches on themes of loss and acceptance in her life and is able to tie abstract ideas into her goals for the future. As the junior class of 2024 dives into college applications and underclassmen plan their future pursuits, small things can become great motivators or pieces of inspiration.

Clubs/ Service



Campus Clean-Up! The Environmental Club works to clean up school grounds and bring awareness to green issues around school.

Image from @fhs_environmentalclub21 on Instagram

Resources for college preparation and other careers are abundant, but it's hard to know where to start. It's easy to get lost in the details and overwhelmed by the amount of information out there. A good start is building your academic resume. This is as simple as joining a club or participating in different sports. Colleges look for well-rounded applicants who participate in many other community programs, and clubs and/or sports is a great way to build up your resume. Getting leadership positions in these activities is another facet of creating a good resume and can come in handy for scholarship applications and resumes when you leave high school.



The SGA promoted cultural awareness during Hispanic Heritage Month with different activities and displays around school about Hispanic Heritage.

Collage from @fhs_sga_ on Instagram

Franklin has a wide variety of clubs and school activities that students can join and find leadership positions in. Around school, there are many different posters

and flyers with information about sports tryouts or different events.

"The SGA does a bunch of different things around school. We plan events and activities and create flyers/ promotions for all the things going on around school," commented juniors Amna and Mitch, who are members of the SGA. The Student Government Association or the SGA is one of the best places to start getting involved and has different offices available for students to run for.

"These activities have helped me develop my communication skills and time management while also building relationships with people my age. This has really given me more leadership skills, and I feel more prepared for college because of this." Getting these positions and being a part of these activities can help with leadership skills and developing traits that colleges look for.

School Resources

The school also has resources specifically for juniors preparing for their life post-high school. In Schoology, counseling creates groups each year for the junior class that has tons of information on college and career options. Currently the Class of 2024 Counseling Central hosts opportunities to connect directly with potential employers after high school and college. The guidance office also has resources located directly outside of their offices, and class counselors can be reached through scheduled appointments or through email.

Lindsay's Plan for College

Start here with simple steps you can take today to stay on track for college. New steps will unlock and be added to your dashboard throughout the year, so keep checking back.

In Progress

5 of 6

Colleges Added

Build Your College List

Find the right college for you.

Find Colleges

In Progress

5

Colleges on Your List

Reach

Match

Safety

Strengthen Your College List

A mix of reach, match, and safety schools will help you find the right college for you.

Update Your College List

Done

Practice for the SAT

Take a timed mini section or a diagnostic quiz to boost your score.

Go to Khan Academy

Resources

College Search

Choosing the Right College for You

The Real Role of Tests in Your College Application

SAT Practice

College Board's website offers different resources for higher education including finding colleges that match your preferences and free personalized SAT prep.

Create an account at bigfuture.collegeboard.org

College Prep - How Should We Start? (cont.)

By Lindsay Adjei

One of their most recent Schoology announcements spoke to black students looking at HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges or Universities) with information about BCPS's annual HBCU fair at New Town High. The Dec. 17th fair will be from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm and will have a wide variety of colleges to talk to about. Registration details are included in their flyer and transportation can be provided for the event. Students who attend are also encouraged to complete the Common Black College Application and will be able to attend workshop sessions that cover financial aid, college decisions, student life, and more. HBCUs are a great option for black students who want schools with resources tailored towards their needs with a welcoming environment.

after attending for two years, you get the same degree without paying 4 years of private tuition.

For black students, Howard University and Morgan State University are local HBCUs located in DC and Baltimore and could be potential options for black students at Franklin. Both schools are known for their wide range of academic programs and for being leaders in black higher education.



These HBCUs including Howard U and Morgan State have been named 'Fulbright HBCU Institutional Leaders' and could be potential options for a future university.

Image from www.watchtheyard.com

"Going to an HBCU is a really encouraging experience," offered Jenna Adjei, a Howard University student. "It really allows me to connect with my culture while getting opportunities that help my future success as a black student who is getting into the working world."

While looking for colleges, there are many different perspectives to consider like location, student life, courses, and school culture. "Researching campus culture is very important, if you go to a school after only considering one thing... you may realize that you don't like the culture or the campus life and the school is completely different from what you expected." Mr. Allen, a Franklin chemistry teacher, offered his insight, "It's also good to make sure there are job opportunities near your school for after you graduate. If you're doing well in your classes, but there's nothing to move on to, that won't benefit you." Getting a well-rounded perspective when looking at prospective schools is the best thing to do when trying to choose a college or university that fits you.

What to Do Now

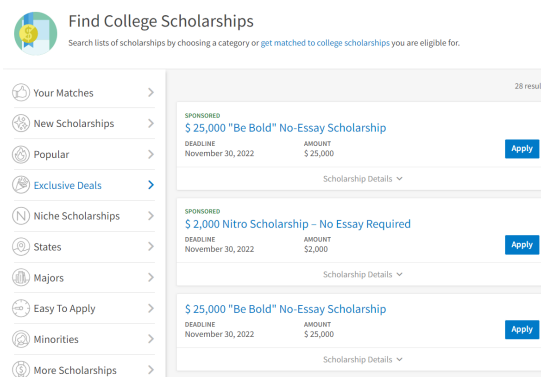
College preparation can start at any time, and it's most important to prioritize your time now. "Above all make sure you have a strong support system! Sometimes you'll find yourself weighed down with the work you have to do, so find some people to pull you back up. Anything is possible with encouragement and support," said senior and announcements host, Ricky Bridges, in a message to the Class of 2024. Right now, it's important to find a plan and use the resources available to you to make your goals possible!



Interested in an HBCU? Register for the HBCU fair at New Town. Registration closes Dec. 1st and information can be found in the Class of 2024 School Counseling Central

College Search

Maryland Colleges are popular options for Franklin alumni and schools like UMD College Park (University of Maryland), UMBC (University of Maryland, Baltimore County), and CCBC (Community College of Baltimore County) are good options especially because of cheaper in-state tuition. For students who are worried about the financial burden of a 4-year private university, CCBC could be an avenue to transfer to another private university while cutting down costs. By transferring



Niche is an online resource for college searching and a great place to search for different scholarship opportunities.

Image from niche.com

La comida de típica navidad

By Priyanka Saini

La Navidad es un momento en que las familias y los amigos celebran juntos, dan regalos y muchas otras tradiciones. Pero una de las tradiciones más comunes es comer una gran cena juntos. Muchos países tienen alimentos tradicionales que comen en la Navidad. Ya sea que la comida represente algo en su cultura, o simplemente sepa delicioso, estos países han comido estos alimentos cada año:

España - Cordero Asado: En España, les encanta comer cordero caliente y tierno en Navidad como uno de los platos principales. Es muy importante asegurarse de que el cordero está fresco y bien condimentado. En España, el cordero asado se prepara con vino, agua, laurel, limón, aceite y ajo. Cuanto más larga la carne sea marinada, mejor será su sabor.



An Image of Cordero Asado, a common Spanish Christmas dish.

Image from iberflavours.com

Francia - Bûche de Noël: El Bûche de Noël es un tipo de pastel tradicional que los franceses comen en la Navidad. Es un pastel con forma de tronco de yule que

es un postre básico en la mesa de la cena en Francia. Está hecho con pastel de chocolate y glaseado, y decorado con hojas y frutas para parecerse a un tronco. ¡Qué delicioso!



An Image of Bûche de Noël, a French Christmas Dish.

Image from www.swissmilk.ch

La República Dominicana – Tostones: el nombre de este delicioso plato proviene de la palabra Tostón, que era el nombre de la moneda española utilizada durante el periodo colonial porque los tostones parecen pequeñas monedas de oro. Este sabroso plato consiste en rodajas de plátano frito doble que se han aplanado en círculos. Este plato tradicional sabe muy bien solo o con una salsa hecha de ajo llamada *mojo*.



Image of Tostones, a dish from the Dominican Republic

Image from www.dominicancooking.com

¿Reconociste alguno de los alimentos en esta lista? Si no, ¡Espero que tengas la oportunidad de probar estos increíbles alimentos en tu próxima cena con tu familia! ¡Ciao!



5 THINGS TO BE AWARE OF WHILE USING SOCIAL MEDIA

1. Safety

Don't interact with people you don't know. Some people on the internet could be dangerous.

2. Productivity

Do use helpful and productive apps to get things done. To-Do lists, planners, or calendars

3. Bullying

Don't use social media to bring others down. Don't let the internet to give you a mask to hide behind.

4. Connect

Do use social media to reach out to friends and family. Texting, video chats, etc.

5. News

Social Media is a very efficient way to be involved in your community. Current events or important information.



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