

Proposed Bell Schedule

- Malden High School, 2021-2022
School Year

Presented June 7th, 2021 to School Committee



A teal notepad with a white border and a row of small white circles at the top, resembling a punch hole. An orange paperclip is attached to the top right corner. The text "Our Proposed Schedule" is written in white on the notepad.

Our Proposed Schedule

- We have surveyed staff, students, and caregivers
- The union reached a tentative agreement and then it went to the union membership for a vote
- The vote passed 65-23 (75% approve)

Option 1

	Blue Day	Gold Day
7:45 - 9:10 (85 minutes)	Period 1	Period 5
9:15 - 10:40 (85 minutes)	Period 2	Flex 1 --- Flex 2
10:45 - 12:45 (Lunch Block) (120 minutes) (85 + 30 + 5)	Period 3	Period 6
12:50 - 2:15 (85 minutes)	Period 4	Period 7

**Run Flex
Block the
Second Block
of Gold Day,
allowing
students two
40-minute
sessions.**

	Blue Day	Gold Day
7:45 - 9:10 (85 minutes)	Period 1	Period 5
9:15 - 10:40 (85 minutes)	Period 2	Period 6
10:45 - 12:45 (Lunch Block) (120 minutes) (85 + 30 + 5)	Period 3	Lunch Advisory Flex/Flex (see below for rotation)
12:50 - 2:15 (85 minutes)	Period 4	Period 7

Gold Day Lunch Block:

	9th Grade	11th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade
10:45	Lunch	Advisory	Flex	Flex
11:15	Advisory	Lunch	Flex	Flex
11:45	Flex	Flex	Lunch	Advisory
12:15	Flex	Flex	Advisory	Lunch

Option 2

Run Flex Block during Gold Day Lunch Block, which would also allow for an Advisory Period, as well as two Flex options.

Time on Learning



Four 85 minutes blocks = 340 minutes. Multiplied by 180 days = 61,200 minutes. Divided by 60 =

1,020 hours

Even with Late Entries and Early Releases, we would be well above the required 990 hours.

Rationale for 8 Blocks, including Flex

- Running six periods this year wasn't enough to support electives. Both students and staff deserve electives.
- We don't have enough staff to run 8 academic courses
- Block schedules will cut down on transitions, number of classes per day, amount of homework every night, stress, and build in more time for deep learning and relationship building during class.
- We are working on finding ways to provide all teachers with some prep time every day and PD to help teachers prepare to teach longer periods.
- We wanted to build in time during the school day for academic support and enrichment opportunities, which is the Flex block. In order to run Flex, we needed a block schedule.

What is Flex?

A Flextime is a set time of the schedule where students go somewhere of their own choosing.

“Most commonly students go to different teachers for additional academic support or spend their time in a more traditional study hall, but it is also common for students to attend enrichment sessions, meet with an advisor, make up class assignments for days missed, participate in club meetings, and take part in other extracurricular activities, like playing sports. While these can look different in different schools, usually the purpose is similar: to give students more tailored academic support and express their agency by exploring their interests.”

We plan on partnering with Edficiency to have an app that will facilitate logistics for this process. See more here:

<https://www.edficiency.com/faqs>

Edficiency
SCHEDULE SUCCESS

Why Flex?

Focusing on building strong relationships and supporting students and staff after the pandemic **must** be a focus of our entire school next year.

Flex time provides a built-in structure for this during the school day that everyone participates in.

In the past few years, students and staff have reported feelings of division and a loss of a positive school culture that creates true and authentic connections across the school. We feel that a Flex block, by providing time and space for students to meet with teachers one-on-one and engage in mutual interests would also help to foster a culture change by building relationships between students and staff.

Enrichment opportunities during Flex time could also be spaces for student affinity groups to gather, for students to study the cultures and histories of places around the world, and support student activism. Right now, our Program of Studies is limited by our staff and our budget. By working outside the constraints of our Program of Studies, a Flex block could be a way to meet the needs of our students by creating new opportunities to learn and discuss topics that aren't covered in classes while also providing spaces for student joy.

Flex would mean...

Students

Students sign up for whatever they would like to do and Edficiency will place them there.

Students can sign up for different sessions each time they have flex, but can also repeat when desired.

Teachers

Teachers can sign up students for extra help. This could take precedent over student choice.

Each **teacher** would be responsible for overseeing offerings during flex periods. These can be rotated between departments or house weekly, monthly, etc.

Flex Leaders will help facilitate offerings, schedules, and overseeing the app.

A flex period should not require any preparation or planning for the teacher. It is meant to be for support and enrichment for students. It is not a full, structured class.

Flex could be:

(these are just examples: an incomplete list)

Academic Support & Career Planning

- College Application Help
- College Essay Support
- Resume
- Support Classes
 - Writing Lab
 - Math Support
 - Science Support
 - Language Support
 - Social Studies Support
 - Academy Support
 - AP prep
 - PSAT/SAT prep

Social/Emotional & Enrichment

- Art/Music Studio Time
- Maker-Space
- Computer Programming Projects
- Weightlifting / Open Gym / Cardio / Yoga
- Various Social Group Offerings (or clubs) for students that want or need the social time
 - Circles
 - Topics of interest

Quiet Room for Study

- Some students may want a place to go to complete homework, or study for a test.
- Having a quiet place to go that is devoted to this could be important for the students.

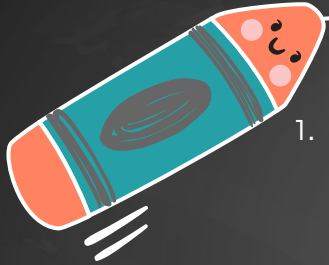
Peer Tutors could be used in Support Classes and Writing Labs

And more!



Next Steps

Next Steps



1. Solicit staff interest in participating in a Flex Committee or being a Flex Leader.
 - a. Flex Committee members would require working in the Spring and/or summer to plan and organize Flex before the school year starts.
 - i. Flex Committee members would work on ironing details and logistics, as well as providing schedules and resources that will make our transition into Flex as smooth as possible.
 - b. Flex Leaders would organize and facilitate Flex during the school year next year.
 - c. Stipends will be provided.
2. Advocate to provide PD for staff to facilitate transition to four 85-minute blocks per day PRIOR to the start of the next school year.
 - a. While teachers have been preparing lessons for longer blocks this year, this has happened in a distance or hybrid learning format. Teachers want PD to make sure their in-person classes next year are suitable for this format.
 - b. We all want to be able to support deeper learning during longer blocks, but teachers need access to high quality PD to prepare for something new.

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Additional Resources

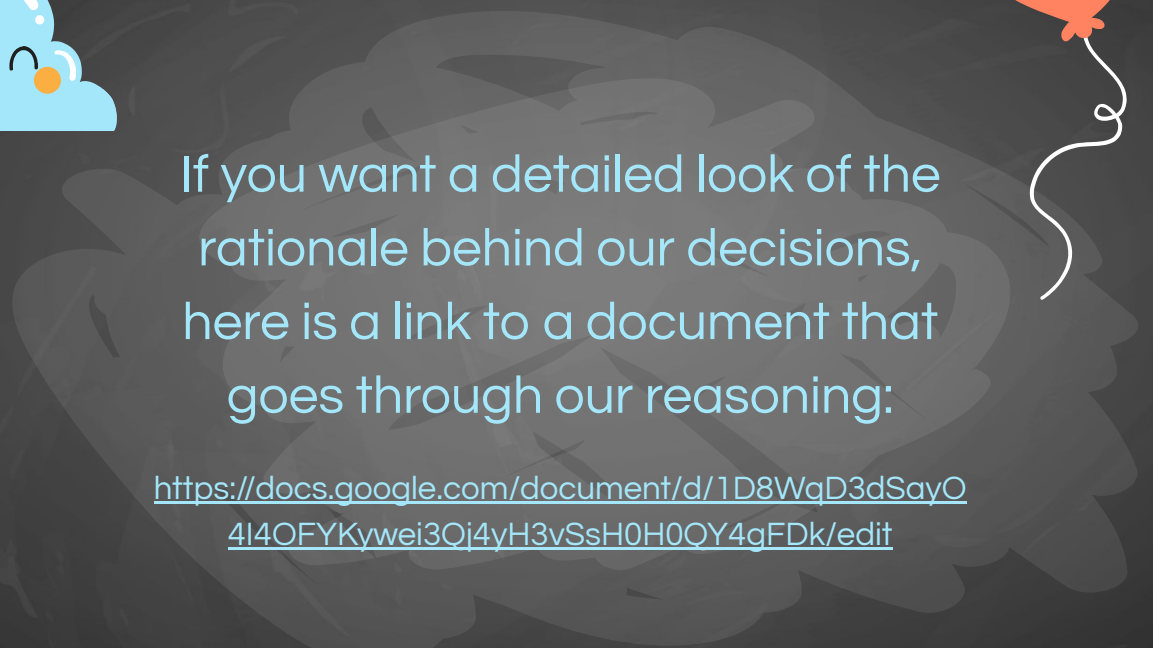
How Does It Work?

We would contract this company to handle many of the logistics.



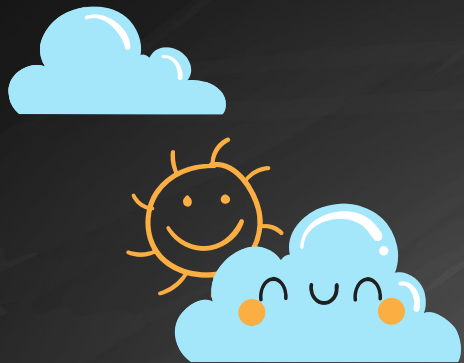
<https://www.edficiency.com/ultimate-guide-to-flex-periods>

The logo for Edficiency, featuring the word "Edficiency" in a yellow, serif font above the tagline "SCHEDULE SUCCESS" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The logo is set against a blue rectangular background.



If you want a detailed look of the rationale behind our decisions, here is a link to a document that goes through our reasoning:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1D8WqD3dSayO4l4OFYKywei3Qj4yH3vSsH0H0QY4gFDk/edit>





- Examples and Resources from Other Schools

Example Curriculum
from Lindblom Math &
Science Academy

Presentation from
Newton Public Schools

Proposal for
Somerville
High

