




Information about
Semester and Linear
Timetable Structures



Background and Context

During the Covid pandemic, secondary schools in Richmond adapted their organizational structures to meet Provincial Health Office mandated requirements. Towards the end of the 2021-2022 school year, each school engaged in a consultative process with students, staff, and families to determine the organizational structure for 2022-2023. Moving forward beyond the current year, our school is engaging in a similar process to establish an organizational structure for future years.





Purpose of the Survey

The purpose of this survey is to gather perspectives from students, parents, teachers, support staff, and administrators in relation to their experiences with the secondary structures referenced above. This information will assist the collaborative decision-making processes that are an integral part of the Richmond School District.



Purpose of this Presentation

The McMath community comes from various backgrounds; some families have had exposure to various school models such as linear, hybrid, quarter, and semester systems.

At this time, McMath is looking at two possible timetable models: Linear or Semester. To ensure that the community understands what the two models look like, this slide presentation was created to provide information on both structures.

In BOTH systems, PLT is offered and students take 8 courses per school year

SEMESTER	LINEAR
4 courses (ABCD) from September to January	8 courses from September to June
4 courses (EFGH) from February to June	Alternating days: Day 1 with 4 courses (ABCD); Day 2 with 4 courses (EFGH)
Reporting: 2 formal, one informal and one Meet the Teacher each semester	Reporting: 3 formal, two informal and one Meet the Teacher Night



Please Note

The use of the word Absences.

- It is used for any reason a student may have missed class. This could be an absence that is excused or unexcused - perhaps as a result of sports opportunities, appointments, a school club activity, illness, vacation, etc.

The abbreviation for Learning Strategies is LS

The image features two decorative elements: a large, multi-layered curved line in the top-left corner and a smaller, similar curved line in the bottom-right corner. Both are composed of several overlapping bands in shades of light blue and green, creating a sense of depth and movement.

SEMESTER SYSTEM


Semester: Time

ADVANTAGE	DISADVANTAGE
Fewer number of courses at a time to focus on (4 per semester).	Fast paced
Daily practice of concepts	There can be a gap of a whole year between two courses. Ex: Math 8 semester 1 in grade 8, Math 9 in semester 2 in grade 9
Less time reviewing previous material in class because students have the course daily	Less time and opportunity to provide feedback and for change to occur



Semester: Mental & Physical Well Being

ADVANTAGE	DISADVANTAGE
More focused study due to 4 courses at a time can be less overwhelming	Possibility of unbalanced course load per semester
Opportunity to start fresh and reset in February	Quicker coverage of curricula in a shorter time span can lead to students feeling overwhelmed
Daily connection between students and teachers	Connections with most students and teachers for only half a year
Identify and address concerns with some students thanks to daily context	It may be difficult to keep up with missed work due to absences
	No structured physical education year-round



Semester: Learning and Teaching Opportunities

ADVANTAGE	DISADVANTAGE
Only 4 courses = fewer to manage and to complete in the semester	Some opportunities, field trips, and seasonal/cultural activities are missed or unavailable all year. Current events (elections), winter music concert, holiday lessons, Physics Olympics, Science Fair
Easier to manage and plan resources and books because fewer students and classes to share with	French Immersion courses could be stacked so students have an English only term
Opportunity to repeat a grad requirement course and possible course acceleration	LS block is only for half the year and not always in line with courses that students need the most support with

Semester: Learning and Teaching Opportunities

ADVANTAGE	DISADVANTAGE
Option for flexible graduation time	Some programs or students don't have year long support. Ex. LS students, Yearbook
More opportunity for semester based SD38 career programs for training in trades	




LINEAR SYSTEM





Linear: Time

ADVANTAGE	DISADVANTAGE
Long term continuity and routines of learning concepts and skills for students	No change in courses for the whole year
Catching up on missed material may be easier	Non-daily practice of concepts
More time for assessment and feedback	8 courses to focus on
Time to digest material	



Linear: Mental & Physical Well Being

ADVANTAGE	DISADVANTAGE
Longer relationships with teachers and peers	More courses to juggle at a time which can be overwhelming
Consistent course load throughout the year	“Stuck” in a course for a full year vs end in sight after 5 months
A day in between classes to digest information and complete assignments	
Year long prep has less mental fatigue for teachers	

Linear: Learning and Teaching Opportunities

ADVANTAGE	DISADVANTAGE
Year-round learning: lessons can be tailored to the season, weather and events	Strain on resources, books, textbooks
Year long practice of key skills for retention and ability to improve over time	8 different courses can be a struggle to manage for some
Students with LS support have a primary block for full year	Grad requirement course repeat and advancement must be done over summer school, the following year, or through online schools
More opportunities for cross curricular connections	Difficult to change schools during the year to follow a SD38 career trades program



Important Dates

Thank you in advance for completing the survey. Please consider the survey questions carefully. Your responses are very important and will assist our school in shaping its timetable structure for 2023-2024 and the following years.

Please complete the survey during the following dates:

Parents	February 8 th to 15 th
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Students	February 9 th & 10 th
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Staff	February 9 th & 10 th
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