



# Information about Semester and Linear Timetable Structures



## 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**

This slide presentation was created to provide information on both structures so you can make an informed decision when you complete the survey.

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)



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



# 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 classmates and teachers	No structured physical education year-round
	It may be difficult to keep up with missed work due to absences
	Connections with some classmates and teachers for only half a year

## Semester: Learning Opportunities

ADVANTAGE	DISADVANTAGE
Only 4 courses = fewer to manage and to complete in the semester	Some opportunities, field trips, seasonal and cultural activities are missed or unavailable all year. Current events (elections), winter music concert, holiday lessons, Physics Olympics, Science Fair
Opportunity to repeat a grad requirement course and possible course acceleration	French Immersion courses could be stacked so students have an English only term
More opportunity for semester based SD38 career programs for training in trades	LS block is only for half the year and not always in line with courses that students need the most support with
Option for flexible graduation time	Some programs or students don't have year long support. Ex. LS students, Yearbook





# 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	

## Linear: Learning Opportunities

ADVANTAGE	DISADVANTAGE
Year-round learning: lessons can be tailored to the season, weather and events	8 different courses can be a struggle to manage for some
Year long practice of key skills for retention and ability to improve over time	Difficult to change schools during the year to follow a SD38 career trades program
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	



## Important Dates for STUDENT SURVEY

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### **Thursday, February 9**

E Block (First Period) after Announcements – Students will complete the survey in class. Laptops will be available for those who do not have a device of their own.

### **Friday, February 10**

E Block Last 15 minutes of class –

A special announcement to allow students who missed the survey. Time is provided at the end of Block E. Laptops will be available for those who do not have a device of their own.