

# UPPER MORELAND HIGH SCHOOL

3000 Terwood Road  
Willow Grove, Pennsylvania 19090

Ph.: 215-830-1500

Fax: 215-830-1581

ROBERT J. MILROD, PH.D.  
*Superintendent of Schools*

JOSEPH A. CARRACAPPA  
*Principal*

On November 29, 2017, the Upper Moreland Township Board of School Directors approved an agreement with the Upper Moreland Education Association to transition from the current 10 period student day at Upper Moreland High School to an alternating A/B Block Schedule beginning in the Fall of 2017.

Teachers and administrators have worked together this past year to investigate the schedule which would best benefit our entire student body. Through our research, we have recognized the Block Schedule as the best way to move forward for our students. The following highlights provide compelling points for our new block schedule:

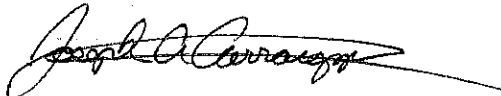
- Our move to the block should lead to improved teaching and learning. With the block, more class time is available to develop key concepts, incorporate creativity into instruction, and allow for a variety of classroom activities that address different learning styles;
- In the block, instructional time is not fragmented by frequent transitions between classes. There is less time spent on classroom management activities, such as calling attendance and organizing and focusing the class. There are fewer opportunities for students to arrive late to class;
- With our new schedule, our students will now enroll in at least eight classes per year instead of six or seven, and so will take more courses. We will be able to increase the number of credits required for graduation;
- Block scheduling will allow for stronger interpersonal relationships between students and teachers. Teachers will be able to better get to know students and will be in a better position to adapt lessons to the interests of their students;
- Research has shown that in the block, students' grades improve overall. There are fewer failed classes, a higher number of students on the honor roll, and an increase in students grade point averages;
- Research has shown that in the block, teachers and students attitudes about their school improve;
- Teachers report that in the block, better collaboration between teachers is possible as a result of increased planning time;
- Most schools which introduce block schedules find that discipline problems on campus decrease. Students are better known by their teachers, and decreasing the number of passing periods reduces opportunities for disruption;
- Research has shown improved school climate and the quality of the school day for both students and teachers; and

- Because of the decreased number of classes in a single day, students have homework in fewer subjects on any given night of the week, and so can better focus on producing quality work as they do their homework.

The A/B Block Schedule, also called an alternate day plan, organizes each day into four 86-minute periods but has a total of eight classes meeting over two consecutive days ("Purple Day" and "Gold Day"). In an attempt to educate the school community on the A/B Block Schedule, several comprehensive presentations will be scheduled in January of 2017. Additional information will also be available on the high school website so parents and students can examine the new schedule and formulate questions on the affects it may have on students.

We are extremely proud of the strong traditions and commitment to academic excellence which have been established here at Upper Moreland High School. This scheduling initiative is just one more example of how we continue to seek innovative ways to educate the youth of our community and prepare them for the complexities of our ever changing society and workplace. Go Golden Bears!

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Carracappa  
Principal, Upper Moreland High School