



Dear Middle and Upper Division Families,

As we continue to refine the student experience at Academy, we are excited to share that next year we will transition to a simple rotating schedule in grades 7 through 12.

In this model, classes will rotate through different times of the day rather than always meeting at the same time. Importantly, this change does not reduce instructional time for any classes. Students will receive the same amount of class time over the course of the year while benefiting from a schedule that offers greater balance and flexibility.

One of the greatest advantages of a rotating schedule is fairness and equity across the student experience. In a fixed schedule, the same classes consistently meet early in the morning or late in the afternoon. A rotating schedule allows all courses to meet at a variety of times, giving students the opportunity to engage with each subject during different parts of the day when focus, energy, and participation naturally vary.

The rotating schedule also helps prevent the same class from repeatedly being impacted by early athletic departures, school events, appointments, or occasional absences. Over time, instructional disruptions are distributed more evenly across courses.

In addition, rotating schedules create a refreshing sense of variety in the school day. Students are less likely to feel locked into the exact same daily rhythm, and many schools find that this structure encourages engagement, adaptability, and stronger routines.

We recognize that any schedule change comes with an adjustment period. To support students, we are intentionally implementing a straightforward rotation that is easy to follow and consistent in structure. Teachers and administrators will spend time helping students learn the system during the opening weeks of school, and we are confident students will adapt quickly. **To assist in your planning, please review the attached final rotation calendar for the 2026/2027 school year.**

We are excited about the opportunities this schedule creates for learning, balance, and student experience across both divisions. Thank you, as always, for your partnership and support.

Warmly,

Jen Sciortino and Colleen McCormick  
Upper and Middle Division Directors



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Will students lose instructional time with a rotating schedule?**

No. Students will receive the same amount of instructional time over the course of the year. The schedule simply changes the order in which classes meet on a given day.

### **How will this impact homework and assignments?**

Homework routines should remain very familiar for students. Classes will still meet on the same frequency and on the same days they traditionally would have met; they will simply rotate through different times of the day. Teachers will continue to coordinate assignments and due dates thoughtfully.

### **How will this help students academically?**

A rotating schedule allows all classes to meet at different times of the day throughout the year rather than always being early in the morning or late in the afternoon. This creates greater balance, variety, and fairness in the student experience while helping distribute the impact of fatigue, appointments, athletics, and other interruptions more evenly across courses.

### **How will the schedule work if school is canceled because of weather or another closure?**

The entire year's rotation will be pre-scheduled in advance, and we will continue following that calendar even if a school day is missed. This prevents confusion and helps maintain consistency for students, families, and teachers.

### **Will a rotating schedule be difficult for students to follow?**

We are intentionally implementing a simple, predictable rotation that students will learn quickly. Schools across the country successfully use rotating schedules, and students typically adapt within the first few weeks. Calendars, reminders, and teacher support will help students build routines early in the year.

### **How will this impact students with ADHD or executive functioning challenges?**

Many students with ADHD or executive functioning challenges benefit from structure, consistency, and novelty in balanced ways. Because our rotation is simple and predictable, students will still maintain clear routines while also experiencing some variation in the school day, which can help sustain attention and engagement.

Additionally, students will not need to relearn changing schedules week to week; they will simply follow the established rotation. Teachers, advisors, and divisional staff will continue supporting students with organization, planning, and time management just as they do now.

### **Why is Academy making this change?**

We believe this schedule better supports balance, equity, engagement, and the overall student experience while preserving instructional time and academic rigor. It also helps ensure that no single class is consistently impacted by early dismissals, appointments, or time-of-day fatigue.

### **Will anything remain the same from our current schedule?**

Yes. Much of the schedule is remaining the same. The length of classes and the start and end times will not change. Mondays will still be C days where students visit all eight class periods. Tuesdays and Thursdays will still be A days where students visit their A class periods. Wednesdays and Fridays will still be B days where students visit their B class periods.

MONDAYS - C days - 1A→1B→2A→2B→3A→3B→4A→4B (no rotation)

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS - A days

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS - B days

### **So what is changing?**

The time of day each class meets will rotate throughout the two-week cycle so that no class is always scheduled at the same time of day. For example, on the first Tuesday of the cycle, the day will begin with 1A at 8:00 a.m., followed by 2A, 3A, and 4A. On the first Wednesday, the day will begin with 1B, followed by 2B, 3B, and 4B. On the first Thursday, the schedule shifts so that 2A meets first at 8:00 a.m., followed by 3A, 4A, and 1A. On the first Friday, 2B meets first, followed by 3B, 4B, and 1B. This pattern continues throughout the cycle, with each class period moving through the different time slots over time.