

COURSE SELECTION

Myths & Facts

Grade 10 & 11 ~ March 3rd, 2016

“Choose your courses
carefully and wisely.”



TIMELINES:

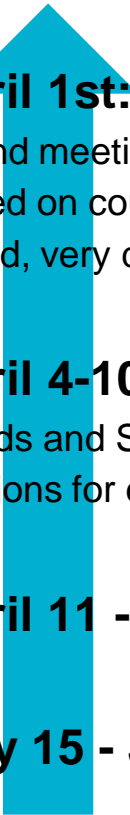


Feb 19th: Course Selection Due

Mar 8th: Course Verifications
Distributed

Mar 11th: Course Verifications Due

Mar 21st: Dept. Heads Mtg - courses
with very low numbers are
cancelled.



April 1st: Principal and Staff members
attend meeting to get ***Number of Teachers***
based on courses (this is a fixed number by the
board, very difficult to change).

April 4-10: Final decisions made with Dept.
Heads and Staffing Team to decide how many
sections for each course.

April 11 - May 15: Timetable built

May 15 - June 15: Conflicts resolved

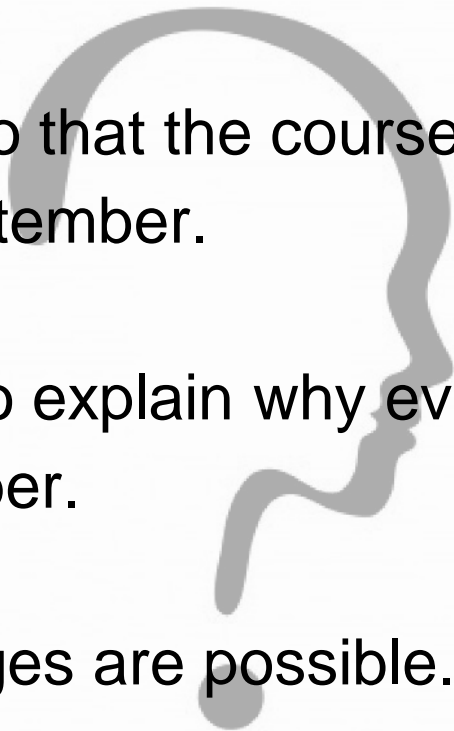


Why this assembly?

To share information so that the courses you REALLY want are available in September.

To provide examples to explain why every change is NOT possible in September.

To explain when changes are possible.



How is the number of classes determined?

Predetermined formula

Factors are:

- Type of course

- Facility based (ex. Tech=22 vs History=30)

- Level of course (University=30 vs. Applied=22)

- Creating pathways (ex. Nursing must have a College Biology available)

- ESL, AP, FI - must offer these

How is the number of teachers determined?

Total number of classes in the school is divided by 6
How many classes each teacher teaches in a year.

In 2015-2016:

759 classes / 6 classes per teacher = 126.5 staff

Why is it so important that you choose wisely now?

Timetable is created this year for next year by you, based on your sections.

By computer and team of teachers and admin.

Last year only 178 students did not get all the courses they requested in February

This is a good result - 91% success rate for conflict free timetables.

EXAMPLE #1

World Cultures

120 students signed up in
February

each class has 30 spots

How many classes would
be given?

4

What would happen if...

...12 people come to guidance
in September because they
now want to take World
Cultures?

No course change allowed

WHY?!

Not allowed to go above
30 students per class.

EXAMPLE #2

Geology

150 students have signed
up in February

How many classes would
be given?

5

What if...

**...30 students start the course and after
a week think it is too hard?**

Still 5 classes - each class now only
has 24 students

***Where do those other 30 students
go?***

Problems: wait lists; starting a
course late; not being able to
see a counsellor at the
beginning of the semester
because they are still
registering new students.

EXAMPLE #2 Continued...

Geology

150 students have signed
up in February

How many classes would
be given?

5

What if...

...at mid-semester an additional 40
students want to drop?

Of those 40 students, 20 will be short a
credit to graduate if they drop.

Problems: students not on track to
graduate; students leaving
classes means group projects
are affected; if students made
decision earlier (in the Spring)
one class could have been
used for other in demand
courses - this has wasted a
class.

EXAMPLE #3

Grade 11M Math

28 students sign up for
level M math.

One class is scheduled.

What if...

...in the 11U course 15 students
earned a mark between 60-68 in
Grade 10D Math?

After the first assessment in 11U 8
students want to change levels
from U to M.

Problem:

only one class has been scheduled
because in February only 28
students selected it.

No course to switch into.

Other Myths and Facts...

MYTH...

First to submit course selection gets all their choices.

FACT...

All students who submit selections and verifications by school deadlines are scheduled at the same time.

The computer program randomly generates timetables by certain criteria of which none is the date you submitted.

MYTH...

Principals can add extra courses if there are enough students that want them.

FACT...

Principals must adhere to staffing formula as previously discussed.

The number of courses is set in April for the following September.

Myths and Facts Continued...

MYTH...

Teachers or your friends know how many spots are left in their course.

FACT...

There may be a wait list or other factors they are unaware of.

ALWAYS book an appointment with your guidance counselor to discuss relevant course change possibilities.

You are not permitted to sit in on a class you are not enrolled in.

MYTH...

Course changes happen immediately.

FACT...

If under 18 forms need to be authorized by a guardian.

These forms are then returned and the change is made.

This can take a minimum of 2 days.

Myths and Facts Continued..

MYTH...

One extra person in the class does not make a big difference and is okay.

FACT...

Each course has a class maximum set by the board that can not be exceeded.

MYTH...

The prerequisites in the course calendar do not really matter.

FACT...

Prerequisites are set by the ministry and we must follow these rules.

MYTH...

You need Law to go into Law in university;
Accounting to go into Accounting;
Kinesiology to go into Kinesiology; Food
and Nutrition to go into Nutritional
Sciences...etc...

FACT...

Prerequisites can be found on e-info.ca.
The only mandatory prereq for ALL
courses are ENG4U.
Often related courses are not required for
prerequisites.

What should you be doing now?

NEXT STEPS...

1. [Wait for COURSE VERIFICATION](#) forms to be returned to you in homerooms next week.
2. [Make any necessary changes NOW](#) on those forms and return them by March 11th. *Chances are you will not be able to make changes in September.*
3. Use **Career Cruising**, the **Guidance tab** on our school website, and other helpful resources like **electronicinfo.ca (eInfo)** or book an appointment with your **Guidance Counsellor** to [make the best choices for your pathway.](#)



When are course changes possible?

Course changes, for your entire year, are considered in September for the following reasons:

- 1) When you have **failed a course** and need that credit to graduate or for pathway planning.
- 2) When you **don't have the necessary pre-requisite** for a course on your timetable. (*ex. you have MCR3U1, but failed MPM2D1 last year*)
- 3) When you are making a **significant pathway change**. (*ex. you were taking business courses but now want science, or, you were taking humanities/social sciences, but now want computers*)