

Trimester Scheduling



For Rowan County Senior High School

December 15, 2009

Board Presentation

What is a trimester schedule?

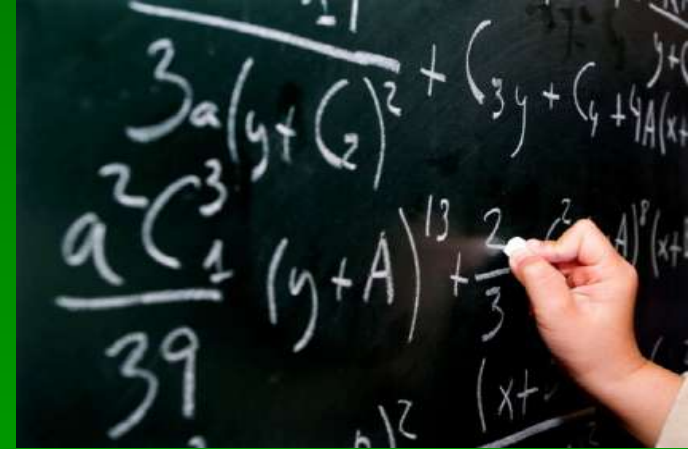


- A trimester schedule divides the year into **three 12 – week trimesters.**
- Each day is divided into 5 periods of 70 minutes each.
- Students can earn $\frac{1}{2}$ credit for each course taken during a trimester, for a total of **$7 \frac{1}{2}$ credits possible per year.**

New Graduation Requirements

- SBDM is currently considering a proposal for graduation requirements.
- Currently RCSHS requires 24 credits from the 28 credits possible.
- With Trimester opportunities of 30 credits, the following credit change is proposed:
 - **Standard Diploma – 27 credits**
 - **Honors Diploma – 29 credits**

How are trimesters different from a 7 – period schedule?



- It is possible that students will have different teachers for A and B sections of a course.
- Students may have a **trimester break** between parts A and B of a class.
- Students have greater opportunity to enroll in electives that interest them since they can finish a course in 24 weeks (each course is 12 weeks in length for $\frac{1}{2}$ credit).
- Students have fewer classes to manage at any one time (**5 instead of 7**).

Why Make a Change?

- Built-in RTI and credit recovery
- Opportunities for enrichment
- Lowering dropout rate
- Increase graduation rate
- HAPPIER STUDENTS!!!

Trimester Considerations

- Most required classes that currently run for the entire school year will be condensed into two trimesters.
- AP courses and a few performance courses will run the entire year.
- Students may switch teachers between trimesters, so aligning content will be essential.
- Content will have to be reviewed in order to appropriately fit into 12-weeks trimesters.

How could trimesters benefit struggling students?



- Students take only 5 classes per trimester, reducing their homework/course load during any one grading period.
- 70-minute periods provide more time for hands-on activities.
- Students who fail a class in the first or second trimesters can immediately re-take the course.

Our Instruction

CLASSROOM INSTRUCTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Trimester 70 minutes period

Independent Work *establishing engagement* with “The Sponge”
(10 minutes)

Guiding Purpose *fostering engagement –focus on the learning objective*
(10 minutes)

Interactive Instruction and Authentic Engagement *deepening understanding* --
the HEART ---- (40 minutes)

Closure & Consolidation *making meaning, clarify* (10 minutes)

How could trimesters benefit accelerated students?



- AP courses could meet for 3 consecutive trimesters, significantly increasing the time available for instruction and earning 1.5 credits.
- Taking only 5 classes gives accelerated students more time to focus on each class.
- Students get to choose 15 courses per year, not just 7.

How will trimesters affect performance courses?



- Performance courses such as speech, band, and chorus could be scheduled for the entire year, giving students 1.5 credits.
- With the greater possibility for electives, enrollment in performance courses should increase.

What does it look like?



- **BELL SCHEDULE**

- 1st 8:05—9:20
- 2nd 9:30—10:40
- 3rd 10:45—12:25 [30 minute lunch]
- 4th 12:30—1:40
- 5th 1:50—3:05

A Look at the Trimester Schedule

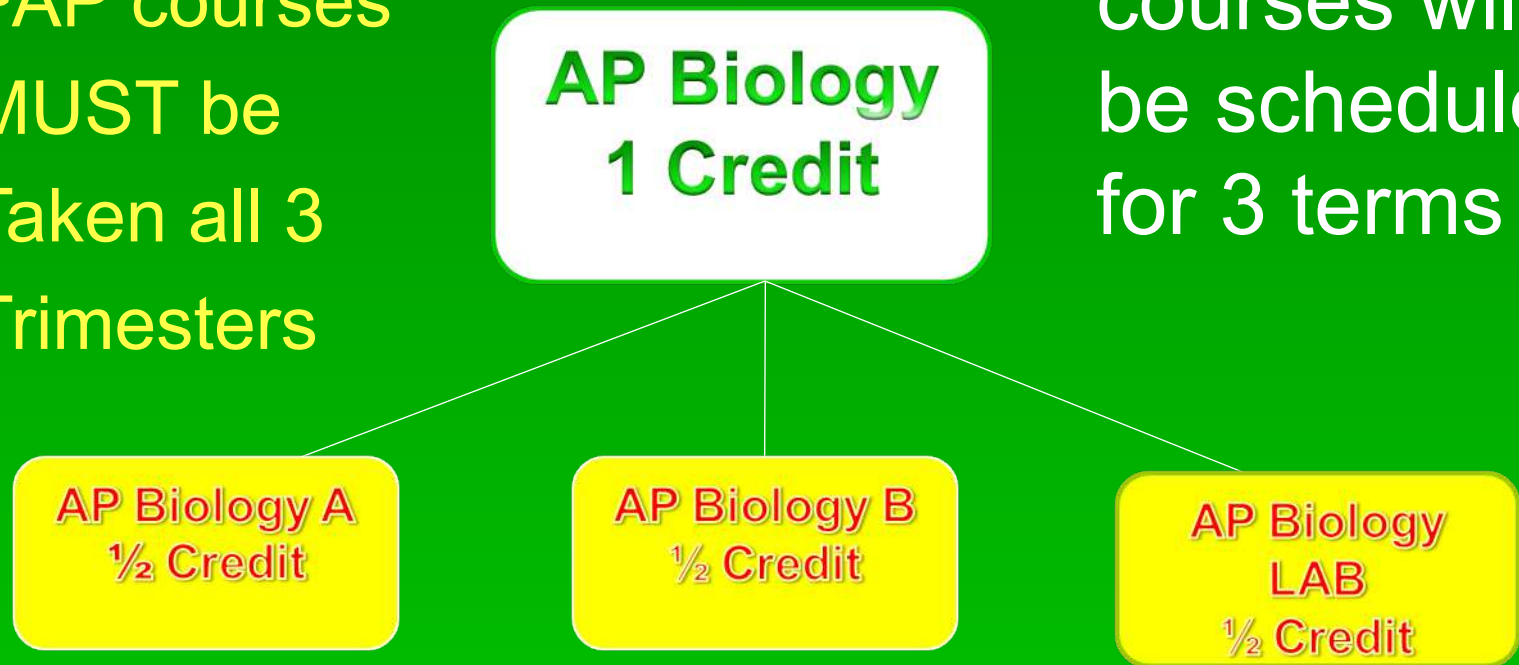
- STUDENTS WILL SIGN UP FOR 15 COURSES PER YEAR,
- NOT JUST 7.

	1 st Term Aug—Nov	2 nd Term Nov—Feb	3 rd Term Feb—May
1 st			
2 nd			
3 rd			
4 th			
5 th			

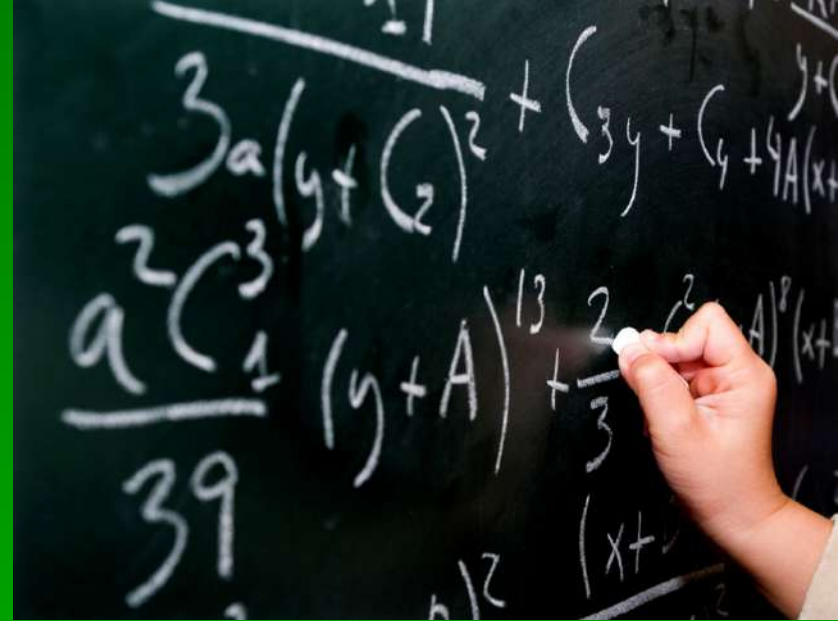
Course Name Changes

~AP courses
MUST be
Taken all 3
Trimesters

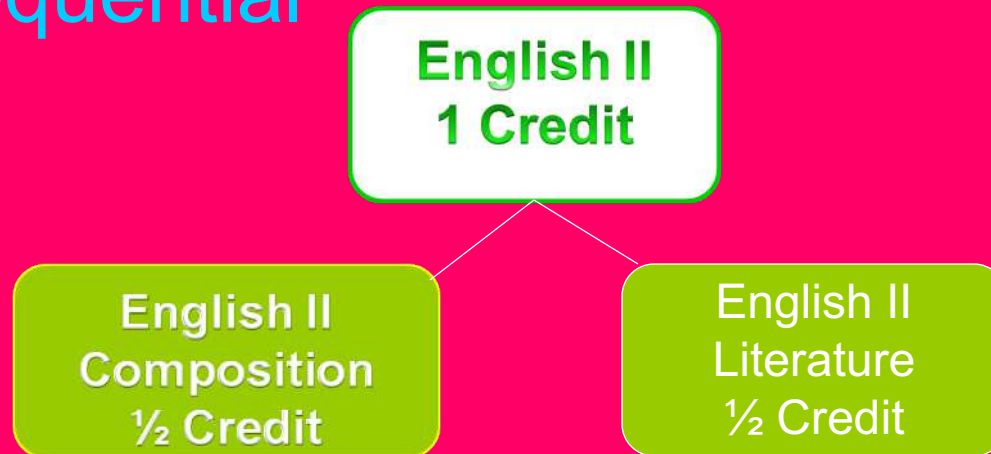
- Most AP courses will be scheduled for 3 terms



Course Name Changes



Non-sequential course



Advanced Placement Course Offerings



10th Grade

- AP European History (in place of World Civilization)
- AP Studio Art

11th Grade

- AP English Language
- AP US History
- AP Spanish
- AP Biology
- AP Studio Art

12th Grade

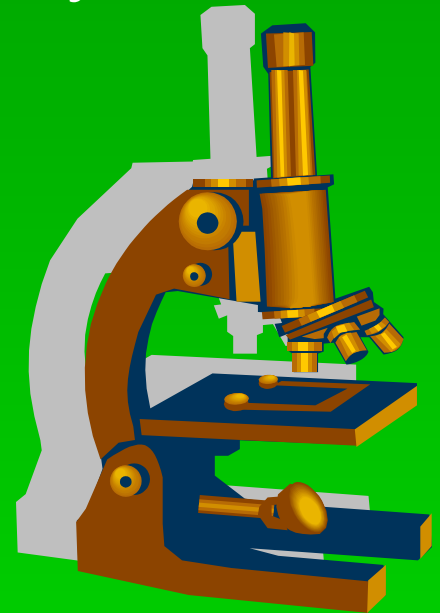
- AP English Lit.
- AP Calculus
- AP Spanish
- AP Studio Art
- AP Biology
- AP Political Science

College Board Approved

College credit awarded if student scores a 3 or higher on exam.

Science Electives

- ❖ Geology
- ❖ Going GREEN
- ❖ Astronomy & Space Science
- ❖ Disease Detectives
- ❖ Chemistry in the Community
- ❖ Real World Physics
- ❖ Forensics
- ❖ Int. Environmental Science
- ❖ Newtonian Physics
- ❖ Modern Physics



Agriculture (Vocational)



- ❖ Winter Wildlife Resources
- ❖ Spring Wildlife Resources
- ❖ Fall Floral Design
- ❖ Spring Floral Design
- ❖ Principles of Greenhouse
- ❖ Greenhouse Management
- ❖ Small Animal Technology
- ❖ Small Animal Applications
- ❖ Intro. to Veterinary Science
- ❖ Principles of Veterinary Science

Arts/Humanities Electives

- ❖ East Ky. Music Tradition
- ❖ 3-D Sculpture
- ❖ Drama & Dance
- ❖ Visual Art & Music
- ❖ History of Rock-n-Roll

Graduation
Requirement:
1 full credit



Social Studies Electives

- ❖ Kentucky Studies
- ❖ Law & Justice
- ❖ AP European History A,
B & LAB
- ❖ AP Comparative Politics
A & B ONLY
(SENIOR only)



Scheduling Timeline



- **December 11th:**
Introduction of new electives to students
- **December 15th:** Trimester information for parents and board of education

January 15th: Students receive scheduling selection sheet & course description guide

- **January 19th:**
JUNIORS enter requests in IC
- **January 20th:**
SOPHOMORES enter requests in IC
- **January 21st:**
FRESHMEN enter requests in IC