

Flex Mod FAQ

What is the purpose of this new schedule?

We began looking at the schedule last December. A team of teachers and administrators from PC visited a school in Arkansas that had effectively implemented the flex schedule. After visiting the school and seeing the benefits observed there, it was decided upon to try at Parkers Chapel. One way the schedule will help students will be by helping them learn time management skills. Students will be required to keep their grades above a 70% in order to remain in Independent Learning Time (ILT)*. How students use their time during ILT hours will be up to them, but they will soon see consequences, rather than noticing them at the end of the 9 weeks or semester. Also, the schedule provides a safety net for students who are at risk of failure. During AGS, teachers will monitor students' grades, and teachers will assign students to SLT if necessary and help them find a solution to bringing grades up. To help you understand some of the benefits, the information below is taken from the blog of the principal of the school we visited.

*All acronyms will be explained in the next few sections.

Here are some of the results observed at that school:

- Higher student attendance rate
- Higher teacher attendance rate
- (Almost) complete removal of the need for substitute teachers
- Higher student engagement
- Lower number of "severe" discipline referrals
- A happier, more student-centered, strong relationship-building school culture and community
- Seeing amazing increases in student's social/21st century skills. Specifically: collaboration, oral communication, time management, and work ethic.

What is the purpose of Independent Learning Time?

Students will have time built into their day called independent learning time (ILT). This time is an extension of classes, and teachers will assign work

specifically for ILT. This gives students the chance to explore material on their own, and if their teacher also has ILT, the student will be able to get one-on-one help from their teacher or a teacher in the same subject. Students are also given the opportunity to learn how to manage their time. Some students may choose not to do their work during ILT, but if their grade drops below a 70% in any academic area, they will be assigned to Structured Learning Time (SLT).

What is the difference between SLT and ILT?

ILT is a time for students to work independently or in groups outside of the classroom. Areas students may be during this time are as follows: the library, computer lab outside of library, furniture in the hallways (QUIET ZONE), and outside between the Tech Building and the Middle School. Students may use this time as they see fit, but it is strongly suggested that they work on schoolwork and take advantage of having help available to them.

Structured learning time is not punishment; rather, it is for students who need a more structured environment to complete work. Students who are in SLT will be assigned to a classroom and must stay in that classroom (unless arrangements are made with a teacher for tutoring) during their SLT. Once the students' grade has risen above a 70% (only after a week has passed), they will be released from SLT back into ILT. **To avoid confusion, grades will be uploaded by the teacher only once per week.** The grade will be checked by the students' Accelerated Growth Session (AGS) teacher, and the AGS teacher will assign them to SLT. As a result, students will remain in SLT for one week.

What is AGS?

AGS stands for Accelerated Growth Sessions. These sessions will take place after lunch each day for 25-30 minutes. Students will be assigned a teacher, and this teacher will be their advisor until they graduate. In AGS, the teacher will check students' grades and schedule them to SLT if they

are below a 70%. The AGS teacher will also help students reach out to teachers to make appointments for tutoring. In addition to grade checking and teacher communication, students will learn life; communication; work; and computer skills during this advisory period. Students will discover all of those things that are generally not “taught in school”.

**See separate handout that describes AGS at PCHS.

Why are there so many colors on my schedule? What do they stand for?
 Each class “period” is represented by a color. Determine which color each class is, and you will find the times the class meets on the schedule. It may be helpful to write the class names and room numbers over each color. For example, you may have English on orange. Write “English Rm. 11” on each orange shaded box. We will assist students with this during registration.

SAMPLE

Start	Stop	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
7:50	8:16	1 Alg	2 Alg	3 Alg	4	5 Eng
8:20	8:46	6 Alg	7 Alg	8 Alg	9	10 Eng
8:50	9:16	11 Hist	12 Eng	13	14	15
9:20	9:46	16 Hist	17 Eng	18 Hist	19	20
9:50	10:16	21 Art	22	23 Eng	24 Alg	25 Art
10:20	10:46	26 Art	27 Art	28 Eng	29	30 Art
10:50	11:16	31	32 Hist	33 Art	34 Hist	35
11:20	11:46	36	37 Hist	38 Art	39 Hist	40
11:50	12:23	AGS	AGS	AGS	AGS	AGS
12:27	1:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:04	1:30	51	52	53	54 CBA	55
1:34	2:00	56 Bio	57 CBA	58 CBA	59 CBA	60
2:04	2:30	61	62	63	64	ACTIVITY
2:34	3:00	66 Ath	67 Bio	68 Ath	69 Ath	70 Bio
3:04	3:30	71	72 Bio	73 Ath	74 Ath	75 Bio

What are odysseys, and why are they called that?

There are 15 odysseys in a school day. Each odyssey is 30 minutes long. Students may have a class that comprises of either 1-3 odysseys. The odysseys help us section off the day. In the past, a student may have asked “what period is this?”, the response may have been “7th period”. Now, a student will ask “what is the odyssey?”, the response may be “odyssey 13”. These times are called odysseys because students, just like Odysseus, are on an odyssey all day long!

Will there still be bells?

Bells will ring in the morning to prompt students to go to class and in the afternoon when students will leave. Bells will not ring for class change because other students may still be in class. Notice the difference between two sample student schedules below:

STUDENT A

9:50	10:16	21	22	23	24	25
10:20	10:46	26	27	28	29	30
10:50	11:16	31	32	33	34	35
11:20	11:46	36	37	38	39	40

STUDENT B

9:50	10:16	21	22	23	24	25
10:20	10:46	26	27	28	29	30
10:50	11:16	31	32	33	34	35
11:20	11:46	36	37	38	39	40