



**ONOWAY
JUNIOR/SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL**

EMPOWERING LEARNERS



**Northern Gateway
Public Schools**

**January 21, 2021
from OJSH Principal Lobo**

OJSH semester 2 changes starting Monday, February 1, 2021

Background

In August 2020, when planning for the 20/21 school year, I reviewed many possibilities to plan for the return of classes in the Covid -19 world . Many high schools were moving to the QUARTER system, to try to mitigate the response to Covid-19, if students were positive.

The QUARTER system would have had senior high students have only 2 classes a day for 4x9 week periods. The quarter system would cohort senior high students into 2 groups if a Covid-19 quarantine event took place. As many times as I tried, trying to develop Quarters just would not work for OJSH in Semester 1 of this 2020/21 school year .

What's changed during Semester 1 (September - January):

- 1) There have been some staffing changes that allowed for subtle reassignments for Semester 2.
- 2) OJSH administration has made a significant change to grade 8 classes. We will be moving from the 5 grade 8 classes we had in first semester to 4 grade 8 classes for semester 2. These classes have been under 20 students, and with the redistribution will be between 22-24 students. We have seen some grade 8 students leave oJSH or go online in Semester 1. This reduction of a grade 8 class will allow for the equivalent of a full time teacher to be redistributed to other duties, thus opening up the Semester 2 OJSH timetable.

During semester 1, we have had to adapt to Covid positive students, and having students and staff isolate out of school. With our junior high students cohorted, a positive case only affects one group of 25 or less students. At the senior high level, however, a senior high student who is covid-positive, on a semester system of 4 classes per day, affects 4 staff and over 80 students. This event reiterated my concern with the semesters, and doubled by efforts to try to make quarters work. Here are the changes .

Changes as of February 1, 2021:

Senior high students:

Quarter 3 - runs from February 1 - April 21 (9 weeks)

AM - the scheduled block 1 class - 2x83 min of the same class with a 10 min break

PM - the scheduled block 3 class - 2x83 min of the same class with a 10 min break

Quarter 4 - runs from April 22 - June 28 (9 weeks)

AM - the scheduled block 2 class - 2x83 min of the same class with a 10 min break

PM - the scheduled block 4 class - 2x83 min of the same class with a 10 min break

Gr 8/9 students - stay with their current cohort class

There were some staffing changes that were scheduled to take place. Typically, most junior high classes will continue with the same teachers. The one exception is that students in the semester one 8-5 class, will be reallocated to other four current grade 8 classes for semester 2.

AM classes

No change to current schedule for grade 8 and gr 9 courses.

English every day, Math/Ped alternating every second day

These classes continue in their current blocks, from February 1 - June 28.

PM classes - changes to the scheduling of classes:

Students still have instruction in required courses, but with a bit of a scheduling change.

Typically they will have their same teachers from semester 1.

Grade 8

Quarter 3 - February 1 - April 21

Block 3 - 83 min class of Science 8 or Social 8

Block 4 - 83 min class of Science 8 or Social 8

Quarter 4 April 22 - June 28

Block 3 - 83 minute option

Block 4 - 83 minute option

Grade 9

Quarter 3 - February 1 - April 21

Block 3 - 83 minute option

Block 4 - 83 minute option

Quarter 4 April 22 - June 28

Block 3- 83 min class of Science 9 or Social 9

Block 4 - 83 min class of Science 9 or Social 9

CHART FORM of same information

Grade 8 schedule - Semester 2

<u>Block</u>	<u>Time frame</u>	<u>Class</u>
1	February 2021 -June 2021	Language Arts or Math /Ped
2	February 2021 -June 2021	Language Arts or Math /Ped
Lunch		
3	February 2021- April 21, 2021	Science or Social studies
4	February 2021-April 21, 2021	Science or Social studies
3	April 22- June 28, 2021	Gr 8 Option cycle1
4	April 22-June 28, 2021	Gr 8 Option cycle 2

Grade 9 schedule - Semester 2

<u>Block</u>	<u>Time frame</u>	<u>Class</u>
1	February 2021 -June 2021	Language Arts or Math /Ped
2	February 2021 -June 2021	Language Arts or Math /Ped
Lunch		
3	February 2021- April 21, 2021	Grade 9 option cycle 1
4	February 2021-April 21, 2021	Grade 9 option cycle 2
3	April 22- June 28, 2021	Science or Social Studies
4	April 22-June 28, 2021	Science or Social Studies

Gr 10-12 classes

<u>Block</u>	<u>Time frame</u>	<u>Class</u>
1-Q3	February 2021- April 21, 2021-	Powerschool Scheduled bl 1 class
2-Q3	February 2021- April 21, 2021-	Powerschool Scheduled bl 1 class
Lunch		
3-Q3	February 2021- April 21, 2021	Powerschool Scheduled bl 3 class
4-Q3	February 2021-April 21, 2021	Powerschool Scheduled bl 3 class
1-Q4	April 22- June 28, 2021	Powerschool Scheduled bl 2 class
2-Q4	April 22- June 28, 2021	Powerschool Scheduled bl 2 class
Lunch		
3-Q4	April 22- June 28, 2021	Powerschool Scheduled bl 4 class
4-Q4	April 22-June 28, 2021	Powerschool Scheduled bl 4 class

Conclusion

As we progress through the 2020/21 school year, OJSH staff, students, and parents have shown resilience with all the alterations to a regular school year.

As with all changes, there are positives and negatives.

These scheduling changes for semester 2 are mainly to mitigate large effects to students in high school should there be Covid-positive students, and the subsequent quarantining of staff and students.

I am positive students and staff will continue to show the flexibility to move forward with these changes. Staff will work with students in the last week of January, and the first week of February to ensure students are in the right classes at the right times.

As always, if you have questions, feel free to contact me at school 780-967-2271 or by email john.lobo@ngps.ca.

