

MYER MOVES TO MSIP FOR THE 2010 - 2011 SCHOOL YEAR

A. N. Myer has been operating as a traditional semestered school for many years which includes students taking 4 instructional periods (courses) each semester. Each course is instructed in a 75 minute period and the school day runs from 8:25 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. In September 2010, A. N. Myer will be moving to an MSIP timetable which will consist of 5 periods, each 60 minutes in duration per semester. Each semester will consist of 4 instructional periods plus 1 MSIP (Multi-Subject Instructional Period). By reducing the current class structure from 75 minutes to 60 minutes, MSIP will be implemented without impacting the start and finish time of the school day.

History of MSIP (Multi-Subject Instructional Period)

The MSIP schedule was first used in 1990 at Athens District High School. It was developed to deal with the large number of timetable conflicts students were experiencing at this small school of 300 students. After introducing MSIP many other benefits were observed. As a result four additional schools in that school board quickly adapted the MSIP schedule.

After doing their research, Governor Simcoe Secondary School was the first District School Board of Niagara school to move to the MSIP structure in 2007. Soon after, South Lincoln High School joined in with Westlane Secondary School following in September 2009. In September 2010, A. N. Myer Secondary School and Laura Secord Secondary School will also be joining these MSIP schools.

Benefits of MSIP

Student Success

In the mid 1990's the Ontario curriculum experienced great change. The OAC year was removed and a more "rigorous and demanding" 4 year high school diploma program was implemented. Graduation requirements changed including an increase of credit requirements from 28 to 30, 40 hours of community service and the Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test. These changes placed additional pressure on the learner. The result was higher failure rates, higher drop out rates and increased stress and frustration in students. Over the past 7-8 years, the Ontario government has placed a considerable amount of resources into Student Success initiatives to attempt to reverse this trend. MSIP schools feel strongly that the MSIP schedule better meets the needs of all students. MSIP builds structured time to complete tasks into a student's daily schedule, improving retention and better preparing students for learning new concepts and skills.

This structured time is particularly useful for senior students working toward their post-secondary goals. Many students experience a great deal of stress in their senior years as they try to balance school expectations with co-curricular activities and part-time job schedules. Students who have experienced an MSIP schedule appreciate this structured period for this reason and the vast majority feel it contributes to their success at school.

Class Length

MSIP better aligns class length with optimal learning time. Concerns around a 75 minute semestered period have always existed. In the last 15 minutes of class it is often difficult to maintain students' focus and issues around discipline often occur in the last 15 minutes of class. It should be noted that university lectures are 50 minutes in length. A 60 minute period will make the learning experience more manageable for students and teachers.

Focused Study Time

Research emphasizes the need for "do time" for consolidation of learning. MSIP provides this time. During each day students will have 60 minutes of "do time" to complete homework, prepare for tests and work on projects and assignments.

Resources

MSIP increases a student's access to learning resources. Students will be able to access the expertise of teaching staff along with school resources.

Conflicts MSIP provides increased opportunity for placement of classes and resource availability within the school timetable. The additional period in each semester allows for a better balanced timetable with fewer conflicts. It also increases the likelihood of students getting the classes they have selected. The same number of classes will be scheduled over 5 periods instead of 4 resulting in an increase in availability of computer lab and library resources.

Cooperative Learning MSIP provides students with the opportunity to work together on group projects or help each other with their daily class work. MSIP classes are cross grade level which allows senior students to model and share successful learning strategies with junior students. Schools running cross grade level MSIP groupings have found a positive effect on the tone and culture of the school.

What will an MSIP schedule look like?

Below is an example of what a Grade 9 student timetable may look like. The school day schedule will apply for students in all grades. Courses and MSIP location will change based on a student grade and needs.

GRADE 9				
SEMESTER 1			SEMESTER 2	
PERIOD	COURSE	TIMES	COURSE	PERIOD
Period 1	Science	8:25 - 9:30*	English	Period 1
Period 2	Physical Education	9:35 - 10:35	MSIP**	Period 2
Period 3	Geography	10:40 - 11:40	Art	Period 3
Lunch		11:40 - 12:25	Lunch	
Period 4	MSIP**	12:25 - 1:25	Math	Period 4
Period 5	Technology	1:30 - 2:30	French	Period 5

* Includes morning announcements

** Location of MSIP will vary depending on student course placements

Is MSIP Mandatory?

Yes, all Myer students will be scheduled into an MSIP period and the expectation for this period is the exact same as any other class. Just like a regular class, each MSIP has a teacher assigned to it and attendance is mandatory. Each credit course represents 110 instructional hours. The MSIP period is tied directly to the 110 instructional hours in each course. Students who do not follow through with the expectations of MSIP (attendance and completion of course expectations) will place their credits in jeopardy.

Additional Information

Many of our students have friends in MSIP schools and have an understanding of what it is and how it works. MSIP expectations and routines will be shared with students in their first MSIP period in September.

Myer School Council and Staff support the move to an MSIP structure. Myer staff will collectively review the MSIP implementation process throughout the 2010-2011 school year in order to determine the impact on student achievement and determination of continuance in the 2011-2012 school year.