# Westwood High School: Spotlight on the schedule

Approximately 900 ninth grade students at Westwood High School in Mesa, Arizona are distributed across six Academy Teams. Each core team consists of at least four educators: a lead teacher and three certified teachers. Depending on students' needs, special educators, English Language Learner educators, MLFTC residents and paraeducators may also be included on the team.

Of the six Westwood Academy Teams, three educator teams are "morning teams" and three educator teams are "afternoon teams." Morning teams teach their classes back to back in the morning, which facilitates the combining of classes into larger groups for cross-curricular instruction. They then have sustained collaborative planning time when students engage with electives in the afternoon. Afternoon teams do the opposite: Educators co-plan in the morning while students engage with electives, and they teach their core classes back to back in the late morning and afternoon. Wednesdays are slightly different, as students dismiss early, but the teams follow a similar pattern: morning teams teach first, then plan; and afternoon teams plan first, then teach.

## Example schedule at a glance
**Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays**

| Time | Morning teams | Afternoon teams |
|---|---|---|
| 8:15–9:11 a.m. | Content area 1 | Elective 1/Educator planning |
| 9:18–10:19 a.m. | Content area 2 | Elective 2/Educator planning |
| 10:19–11:03 a.m. | Content area 3 | Lunch |
| 11:10 a.m.–12:06 p.m. | Content area 4 | Content area 1 |
| 12:13–1:09 p.m. | Lunch | Content area 2 |
| 1:15–2:12 p.m. | Elective 1/Educator planning | Content area 3 |
| 2:19–3:15 p.m. | Elective 2/Educator planning | Content area 4 |

**Wednesdays**

| Time | Morning teams | Afternoon teams |
|---|---|---|
| 8:15–8:55 a.m. | Content area 1 | Elective 1/Educator planning |
| 9:01–:41 a.m. | Content area 2 | Elective 2/Educator planning |
| 9:47–10:27 a.m. | Content area 3 | Content area 1 |
| 10:33–11:13 a.m. | Content area 4 | Content area 2 |
| 11:19–11:59 a.m. | Elective 1/Educator planning | Content area 3 |
| 12:05–12:45 p.m. | Elective 2/Educator planning | Content area 4 |
| 12:45–1:15 p.m. | Lunch | Lunch |

# A closer look

## Content area classes

Each day, the core educator team teaches four classes in a row and has a double planning period, during which time students attend elective classes. "Morning teams" teach in the morning and meet to plan in the afternoon; "afternoon teams" meet to plan in the morning and teach in the afternoon. Content area classes include:

**Math:**
- All teams offer Algebra 1
- Two teams offer Geometry
- One team offers combined Algebra I and Algebra II, co-taught with a special education inclusion teacher

**English:** Teams offer English 9 or Honors English. For many teams, English is a key subject area for cross-curricular instruction: math, science and Career Technical Education teachers regularly make connections to English instruction.

**Science:** Two teams offer biology, two teams offer honors biology, and two teams offer agriculture and biology. Importantly, Westwood's campus is 64 acres in size, and part of that acreage includes a working farm. Students enrolled in agriculture and biology spend two days a week learning on the farm by growing vegetables for the community and caring for the farm's animals (e.g., pigs, cows, emus and chickens).

**Career Technical Education:** At the close of ninth grade, students must identify a career-college pathway (e.g., culinary arts, agriculture, engineering) that they will pursue in 10th and 11th grades. The aim of CTE class is to prepare students to make their pathway choices. Additionally, like English, CTE is a key subject area for cross-curricular instruction. CTE teachers regularly make connections between their content and math, English and science instruction.

## Elective classes/Educator planning

Students have two class periods for electives each day. Electives include physical education, languages, band, orchestra, video production and more.

While students engage with electives, core team educators have a double planning period. During this time, they engage in cross-curricular planning, data conversations and student intervention conversations.