

PURPOSE: To prioritize entry-level classes (e.g. University Chemistry I-II, University Biology I-II, Mechanics, University Composition I-II) with more than two class blocks for 8 AM classes.

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE SENATE:

SECTION ONE (REASONING):

Many juniors have extremely busy schedules. Juniors at MSMS face significant scheduling constraints due to the number of required, entry-level courses they must complete ~~by~~ before their senior year. Classes such as University General Chemistry I, University General Biology I, and Mechanics are foundational and often prerequisites for more advanced coursework.

However, these classes usually conflict with other required junior-level courses because they are not consistently offered during early morning time slots. Instead, they are offered later in the day, where classes that have fewer time periods are often scheduled.

Courses like English Literature, Modern Physics, FTO, and others are taking up spots that could be used for more entry-level junior classes. This creates conflicts with several junior-level courses, leaving students unable to adjust their schedules unless the class they want is offered at 8:00 a.m. This issue is perpetuated by the already packed schedules juniors have. If students can take the required courses in their junior year, this put less pressure on students to have an overloaded schedule their senior year.

SECTION TWO (PROPOSED ACTION):

We propose that a new system is created on the master matrix. If there are available first periods in the mornings designated for senior level classes, they should instead be allocated to junior heavy or entry-level classes that have more than two class periods. This will account for student needs and availability. These changes will be made on the 2026-2027 master matrix sent out to students at the beginning of the year. Teacher schedules, availability, and planning periods will be considered when making changes to the schedule. Examples of entry-level classes are listed below:

Semester 1:

- Foundations
- Advanced Chemistry I
- University Chemistry I
- University Biology I
- Mechanics

Semester 2:

- Differential Calculus
- Advanced Chemistry II
- University Chemistry II
- University Biology II
- Waves

SECTION THREE (APPENDIX):

“It’s a pretty good idea because being able to get these prerequisite classes out of the way makes schedules much more flexible and allows juniors to choose their desired classes and courses when they get to senior year,” -Christopher Chen

“I think that it would be very helpful because a lot of the entry level classes take up the afternoon. This would allow more flexibility with getting more students into the heavier courses that may have a busy schedule.” – Aundriya Neely

“I think this will help allow a lot more students to have freedom in their classes.” -Claire Rhee

Mrs. Z supports this bill and believes it is a positive idea. She prefers scheduling junior-heavy classes in the morning rather than later in the day. She also noted that, if implemented properly, the resolution could provide greater flexibility in scheduling.

After speaking with Mrs. Bates, she indicated that she is not opposed to the idea. She observed that greater flexibility in the master schedule was needed this year and believes this resolution will help bring attention to challenges students are facing. She also emphasized that teacher schedules and preferences need to be considered as well.

Dr. Easterling agrees that there needs to be more flexibility in scheduling junior classes. Though, he points out there are scheduling limitations due to limited teaching staff. “I think what you have here serves as a good rule of thumb,” -Dr. Easterling