

## MOD/CL FAQ

### “Later is Now”

The Harrisburg High School website, under the MOD/MCL dropdown has much more information and examples. This includes many documents, videos and the MOD/CL guidebook for 2014-15.

#### What is it?

“MOD” refers to Modular Schedule or 22, 19- minute, time segments. This schedule coincide somewhat with the traditional schedule to allow for elective course symmetry. CL refers to Customized Learning. Synonyms for CL are Individualized Learning, Differentiated Learning, Personalized Learning.

The MOD/CL concept is designed to allow students and parents, chances and choices to develop at a pace suited to their maturity and ability. With this opportunity, students also must build skills of responsibility and dependability not present in the traditional school structure. In addition, the program allows students to be challenged without being frustrated and explore curriculum to greater depth. Students spend more times individually with teachers and with each other meeting the mission of HHS to become “Independent Decision-Makers”. Finally, students are no longer simply promoted on minimal expectations. All students must master the skill and knowledge before moving on to the next stage.

#### Why change?

To meet the goal of preparing students for life. To make certain that students form the work habits and risk-taking skills to compliment their abilities. To allow students to see failure and mistakes as the path to the greatest growth and reach for potential. To treat every student as an individual, capable of reaching potential every day.

#### What research supports this change?

Differentiation studies – led by Carol Tomlinson and others.  
Robert Marzano’s work on Teaching Best Practices and Intrinsic motivation  
Modular Schedule action research by Omaha Westside School and Wausa West School  
Pedagogical Delivery systems studied by Ivan Ilych and Frank Gyrna  
Authentic Assessment studies  
J. Dettre and the Carnegie Unit  
Student =Teacher Relationships by S.R. Kaufmann and H. W. Wong  
J. Frymeier, The educational method.  
Educational and Behavior Psychology by Vygotsky  
“Inevitable” Chuck Schwan and Bea McGarvey  
Many more studies in the areas of Educational Psychology, Teaching Practices, Educational Systems.

#### What are some important terms?

SOP – Standard Operating Procedure – sets of protocols to build habits in time management, academic progress, work ethic, civility and courtesy  
Schoolology – Software designed specifically for use as an instructional tool, assessment tool, and communication device – this software is essential in communication and assessing student progress  
ACI – Academic check-in – students are monitored according to pace and quality each week(refer to Student Guidebook for MOD-CL)  
Capacity Matrix – Curriculum pathway that displays a students path to completion of a set of skills and knowledge. Contains specific standards and tasks for completion to prove mastery.  
Mastery – Can analyze and apply specific skills and knowledge.  
Taxonomy – Describes four levels of learning. Basic understanding, Comprehension, Analysis and Application, Evaluation and Synthesis.  
IMC – Instructional Materials Center – Location of assignment for students if needing assistance or specific work time or are far behind teacher pace.  
Teacher Pace – Curriculum location where most students should arrive by a specific time.  
SAM – Student Achievement Module – Time when students are not in an assigned class.  
Tiger Perch – Balcony area for student SAM time

**Do students still receive grades?**

Yes – however, grading for mid-terms, and semesters are calculated, but not recorded and have no bearing on GPA or transcripts. Grades are only posted at the end of a course, whenever that occurs.

**Do teachers, teach?**

If the definition of teaching is lecture, test, receive grade and move on no matter the outcome – then no, this sort of instruction does not take place very often. Most instruction takes place in small groups, individual meetings and group sessions. There are still some traditional formats to lessons, but most instruction takes place between the expert(teacher) and the learner in a personal fashion. Teachers do spend more time with traditional format during the beginning of courses to set expectations, however, teachers then become expert advisors to spur student to individual potential as a course proceeds.

**Do students still get to select classes?**

Yes – students select their electives and also the level of core classes(150/250-advanced, 110/210 – common, 100/200 – Foundational).

**What sort of orientation will be provided for parents and students”?**

Informational meetings and Q & A will take place each month. Students will be involved in two days of simulation in May. Students will have three days of orientation in the fall as well. Parents are always invited and welcome to attend school at any time and observer. Students have regular goal-setting

**What counseling is provided?**

Students have three advisors. They have a Teacher/Advisor called a “TAP” group. This group meets daily. They have Ms. Dana Bigge who is assigned specifically to the MOD/CL students and the counseling office is available. They have a communications arts advisor to assist with written work. This is called triangulated counseling and each adult plays a different role in monitoring and progress.

**What about advanced classes and those in Tiger Trek?**

Students in the honors courses will be held to higher expectations in regard to complexity and pace. Reaching the taxonomy level four is a task that requires teacher and committee review. A group of parents and teachers meet regularly to discuss continued development of advanced curriculum and assessment. As per Board decision in 2012, all middle school advanced courses receive appropriate credit towards graduation. AP courses for the Class of 2017 are under way this year and the pilot has been a success so far.

**What is the most difficult issue for the MOD/CL?**

For teachers, developing curriculum and a menu of credible assessment choices is very time-consuming as well as continually monitoring student progress. For students, trying to achieve mastery takes a much different mindset, repetitive tasks until reaching mastery, and a seemingly endless labor to reach their goals. To sum it up – this is very simply much harder and requires perseverance by teachers, students and parents.

**Will there continue to be two programs, a traditional and MOD/CL?**

That is a school board decision, however, it appears that the two will continue to exist into the future. At this time, all future decisions at the high school are with the assumption there will continue to be two programs of delivery.

**How will the process work to sign up for either program?**

All 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents and students will submit a form by March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 that will be provided by the middle school to make a choice for either traditional or MOD/CL. Please weigh this decision carefully. Once submitted, this will be the final decision for the 2015-16 school year. Each spring, all students at HHS will have the ability to choose the program of their wish for the following school year. Only the Class of 2016(next year’s seniors) will not have this choice as they will continue in their regular format to graduation.

