



# Vincent Massey Secondary School



J. Rankin, Principal

R. Peto, Vice-Principal

M. Loebach, Vice-Principal

M. Maddox, Vice-Principal

March 1, 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students:

Established in 1960, Vincent Massey Secondary School in Windsor has a well-earned reputation for high standards of academic and athletic excellence. It is, therefore, consistent with our standing and our character to be self-reflective and regularly review what is working well and to identify where we, as a school community, can improve.

Staff has been actively examining student achievement indicators such as: assessment scores, credit accumulation, attendance, student success and school culture. Discussion and deliberation has stimulated an examination of our timetable to determine if a fully semestered timetable would improve our indicators and increase opportunities for students. All pathway/course options would still be offered including locally developed, applied, academic and enriched, preparing students for post-secondary employment, apprenticeships, college or university programs.

The moduflex schedule, currently in use, is composed of both full year and semestered classes. Currently, full year courses represent 27% of courses offered. Full year classes are 38 minutes in duration while semestered classes are 80 minutes for half a year. Examinations are scheduled in January for semester one courses and in June for semester two and full year courses.

The Greater Essex County District School Board has a process that schools must follow to propose a timetable change. To ensure that our school community is aware of this process, and to provide as much information as possible about the committee's work, we invite you to an information session for parents on March 5 and March 6 as outlined below.

Upcoming important dates:

March 1, 2019	Student Information Sessions
March 5, 2019	Parent Information Session - 6:30pm-8:00pm in South Gym
March 6, 2019	Parent Information Session - 5:30pm-6:45pm in Library
March 7, 2019	Staff Vote
March 19, 2019	Student Vote
March 19, 2019	Parent Vote - 4:30pm-7:00pm – in Library
March 20, 2019	Parent Vote - 7:30am-4:30pm – in Main Office

Included is a summary of the benefits of both scheduling models that the committee has prepared based on its review. Should you have any questions about the information presented, please contact Mrs. Rankin at 519-969-2530. We look forward to working with you to provide the best possible learning experiences and pathway opportunities for our students.

### A Fully Semestered Schedule

- Focus on 4 courses at time and 4 FSE/exams at the end of each semester which is reflective of post-secondary class length
- Semestered classes allow for a variety of learning activities, seatwork, group work, labs and projects to be conducted in one class period
- Consistent reporting periods with less time between assessments
- More time in a given day with a particular teacher to ask questions, interact and develop rapport
- Increased accessibility to experiential learning opportunities such as Co-op and Apprenticeship pathways
- Transitions between GECSDB programs are better accommodated throughout the year such as Culinary and Enhanced OYAP
- Sequencing of courses from semester 1 to semester 2 allows opportunities to retake courses or transition between pathways

### A Moduflex Schedule

- Courses are offered in both semestered and full year modes
- Full year courses allow for skill building with daily activities and discussions in smaller incremental steps to demonstrate learning
- Semestered classes allow for a variety of learning activities, seatwork, group work, labs and projects to be conducted in one class period
- Full year classes keep students immersed in study with only short interruptions from year to year, and lessen the potential impact of necessary prolonged absences
- Flexibility supports student's success in opportunities such as DELF (French Language Exam), Math and Computer Science competitions, Music and Band
- Encourages students to develop time management, study and organizational skills
- Develops rapport with and between students over a longer period of time

Sincerely,

Steering Committee  
B. Awad, J. Bujak, C. Ing, C. Zieba

Principal  
J. Rankin