

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Schedule Changes

Q. Why can't I change my schedule in August because I have changed my mind about a class?

- A. As was noted on your course contract which you completed in the spring semester of last school year, Bowie allows for "change of mind" schedule change requests from the time the course contracts are submitted until early in June. (This year's deadline was June 10th.) After this point in time, the master schedule for the entire school is finalized, sections of courses for more than 2850 students are created, teachers are hired (or fired), textbooks and supplies are ordered—all based upon your course contract.

This same deadline was also included in your proposed course list which you were sent through the mail in May—giving you one more opportunity to review your choices and to determine if you were happy with them.

Also, by the time August arrives, we have balanced our class sizes as carefully as possible, and we know that the quality of your education—as well as that of all the students in the school—will be best in a reasonably-sized class where teaching can begin on the first day of school and where your teacher and classmates will not have to be frequently interrupted by the addition of new students or the loss of current students.

In addition, the Bowie community believes in the importance of commitment! We believe there is great value and learning opportunity in sticking with a commitment, and we have frequently found that our students who may not like or who may be afraid of a particular course at the onset of the year discover that they are very capable and successful in the course as the year progresses.

Q. Why can't I change from a Pre-AP or AP class to an academic class before school begins in August or during the first week of school?

- A. The policy regarding level changes from Pre-AP or AP to academic level was included in every Pre-AP and AP contract posted on the Bowie website last spring. When you selected these classes, you indicated on your course contract that you had read, understood and agreed to the contract.

Some students wish to switch levels because they have not done the required summer homework. A switch for this reason is not allowed, so students in this situation should get busy doing the work immediately. Directions for obtaining this information are on the www.jbhs.org website. Links to all contracts are under: **Counselor's Corner.**

We have a two week minimum policy for Pre-AP and AP Level Change requests because we have repeatedly found that some of our best students get a little panicked during the first week of class—underestimating their ability to be successful in these classes. We have seen these same students make the necessary transition to become very competent in these challenging courses because of the requirement to stick with their commitment for the first two full weeks of school.

Q. What if I have stayed in my Pre-AP or AP class for two weeks, and I think I should make a level change?

- A. Talk with your teacher! Your teacher is the only person who can provide you with an application to change levels in a course. You will complete that application, submit it to the counseling office where the counselor will add any pertinent information, and it will go to an academic committee in that area of curriculum. The people on this committee will make the decision about whether your level change will be granted or not. They will look at your efforts to be successful in the class, your abilities, and any additional information that you supply to them. You should be aware that if the change is granted, you may have several classes rearranged to accommodate the change so that none of our courses become too large. Once this kind of change is made, you may **NOT** change it back.

➤ The window for applying for level changes is:

- For a full-year course: the 3rd through the 8th week of the fall semester and the 1st through the 3rd week of the spring semester
- For a half-year course: the 3rd through the 7th week of the semester