

# Uintah Middle School

## Class Change policy

Uintah Middle School (UMS) encourages ownership of the academic experience. We create educational investment by letting students have choices, reinforcing the idea that *this is THEIR education*. However, keeping the school safe, efficient and fair must take priority.

The following policy reflects our school's goal of providing students with choice, while meeting ethical, legal and logical standards:

### Changing the order of classes

Before classes start:

Students and parents are allowed to request changes to the order of their schedule before the first day of classes (class-size permitting). However, there is no guarantee that their customized schedules will remain untouched.

WHY?--Schedules are constantly changing as we struggle to balance teaching loads, interpersonal conflicts, and student enrolment. For now, there is no way to "lock" a student's schedule to keep others from making changes. Students and parents may have to keep working with the school to ensure that any necessary changes remain honored.

After classes start:

Parent or Faculty **requests** are required to make changes to a student's schedule ***after** classes have started*.

WHY?--The school requires a "request" (not to be confused with *permission*) from an adult to ensure that the changes being made are important enough to disrupt attendance and grade keeping efforts already in progress. We strongly encourage adults to use their mature discretion before making a request, and avoid becoming a pawn for students.

### Changing core subject teachers

Administrative approval (the principal, or vice principal) is required to change a student from a core subject teacher (Math, Science, English, etc.) after classes have started, or for a future term. Parents will be asked to provide evidence that: efforts have been made to work with the student's current teacher; and/or, student needs cannot be met by the current placement.

WHY?—UMS strives to provide consistency in instruction by scheduling students with the same teacher through the course of a multi-term core class. Class sizes can unfairly be heavier for more popular teachers, leading to teacher burn-out and inaccurately affecting the abilities of the teacher. Administration works diligently to ensure uniformity of instruction, and must restrict teacher-changes to only the most pressing circumstances.