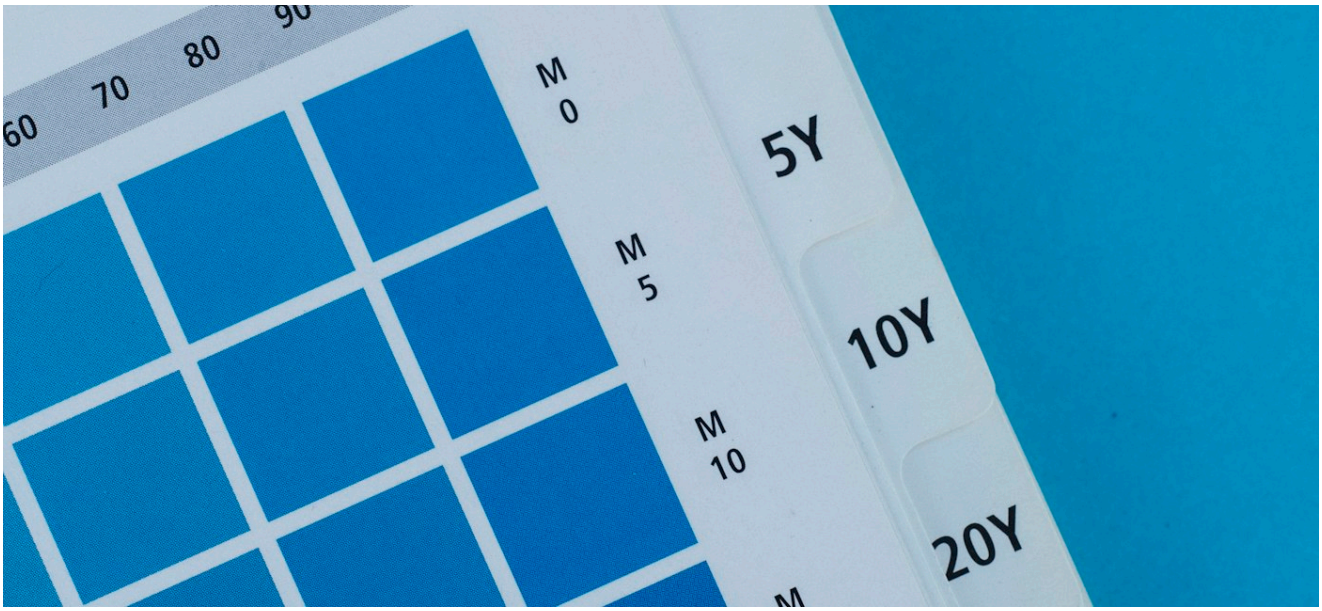
How to set up a rotating school timetable on your phone

A/B weeks and Day 1–8 rotations, entered once: which pattern you have, what a normal calendar can and cannot do, and the free Android app that handles both.

Author: Lubor Šimůnek · Published: October 14, 2026 · Education

Online version: https://appstoryo.com/en/blog/how-to-set-up-a-rotating-school-timetable



To set up a rotating school timetable on a phone, pick an app that understands cycles rather than one that only knows Monday to Friday: enter the cycle length, the week your term starts on and your holiday dates once. School Planner: Student Agenda handles A/B weeks, 1–4-week cycles and Day 1 to Day 8 rotations free on Android.

Disclosure: AppStoryo is operated by the studio that develops School Planner: Student Agenda. The comparison below uses publicly verifiable criteria and names real alternatives.

Which kind of rotating timetable do you actually have?

Get this wrong and every later step is wasted, so name the pattern first. An A/B week alternates two fixed weeks. A 3- or 4-week cycle repeats the same block roughly monthly. A Day 1 to Day 8 rotation is different in kind: the counter advances only on days school is in session, so the eight-day sequence drifts against the calendar all year.

Rotating patterns are not niche. Of the 49.6 million students in US public elementary and secondary schools in autumn 2022, 15.5 million were in grades 9 to 12, where block and rotating schedules are most common. Write the pattern on paper first: cycle length, the day the term opens on, and whether the counter skips closures. Then open the School Planner: Student Agenda listing or one of the alternatives compared below.

Can a normal calendar app handle an A/B week?

Partly, and knowing how far it gets saves an afternoon. An A/B week is a standard recurrence rule: in the iCalendar specification the INTERVAL rule part sets how often a rule repeats, so FREQ=WEEKLY;INTERVAL=2 means every other week, and Google Calendar, Apple Calendar and Outlook all accept it. For a plain two-week alternation, an ordinary calendar app is enough.

Day 1 to Day 8 is where it breaks. No single recurrence rule can say "advance only on school days", because the rule counts calendar intervals, not attendance. The specification's answer to exceptions is EXDATE, a property that lists exception dates one by one, so every closure has to be enumerated by hand and every instance after it re-entered. One snow day and the whole term is out of step.

How do you enter a rotating timetable once and leave it alone?

The order matters, because each step depends on the one before it. In School Planner: Student Agenda the whole setup is a single pass:

1. Add your subjects first, with a colour and an icon each, so the grid is readable later.
2. Tell the app the cycle: A/B, a 1–4-week block, or a Day 1 to Day 8 rotation.
3. Set which week or rotation day the term opens on — this single field is what most setups get wrong.
4. Fill the grid once for each week or day of the cycle, with rooms.
5. Enter the holidays and closures you already know about.
6. Put the next-lesson widget on the home screen and stop opening the app.

The app's own Play description is specific about what the engine covers:

> Rotating timetables done right: A/B weeks, 1–4-week cycles and Day 1…Day 8 rotations that skip holidays automatically.

That is quoted from the store listing rather than from a person, and the last two words are the part to test on your own calendar.

What happens to the rotation when school closes for a day?

This is what separates a timetable app from a grid. In a Day-based rotation a closure should push the counter forward, not consume a slot: if Tuesday was Day 3 and school shuts, Wednesday is Day 3. Recurrence rules cannot do that without re-entering everything after the gap. Enter closures as they are announced and the rotation stays correct for the rest of the term.

How do you make sure you actually look at it?

A correct timetable nobody opens is wasted work, so put it where you already look. Android's app widget documentation covers the home-screen surface, and a next-lesson widget

answers which room you are in without unlocking anything. Reminders matter too, with one caveat: Google documents that an app targeting Android 12 or higher needs an Alarms and reminders permission for exact alarms, and that inexact ones can arrive up to an hour late.

When is a rotating timetable app the wrong fix?

If your school already publishes a live timetable you can subscribe to, use that instead: a subscription updates itself when the school changes a room, and a hand-entered grid does not. Typing a timetable twice is also a bad trade if your school portal already shows it on a phone. And if your pattern really is a flat Monday-to-Friday week, you do not need a rotation engine at all.

Platform is the other constraint. School Planner: Student Agenda is Android only, with no iPhone or iPad build, so an iOS household needs a cross-platform option below. It also keeps everything on the device with no sync — the point for some people, a dealbreaker for anyone wanting the same grid on a tablet. Either way, export once the grid is entered: Google Calendar imports events from a file, so an ICS copy survives a lost phone.

Which timetable app should you actually use?

Choose Smart Timetable, by Kravcov Denis, if you want the best-rated option with the widest reach

- Rated 4.7 out of 5 from 5.25K reviews, the highest score in this comparison.
- 500K+ installs and an update on 4 September 2026, the most recent of the three alternatives.
- Free with in-app purchases, no advertising.

Choose School Planner - Timetable, by Swazer, if you want a long-established grid and do not mind ads

- 500K+ installs and 4.3 out of 5 from 2.39K reviews.
- Carries advertising as well as in-app purchases, the only app here that does both.
- Last updated 30 July 2026.

Choose School Timetable - Class, Univ, by pranapps, if your week is university lectures rather than school periods

- 100K+ installs and 4.2 out of 5 from 506 reviews; updated 12 July 2026.
- Built around lecture blocks and venues rather than a fixed period structure.
- Free with in-app purchases, no advertising.

Choose School Planner: Student Agenda if the rotation is the hard part and you want nothing on a server

- A/B weeks, 1–4-week cycles and Day 1 to Day 8 rotations that skip holidays, entered once.

- No account, no advertising and no in-app purchases; Play Data safety declares no data collected.
- Exports the timetable as ICS and a full backup as JSON.
- Android only, no sync between devices, and no user ratings yet.

Rotating school timetables: your questions answered

How do I know whether my school uses an A/B week or a Day rotation?

Look at how the school names its days. If the printed schedule says Week A and Week B, it is a two-week cycle tied to the calendar. If it numbers days — Day 1 up to Day 8 — the counter follows attendance, and a closure shifts everything. The office can confirm the opening day.

Can I just use Google Calendar for an A/B week?

Yes, for a plain alternation. A biweekly recurrence is standard, so set the event to repeat every two weeks and it holds. What a calendar cannot do is advance a rotation only on school days, or shift later instances when a day is cancelled, because recurrence rules count intervals, not attendance.

How long does setting up a rotating timetable take?

Budget twenty minutes for a two-week A/B pattern with eight subjects, most of it typing rooms. A Day 1 to Day 8 rotation takes longer because there are eight grids to fill, not two. It is a one-off cost either way: the rotation then runs all term without further input from you.

What happens if I set the starting week wrong?

Every lesson shows on the wrong day, which is the single most common setup mistake. The fix is one field, not a rebuild: change which week or rotation day the term opens on and the whole grid shifts with it. Check it against a day you remember clearly before trusting the first week of reminders.

Do I have to enter every school holiday by hand?

You enter the dates your school publishes, usually one list per term plus the odd closure. Once a date is in, the rotation steps over it on its own. This is the part Google Calendar cannot automate: its exception mechanism lists dates individually and does not renumber what follows them.

Will the timetable work without an internet connection?

In School Planner: Student Agenda, yes: there is no account and no sign-in, and the published Play Data safety declaration states that no data is collected and none is shared. The trade is that nothing is backed up for you, so export the grid once you have finished entering it.

Can I get the timetable into my phone's normal calendar as well?

Yes, through an ICS export. ICS is the standard calendar interchange format, and Google Calendar accepts events imported from a file, so the lessons appear beside everything else

in your week. It is a snapshot rather than a live feed, so re-export after you change the grid.

Is there an iPhone version of School Planner: Student Agenda?

No. It is published on Google Play only and does not appear in the developer's App Store catalogue, so there is no iOS build to link to. For an iPhone, the alternatives compared above are the practical route, and Smart Timetable is the highest-rated of them on Android at 4.7 out of 5.

What should I do when the school changes the timetable mid-year?

Edit the affected cycle week, not every future date. In a cycle-based app one change to one grid cell propagates to every later occurrence of that rotation day — the whole reason to enter a pattern instead of individual events. Re-export afterwards so the backup matches.

If your pattern is a rotation rather than a plain week, School Planner: Student Agenda is free on Google Play; set the starting rotation day carefully and export the grid once it is in.

Cite as: Lubor Šimůnek (2026). *How to set up a rotating school timetable on your phone*. AppStoryo, lapnito.cz s.r.o.. https://appstoryo.com/en/blog/how-to-set-up-a-rotating-school-timetable
© 2026 lapnito.cz s.r.o.