

High School Redesign at Bev Facey

50 Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is it that we are redesigning?

Answer: We are redesigning the timetable to allow for one advisory class on Wednesday, two Personalized Learning Time (PLT) sessions on Thursday and Friday and one teacher Professional Learning (PL) session at the end of the day on Wednesday.

2. Why are we redesigning?

Answer: The model of high school redesign that Bev Facey is introducing has many aspects that will improve the learning experience for our students and help them better prepare for life after graduation. The keys for redesign are to begin initiatives that will further engage students, ensure high levels of achievement and improve teaching. We want redesign to be for you and your choices to advance your learning and connection to our school.

3. Is Redesign happening in other schools?

Answer: Yes. About 70% of high schools in Alberta are currently part of the redesign initiative. Each school has a unique program designed to suit the individual community. EIPS has Lamont, Andrew, Fort High and Strathcona Christian as redesign schools.

4. What is advisory period?

Answer: In these sessions, the teacher and advisory group of about twenty students will work together on citizenship and character education programming. The teacher will also support students by being an advocate and ensuring that all students are aware of their path to graduation and assisting in transitions between grades and beyond high school. The students will develop a close working relationship with a teacher who will act as their guide throughout the year. In addition, they will plan out their PLT times in order to make the best possible use of them each week. Evidence is clear that this type of relationship assists students in developing a greater investment in all aspects of school life.

5. What is Personalized Learning Time (PLT)?

Answer: Students can access additional help with subjects they find challenging, work on specific projects or assignments, dig deeper into course material, sample different options in which they may be interested, or simply dedicate the time to extra studying. Staff will determine which PLT's are offered for each session, and they will vary depending on the needs of the students.

6. How long are advisory and PLT sessions?

Answer: The advisory period (on Wednesday) and each of the two PLT sessions (Thursday and Friday) will be forty minutes in length.

7. When is advisory offered?

Answer: Advisory session will happen between period one and two on each Wednesday.

8. Is attendance taken for advisory?

Answer: Yes, advisory will be a class in PowerSchool.

9. Do I have to attend advisory?

Answer: Yes. All students are assigned to an advisory group.

10. What happens if I do not attend advisory?

Answer: Attendance to advisory is mandatory, just like a regular class. Absences will be dealt with in the same manner as an absence for any other class. Consequence may result in a call home, study hall or suspension.

11. What will happen during advisory period?

Answer: You will meet with your advisory group to sign up for PLT sessions and discuss your progress in school. Discussions may also occur around school events and character development. Talking to your advisor is a great first step at addressing any concern you may have in school. Your advisor can talk with your other teachers, counsellors or administration in order to help you be successful in school.

12. What other students are in my advisory class?

Answer: Students are grouped in advisory by grade. Groups have been randomized to maintain diversity. Students may be with a staff member who has taught them before or where a common interest exists.

13. I am in grade 12 and have a spare in the morning, do I have to attend advisory?

Answer: If you have a period one spare you are still required to attend advisory period. If you have spares for both period one and two, please see your grade level administrator as we do not want you to miss out on important school information.

14. When is PLT?

Answer: PLT will happen at the start of the day (8:35 am) every Thursday and Friday and run for forty minutes.

15. Do I have to attend PLT?

Answer: All students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this time where you choose your course of study. Grade 10 and 11 students are required to make a choice and attend every PLT session. Grade 12 students have the option as to how they will use this time. If grade 12 students sign up for or are invited to a PLT then attendance is mandatory.

16. What happens if I do not attend PLT that I signed up for?

Answer: Attendance to PLT is mandatory if you signed up as you are taking a seat in that program. Absences will be dealt with in the same manner as an absence for any other class. Consequences may result in a call home, study hall or suspension.

17. Can a teacher sign me up for a PLT?

Answer: Yes. In PowerSchool the teacher will 'invite' you to attend a session. This is typically done if you are behind and the teacher is wanting to support you in catching up on coursework. If you are invited, it is your responsibility to be aware of the invitation and attend the particular PLT session.

18. Is attendance taken for PLT?

Answer: Yes. Each PLT will be a class in PowerSchool.

19. What happens if I do not attend a PLT for which a teacher signed me up?

Answer: Attendance to PLT is mandatory, just like a regular class. Absences will be dealt with in the same manner as an absence for any other class. Consequences may result in a call home, study hall or suspension.

20. How do I know if a teacher directed me to a PLT?

Answer: When you check your PowerSchool, you will see that you have been invited to a PLT session.

21. What happens if I do not sign up for a PLT?

Answer: Your absence will be noted and this will be treated like missing a regular class, unless you are in grade 12.

22. What are some examples of what will be offered in PLT?

Answer: The possibilities are numerous and are based on your needs to review or catch up in classes or to extend your learning in an area of interest. Additional classes may extend outside or beyond the regular curriculum. If you have suggestions for what you want to do during PLT, please present this to your advisor. Staff have created a listing of all potential PLTs which you can access on our website. PLT for each day will be listed in PowerSchool.

23. Can clubs meet during PLT?

Answer: Yes, this is a great time to meet. If you are wanting a staff member to offer a club PLT, please let them know.

24. How do I sign up for PLT session?

Answer: Staff in advisory will guide you through the process. You can use a computer, Chromebook or your mobile device to access your PowerSchool and then you select the PLT of your choice.

25. Why is there a maximum number of students for a PLT?

Answer: Each staff member offering a PLT will set the maximum for the class based on classroom space and their ability to help each student.

26. Can my sports team have a practice during PLT?

Answer: No, teams will continue to practice after school.

27. How do I get help logging into my *PowerSchool* account?

Answer: Please talk to staff in the office or in counselling.

28. What if I am caught up in all of my classes and have nothing to sign up for in a PLT?

Answer: Choose a session or subject that you may be interested in and visit that room to learn more about what is offered. You may wish to attend a free reading PLT or workout in the fitness room.

29. Are all PLT classes the same?

Answer: No. Each class will be unique based on which staff member is offering the session and which students are signing up. PLT sessions are designed for you, keeping your academic engagement in mind.

30. Am I in PLT with students from other classes and grades?

Answer: Yes. PLT is based on student interest, not class or grade level. This may provide you with the opportunity to get help from other students who attend the same PLT.

31. Do we get a grade for advisory or PLT?

Answer: No, this time is free from a grade or being marked. This is time for you to focus and reflect on what you need to move forward in your school life. However, you may be working on an assignment that may be assessed by your teacher, which is ultimately graded.

32. Can I write exams during PLT?

Answer: Yes. This depends on what you have worked out with your teacher. You will also have the last hour each Wednesday to write exams. PLT should focus more on learning rather than assessment.

33. Can I do options during PLT that I have not taken before?

Answer: Yes, this is part of the purpose of PLT. We want you to explore new areas of learning and interest. Specialty options may require a waiver prior to working in that area.

34. Can I change my mind about which PLT I take?

Answer: Yes. You can change the PLT you selected until 8:30 am the morning of the PLT. However, if a teacher invited you to attend with them, you cannot change out of the PLT.

35. What if I need help on something that is not offered during PLT?

Answer: Talk to a teacher who might offer that PLT or talk to your advisor to bring up your concern with other staff members.

36. Can I drop in to a PLT without signing up?

Answer: No. All students must be registered in PowerSchool for a PLT.

37. Will I still be able to get help during lunch time from my teacher?

Answer: We want extra help sessions to happen during PLT so that teachers get a break during the day or have time to prepare for afternoon classes. Teachers may be available from time to time, but this should not be expected.

38. Why are we having early out each Wednesday (teacher PL)?

Answer: The first Wednesday of each month will continue to be staff meeting. On the other Wednesdays students will have time to write missed assessments or re-write exams. Teachers will also have the opportunity to meet and collaborate on improving student engagement and achievement. Giving teachers time during the work day is a proven benefit to student learning.

39. Do I get to go home at 2:17 each Wednesday?

Answer: If your parents agree, you can choose to go home. You could also choose to stay at school and quietly study - except the first Wednesday of the month. We will have supervision in the library until the busses depart, but will not have direct instruction.

40. Can I work with my teacher on early out Wednesday?

Answer: No. Teachers will be collaborating on their teacher Professional Learning.

41. Can our team practise during teacher PL?

Answer: Not with a teacher, but if the coach is a non-staff member, they could arrange for practice to start early.

42. I need to take the bus home, what can I do at school until the bus arrives?

Answer: Remember that on the first Wednesday of each month busses will be available to take you home shortly after school dismissal. On the other Wednesdays, if you do not have an assessment to do, you will be able to engage in personal quiet study.

43. Can I write an assessment during teacher PL?

Answer: Yes, but you will need to make arrangements with your teacher. We will have an exam writing center for students.

44. How has our timetable changed as a result of Redesign?

Answer:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Warning Bell 8:30	Warning bell 8:30	Warning Bell 8:30	Warning Bell 8:30	Warning Bell 8:30
Block 1 8:35-9:59	Block 1 8:35-9:59	Block 1 8:35-9:33	PLT 8:35-9:15	PLT 8:35-9:15
		Break 9:33-9:40	Break 9:15-9:22	Break 9:15-9:22
Break 9:59-10:07	Break 9:59-10:07	Advisory 9:40-10:20	Block 1 9:22-10:35	Block 1 9:22-10:35
		Block 2 10:27-11:25	Block 2 10:42-11:55	Block 2 10:42-11:55
Block 2 10:07-11:31	Block 2 10:07-11:31	Lunch 11:25-12:09	Lunch 11:55-12:39	Lunch 11:55-12:39
		Warning Bell 12:09	Warning Bell 12:39	Warning Bell 12:39
Block 3 12:21-1:45	Block 3 12:21-1:45	Block 3 12:14-1:12	Block 3 12:44-1:57	Block 3 12:44-1:57
		Break 1:12-1:19	Block 4 1:19-2:17	Block 4 2:04-3:17
Block 4 1:53-3:17	Block 4 1:53-3:17	Teacher Collaboration Time 2:17-3:17	Block 4 2:04-3:17	Block 4 2:04-3:17

45. Does the amount of time we work with teachers change?

Answer: No, you will still have access to school for the same amount of time. Now you will have more choice as a result of PLT and Wednesday assessment time.

46. I am in the GOALS program. How does this affect me?

Answer: GOALS students will follow the same timetable as all other students, be in advisory and have choices for PLT.

47. I am in the PLACE program. How does redesign affect me?

Answer: PLACE students will retain the same learning program as currently exists. Other students may choose to work in the PLACE program during PLT when the PLACE teachers offer this opportunity.

48. What if I have more questions?

Answer: You can talk to any staff member about redesign.

49. When does this all start?

Answer: Our first advisory period will be January 31, 2018. We will have advisory period also on February 1st and 2nd in order to educate and prepare students for all aspects of redesign. Each Wednesday will be early out starting January 31, 2018. Our first PLT session will be February 16th, and sign up for this will begin on February 7th.

50. How can I learn more about redesign in Alberta?

Answer: It is an exciting time for Bev Facey as we Move Forward with High School Redesign. More information can be found on our webpage [Facey Redesign](#) OR on the Alberta Education site - ([MFWHSR](#)). I encourage you to open the links to learn more. Ultimately the goals at Bev Facey are to improve high school completion by increasing student engagement, continuing the development of quality teaching, supporting positive connections while helping students transition through high school and beyond. While implementing the redesign initiative, we will maintain high levels of rigorous and relevant learning opportunities. We know that our program of redesign will assist our school in realizing success in all of our goals.