

High School Redesign at Bev Facey

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 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, 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. Evidence is clear that this type of relationship assists students in developing a greater investment in all aspects of school life.

5. How long are advisory sessions?

Answer: The advisory period (on Wednesday) will be forty minutes in length.

6. When is advisory offered?

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

7. Is attendance taken for advisory?

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

8. Do I have to attend advisory?

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

9. 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.

10. What will happen during advisory period?

Answer: You will meet with your advisory group to 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

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

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

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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	Block 1 8:35-9:59	Block 1 8:35-9:59
		Break 9:33-9:40		
		Advisory 9:40-10:20		
Break 9:59-10:07	Break 9:59-10:07		Break 9:59-10:07	Break 9:59-10:07
Block 2 10:07-11:31	Block 2 10:07-11:31	Block 2 10:27-11:25	Block 2 10:07-11:31	Block 2 10:07-11:31
		Break 10:20-10:27		
Lunch 11:31-12:16	Lunch 11:31-12:16	Lunch 11:25-12:09	Lunch 11:31-12:16	Lunch 11:31-12:16
Warning Bell 12:16	Warning Bell 12:16	Warning Bell 12:09	Warning Bell 12:16	Warning Bell 12:16
Block 3 12:21-1:45	Block 3 12:21-1:45	Block 3 12:14-1:12	Block 3 12:21-1:45	Block 3 12:21-1:45
		Break 1:12-1:19		
Block 4 1:53-3:17	Block 4 1:53-3:17	Block 4 1:19-2:17	Block 4 1:53-3:17	Block 4 1:53-3:17
		Teacher Collaboration Time 2:17-3:17		
Break 1:45-1:53	Break 1:45-1:53		Break 1:45-1:53	Break 1:45-1:53

20. 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.

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

Answer: GOALS students will follow the same timetable as all other students and be in advisory.

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

Answer: PLACE students will retain the same learning program as currently exists.

23. What if I have more questions?

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

24. When does this all start?

Answer: Our first advisory period will be January 31, 2018. Each Wednesday will be early out starting January 31, 2018.

25. 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.