



Brooks Secondary School

5400 Marine Avenue, Powell River, BC V8A 2L6 ♦ PHONE: (604) 483-3171 FAX: (604) 483-3127

Brooks' Briefs' – October 8th, 2014

Flex Time Change – 2014/2015

In general Flex Time is instructional time each week when students have the opportunity to take control of their own education. It allows students the opportunity to choose where they focus their time. Teachers are available to help students who need it. It is often a time during the week when students seek out extra assistance, finish up a project or complete a missed test or lab.

We traditionally have set aside two 40 minutes periods for Flex Time on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Many members of our school community find it valuable and others feel that the time should be put back into classrooms. During the first week of school I put it out and asked students, parents and staff members to let me know their thoughts. I was pleasantly surprised to receive so much feedback on the topic of Flex Time! Members of our school community have strong feelings toward it. Looking at the feedback, here are some of the main ideas that came up:

- Flex Time is a very valuable part of many of our students' and teachers' week at school.
- Many of our teachers, students and parents find Flex Time is a great way for their students to make up assignments, tests, labs or other projects.
- Many staff members, students and parents acknowledge that many of our students do not take advantage of Flex Time for educational benefits and that the time may be considered 'wasted' for these individuals.
- Clear expectations and guidelines need to be developed and followed so that as many students as possible are making good use of Flex Time.

Based on the feedback that I have received over the last week and half from staff, students and parents I believe we are ready to make some changes to Flex Time this year.

We will still keep Flex Time; however, we alter it from two days a week (Tuesdays/Thursdays) to one day a week (Wednesday). Also, instead of two 40 minute blocks, we will create one 60 minute block of time. Therefore, Flex Time this year would be on Wednesdays in the morning from 10:03am – 11:03am for Week #1 and Week #2. *Please see the attached timetable.*

Some of the advantages that I feel this move will allow for are:

- This will allow Flex Time to still be a part of our weekly schedule and students and staff who use it well can continue to take advantage of a 60 minute period per week.
- A 60 minute period will allow enough time for students to makeup longer tests, labs or projects.
- Moving from two Flex Time periods to one will result in one less transition for students.
- In a shortened school year, teachers will have an opportunity to spend more time in their classes with their students. By my rough calculations, over the remaining course of the school year, students will be in class for 10 hours more than in the past while still having 30 hours of Flex Time to decide how they will use it.

I do not believe that this is a new idea. In fact, at looking at some past surveys and meeting minutes I think this option has been discussed before. In my opinion it is a good time to try something new with Flex Time. We will evaluate and assess it through the school year and decide how we want to proceed the following year.

I realize that this is a change and may create some complications for some people. I'm hoping you will bring any issues to my attention as soon as possible and we can look for solutions to them.

Sincerely,

Jamie Burt
Principal

Brooks Secondary Timetable WEDNESDAY FLEX DRAFT

| Week 1 | Monday | | Tuesday | | Wednesday | | Thursday | | Friday -1 | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---|---------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------|---|-----------|--|--|
| | 8:58 to 10:18 | A | C | | B 8:58 to 10:03 | D | | A | | | |
| | | | | | | Flex 10:03 to 11:03 | | | | | |
| | Break - 7 Minutes | | | | | Break - 7 Min. | | | | | |
| | 10:25 to 11:45 | B | D | | Break -7 mins | | C | | B | | |
| | | | | | | A 11:10 to 12:15 | | | | | |
| | Lunch - 45 Minutes | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12:30 to 1:49 | C | B | | D 1:00 to 2:04 | | A | | C | | | |
| Break - 7 Minutes | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1:56 to 3:15 | D | A | | C 2:11 to 3:15 | | B | | D | | | |

| Week 2 | Monday | | Tuesday | | Wednesday | | Thursday | | Friday -1 | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---|---------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------|---|-----------|--|--|
| | 8:58 to 10:18 | A | C | | B 8:58 to 10:03 | D | | C | | | |
| | | | | | | Flex 10:03 to 11:03 | | | | | |
| | Break - 7 Minutes | | | | | Break - 7 Min. | | | | | |
| | 10:25 to 11:45 | B | D | | Break -7 mins | | C | | D | | |
| | | | | | | A 11:10 to 12:15 | | | | | |
| | Lunch - 45 Minutes | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12:30 to 1:49 | C | B | | D 1:00 to 2:04 | | A | | B | | | |
| Break - 7 Minutes | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1:56 to 3:15 | D | A | | C 2:11 to 3:15 | | B | | A | | | |