



Flex Block At Caledonia 2016-17

What is flex time?

Flex time is a period of time that will be built into the Caledonia schedule next September that is designed to empower students by giving them some measure of choice and control over their own learning. Students will be given choices as to where they spend their time during this flex block. Students must be in a learning environment under the supervision of a teacher. This could include enrichment receiving extra help in their course work, working individually or in small groups on project work, or working in a quiet space on homework. We are now in a process of defining how students will use this time, how often this time will occur, how long this flex block will be, and where within the day it will take place. Once these parameters have been established we will communicate this information to parents and students.

Why are we doing this?

We have been exploring ways to improve our support of student learning and to provide students with opportunities to "own" their learning. The School District held community and student forums this fall to gather feedback on the direction we should be taking to support student learning, and it was clear to us from the student feedback that there was a strong desire for both more time and choice within the school day for students to access help from their teachers. We believe that training students to manage their time and giving them opportunities to exercise choice within the school day will lead to greater ownership of their learning, and improved success rates in their courses.

Flexible time is a strategy that many schools around the province and in other areas of North America have begun to include in their schedules. This concept of flexible time is supported through the research and work our school and district has been doing in recent years within a Response to Intervention framework. Providing students with more time and choice with their learning will allow them to access the help they need in the area or areas that they need it.

What expectations will there be for students during flex time?

1. During flex time, students will be expected to:
 - Be in a classroom or other learning space (shop, library, computer lab) under the supervision of a teacher;
 - Arrive to their chosen learning environment on time, prepared, and with a plan for how they will spend this time;
 - Attend classes of current teachers only, or in another approved learning space;
2. Students may be directed where to spend their flex block by teachers if there is a need to complete an assessment task or outstanding assignment.
3. Attendance in Flex block time will be MANDATORY. This is instructional time like any other class.

When will we know how flex time will look next year?

We are currently in a planning phase for adding flex time to our schedule next fall. A committee of staff will be working on an implementation plan and flex time structure that will be ready to introduce to students and parents in September 2016. Our plan is to send information out to parents and students prior to start-up in September that will outline our Flex block plans and format, as well as include some answers to questions you may have about what this time means for your child at Caledonia. We also plan to hold a parent information session in September which will outline our flex block structure and student expectations for that time.

At this time, if you have any questions or concerns regarding flex time at Caledonia next year, we would welcome a call or visit from you!

Keith Axelson
Principal

Jane Arbuckle
Vice-Principal