

St. Andrew's Regional High School

FQA regarding Weekly Bell and Block Schedule and Focus Blocks

Monday

8:30-9:35 1st Block
9:40-10:00 TAG
10:05-10:50 Focus
10:55-12:00 2nd Block
12:00-12:45 Lunch
12:50-1:55 3rd Block
2:00-3:05 4th Block

Tues, Thurs, Fri:

8:30-9:40 1st Block
9:45-10:35 Focus
10:40-11:50 2nd Block
11:50-12:40 Lunch
12:40-1:50 3rd Block
1:55-3:05 4th Block

Wednesday, Short Day:

8:30-9:35 1st Block
9:40-10:45 2nd Block
10:45-11:35 Lunch
11:35-12:40 3rd Block
12:45-1:50 4th Block

Weekly Block Rotation

Week A: A, B, C, D
Week B: B, A, D, C
Week C: C, D, A, B
Week D: D, C, B, A

What is Focus Block?

Focus Blocks occurs on Monday after TAG and Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday after 1st block. All Focus Blocks begin with attendance, prayer and announcements.

Students will attend their Teacher Advisory Group (TAG) on Mondays for 20 minutes. During this time students will register for the Focus Blocks for the week using a sign-up website / app. There may also be additional time for independent school work. If a student is absent Monday, the student will complete the Focus Block sign-up on the Focus Block website / app on their own.

TAG teachers will track student Focus Block attendance, grades, work effort, and, with the input of students' teachers, advise their TAG students on the best use of their Focus Blocks.

Focus Blocks:

Students' primary responsibility in Focus Blocks is to receive support from teachers in subject areas of greatest need. Students may also use Focus Blocks to complete assignments, project work, group work, and missed tests. When doing well in all courses, students are encouraged to spend time with teachers in subject areas of personal interest, take advantage of opportunities to broaden and further their learning, and provide leadership, mentorship and service to our school and community.

Focus Blocks are not social or free time; students are expected to go to the teacher that best fits their individual needs and to use their time for learning.

Students can modify their choices of Focus Blocks from their Monday sign-up unless a teacher has requested their attendance. However, once students are in a space with a teacher for Focus, they must remain in that space for the remainder of the block. TAG teachers will track students' Focus Block attendance to ensure students are using their time responsibly. All teachers can check student sign-up plans as well as actual attendance for any Focus Block.

Is attendance mandatory for Focus Blocks and TAG Focus?

Attendance in TAG Focus and Focus Blocks is **mandatory**. Focus Block time comes from our school learning time, and, as a result, student participation is required. Students are to be under the supervision of a teacher at all times.

What is the benefit of a Focus Block?

With the full implementation of BC's Ministry of Education new curriculum St. Andrew's is making time in the timetable for increasingly creative, flexible and individualized learning, main themes of the new curriculum.

In addition, St. Andrew's students have become increasingly busy and involved with school and personal activities, resulting in increased stress and anxiety. Focus Blocks provide students with time to focus on their school learning needs and interests, explore various learning opportunities, and receive individualized support from teachers. Other schools in Victoria have run Focus Blocks of a similar nature for the past two years and has found an increase in student performance in all subject areas as well as an increase in the general well-being of both students and staff. We see similar results.

How do Focus Blocks affect Grade 12 Study Blocks?

Focus Blocks do not affect Study Blocks. Attendance is mandatory for all Focus Blocks and Grade 12 Study Blocks. The difference between the two is students have a choice as to what Focus Blocks to attend whereas a Study Block prescribes one particular teacher to a group of students. Study Blocks are still to be used to advance students in their school related learning goals. Nonetheless, due to the implementation of Focus Blocks, students are encouraged to take 8 courses in a year to broaden their learning.