

Rethinking SMART Hour



The time of day known as SMART hour at Fraser High School has been through several changes over the years. The newest changes, which

we continue to refine, are designed to best benefit all students.

“We wanted to make the time more meaningful for students,” said Assistant Principal Jason Ohrt. “We want students to maintain their academics, while being reflective and deliberate.”

TEACHER INPUT

Teachers are embracing the changes and working with building leadership to make sure the changes make sense. At the beginning of the year, travel was restricted on Mondays and Fridays, so students could set goals and reflect on their progress. The idea behind the change was for students to continue owning their learning and have dedicated time to create, implement and reflect on the status of their work.

The updates to SMART could not be possible without teachers’ input, Ohrt said. The feedback given by teachers through surveys and meetings helped the administrators decide to open traveling up on Fridays.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTION AND SETTING GOALS

To make sure the time on Monday is impactful, teachers are working together to develop a goal sheet template for students to use. This sheet helps students stay on the right track and prompts them to incorporate the 6Cs from the Portrait of a Graduate into their work.

Mondays are also used to reinforce executive functioning skills. Students will outline their week and reach out to teachers to schedule a time to make up any missing work or get extra help.

“It was important to the FHS administrators and staff that students take advantage of the SMART period time to catch-up, maintain or improve their grades,” said FHS Principal Ryan Sines.

TESTING CENTER

Once students began scheduling their week, especially to complete missed tests and quizzes during SMART hour, the need became clear for a testing center. Media Center Coordinator Anne Cooke created a testing center within the FHS media center for this purpose.

“The testing center frees up space in classrooms so teachers can now do more remediation in the classroom,” said Mr. Ohrt.

The testing center is limited to 30 students per day. Students initiate the process with their teachers, and then work with Mrs. Cook to schedule a day to take the assessment. Not all retakes are able to be held in the testing center, but so far, it has been very well-received.

MOVING FORWARD

Mr. Ohrt, Mr. Sines and the rest of the administration staff are working with teachers to finalize a goal-setting template.

Additionally, juniors and seniors who meet the requirements and have permission will still be allowed to flex their time and leave campus early.