



Frontier High School 2019-2020 Calendar Proposal

As you know, Frontier High School provides alternative learning options for students who have not experienced success in a traditional high school setting. We've experienced great success over the years supporting the individual needs of the students we serve and we're proud of the fact that Frontier High School has been consistently ranked in the top five to seven alternative campuses in the state.

Frontier High School is different than our other district schools by design. Frontier is classified by the Department of Education as an Alternative Education Campus and is structured to meet the unique needs of students who are at risk of educational failure. We have smaller class sizes and we're structured to provide individualized learning through interactive curriculum. We also have a significant focus on proactively supporting the social-emotional needs of our students.

Our structure provides a unique opportunity to further meet the needs of the students we serve by adjusting our current model. And, that's what brings me here today. I'd like to share a proposed change to the Frontier High School schedule that we believe will provide greater flexibility and a structure that better addresses our students' unique social-emotional and academic needs.

The most visible change we're proposing is a move to a modified four-day per week schedule. School will be in session Tuesday through Friday and the school day will be slightly extended.

One Monday a month would be designated as "Mission Monday." On Mission Mondays, students will focus on post-secondary plans. For example, students may visit colleges, trade schools or places of business to explore interests and career options after high school. Site visits will be based on broad and individual student interests. The Mission Monday activities would be organized by Frontier High School staff. The idea is to help students gain a better grasp of the options available to them after graduation. If students have a clear idea of what is available and what path they can take, they have a greater chance of achieving their college and career goals.

Another part of the proposed change centers around how students spend the first hour and 20 minutes each school day. This would become Block Time, or a dedicated period for independent study or credit recovery. All teachers will be available during this time to support students as they work on credit recovery or projects – such as their Passion Projects or required capstone portfolio project.

As a part of the Block Time Frontier teachers will be offering teacher supported HSET(GED) preparatory courses. Students in this program would not attend school on a full time basis and would be working toward successful completion of the HSET test.

Our teachers, parents and students are very supportive of this proposal. We're all very excited about the academic and personal opportunities that this new model presents.

While there are changes as part of this new model, we are not departing from our other core offerings, such as our integrated curricular classes. These classes are co-taught and focused on integrating standards from two curricular areas. For example, Architecture class is taught by the social studies and math teacher. In this course, students study historical architecture styles and how the culture influenced the buildings of the time. In looking at the historical styles students also learn the geometric and mathematical principals necessary for each particular style.

FHS students also participate in team-building activities, community service learning and experiential education opportunities through trips to places such as Great Sand Dunes National Park, Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, ski trips and more.

We have a lot to offer students with non-traditional needs at Frontier High School and we believe this proposal will further enable us to support current students and attract new students to the school.

On behalf of Frontier High School, I request that you vote in favor of supporting the new model I've shared with you this evening. Thank you for your consideration.

Rob McMullen

Principal
Frontier High School

March 2019