

Parents,

Over the last few months Frontier faculty and staff has been in a discussion on how we can improve our Flex time. Flex is a valuable time during the day to assist students with their academic needs. This is why we have Flex. As we began our discussions to improve Flex, two factors came up as to why to discuss changes. First, student learning is why we exist. We want to improve our ability to work with kids and have a system in place that better supports their academic goals. Second, with our student population increasing in numbers we needed to create a system with better accountability and safety for all students.

As we considered changes to Flex a list of essential "MUST KEEP" points had to remain in tact. First, we want students to have access to their teachers. Second, our teachers need to have the ability to direct students. Third, there needs to be time during the day for students to work on their academic goals. Fourth, students need time for activities and enrichment of learning.

I'm pleased to announce each of these four "MUST KEEP" items will stay in place for Flex. All four areas help students academically and assist Frontier to move towards accomplishing our school goals.

With Flex in mind, we also discussed adding our "MUST ADD" items. These three areas are accountability, academic performance and safety.

As we met with our Staff, School Community Council, PTSA and numerous student groups we have decided to move forward with a few changes to Flex starting Tuesday, February 23.

The changes will allow us to keep the "MUST KEEP" items and allow us to add the "Must ADD" items.

Starting on February 23rd, each student will be assigned a Home room Flex. Flex will begin at the same time as our current model. The biggest difference is students will be assigned a teacher where roll will be taken with tardies and attendance. This new change alone will improve our accountability and safety as we know where each student is. After students arrive to their Flex Homeroom, their teachers will either direct them to another location, attend an activity or stay in Home room to work on school work.

One additional feature of our new Flex Home room is teachers will have a sign up sheet in their

classes where students can sign up to receive help. For example, if your student needs help in math and their math teacher is not their Home room teacher, your student can talk to their math teacher and sign up to be directed to their Flex, or math lab to get the help they need. Teachers will still have large group practices like our choir, orchestra or musical theater and larger activities like three on three soccer will remain as well as academic help.

Students who are not directed to other classes, or are not attending activities are expected to have class assignments to work on during Flex time. Students will still receive Flex grade reports to give them an update of where their grades currently are.

One item during Flex that students enjoy are the activities. We will continue to offer activities under the new Flex Home room with a few changes. Each grade level will have two days of the week to attend activities with Friday being a combined 7-9 activity. Currently in Flex, a student with D+ grades or better can attend an activity. Starting with our new Flex, students must have a B- or better in each of their classes to receive a pass to attend activities. This change will establish a much stronger academic tie to Flex for all students and improve academic accountability

Additionally, our new Flex Home room will create a stronger mentoring system with our teachers to help track where students are academically and create an advocate for them in the building helping us establish stronger accountability and safety.

At the end of this week, teachers will be posting their class lists of which students will be assigned to their Flex Home room. Your student will be assigned one of their current teachers as their Flex Home room. Our faculty will also be discussing the details of the new Flex with all of our students. We will also send a Q and A to students and in an email to parents to go over the new points of Flex.

We know change can be difficult. We are keeping Flex, but improving what it was meant to do.....support students in their learning goals. Flex now becomes an academic time to support learning. As we begin this change, we are excited to solidify the "MUST KEEP" items while also establishing the "MUST ADD" items.