

January Schedule Changes at FFCA High School

Additional Instructional Days & Catch-up Days to Replace Exam Days

Dear FFCA HS Students and Families,

To mitigate the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on student learning, FFCA High School has changed its January calendar; the new calendar can be found on [our website under Our Calendars](#).

This decision was made in response to the government of Alberta making all diploma exams optional for the entire 2020-21 school year, to ensure student and staff safety takes priority, to maintain quality teaching and learning, and in acknowledgment that typical in-person exams this year would not have been particularly feasible or fair.

There are four major changes:

1. **All final school-based exams are cancelled**, for January as well as June. We strongly believe this is the best decision for our students, but acknowledge that such a major change does have consequences.
2. **Gr.12 students have been given considerable flexibility:**
 - a. To choose whether to write a diploma exam or to not write their exam and take their school awarded course mark as 100% of their final mark.
 - b. To choose to attend classes from Jan 20-28th and work with their teachers to improve their course marks, or not.
3. **Three additional instructional days have been added from January 20-22nd**, as we simply cannot cancel exam days without replacing them; normal exam days in January and June count as instructional days that all schools are legislated to provide across the province. All Gr.9-11 students will attend classes from Wednesday Jan 20 to Friday Jan 22 as per usual, with Friday the 22nd being a shortened bell schedule that ends at 1:10pm. At the teachers' discretion, these additional days will be used to review course material, extend course content and offer enrichment activities, hold smaller in-class summative assessments, front-load content or activities connected to Semester II classes, offer reassessments, or otherwise use these extra classes to ensure quality teaching and optimal learning takes place. These additional instructional days will take place regardless of in-person or online status as determined by the government.
4. **Four Catch-up days have been added, from January 25-28th.** These days are dedicated to providing time for students to complete any assignments or assessments that remain outstanding from Semester I. This is also the time for students to challenge summative assessments from earlier in the semester that were directly impacted by Covid, by writing reassessments. Students do not have to attend classes these days unless they are choosing to catch-up on incomplete work, or are writing a reassessment. Busses will run their usual schedule for these days. All teachers will offer reassessments to students, but the parameters are set by them and their department. Students will not be offered unlimited reassessments, and should consciously balance their own well-being at semester's end with the chance to possibly improve their marks.

Date(s)	Event(s)	If the government mandates a return to in-person classes Jan. 11 and onwards.	If the government mandates online learning Jan.11 and onwards
Jan 4-7	Online lessons for all K-12 students across the province.	N/A	Everyone is online, teaching and learning both synchronously and asynchronously
Jan 8	Professional Development Day	N/A	
Jan 11-14	Regular schedule	Full, regular classes as per the original 2020-21 school calendar.	
Jan 11	ELA 30 Diploma Part A		N/A
Jan 12	Social 30 Diploma Part A (NHS only)		N/A
Jan 15	Friday schedule	New addition to the January calendar; was originally a full day	
Jan 18-22	Instructional Days	See explanation above	
Jan 20	Math 30 Diploma		N/A
Jan 21	ELA 30 Part B Diploma		N/A
Jan 22	Friday Schedule		
Jan 22	Social 30 Diploma Part B (NHS only)		N/A
Jan 25-28	Catch-up days	See explanation above	See explanation above
Jan 25	Bio 30 Diploma		N/A
Jan 26	Chem 30 Diploma		N/A
Jan 27	Physics 30 Diploma (NHS only)		N/A
Jan 28	Science 30 Diploma		N/A
Jan 28	Mark submission deadline for all diploma courses		
Jan 29	Organizational Day – no school		
Feb 1	Organizational Day – no school		
Feb 2	Professional Development Day – no school		
Feb 3	First day of Sem II classes		
Feb 3	Sem I report cards sent home electronically		

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to address the challenges we all face this year. IF you have any questions, please email Bharati.singh@ffca-calgary.com

With thanks,

FFCA HS Admin

December 18, 2020