



June 1, 2021

Re: Grade 9 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs)

Dear FFCA Parent/Guardians of Gr.9 Students,

This is the fourth letter you should have received in recent weeks about upcoming Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) for our Grade 9 students; thank-you for your patience and understanding as we work to support teaching & learning in a challenging year. **Please read this letter carefully – it contains significant changes to our plans.**

As described in our earlier communications, FFCA has decided to proceed with the reduced number of PATs this year so as to provide longitudinal data of student progress over multiple years and to identify potential gaps to address in the years to come. These exams will not count towards a student's final marks in any way.

Here is the **UPDATED** FFCA High School Gr.9 PAT Schedule, including the double-time accommodation given to all students in Alberta:

Friday, June 18 Blocks 1 & 2	English Language Arts Part B (multiple choice)	150 minutes
Friday, June 18 Block 3	Mathematics Part A	60 minutes
Monday, June 21 Blocks 1 & 2	Mathematics Part B	160 minutes

In-Person Students: To hold these assessments while maintaining Covid protections, Gr.9 students will arrive at school and start their PAT with their Block 1 class and will stay in that classroom until the end of Block 3, eating their lunch in that space as well so as to maintain cohorts. If a student finishes their ELA Part B early they can work on coursework or otherwise engage in a non-distracting silent activity at their desk.

Please know that students who have opted-out of writing a PAT will be able to attend their Friday Block 4 and Monday Block 3 and 4 classes, but must make their own way to campus for those times. We cannot supervise the students who are opting out while also supervising those who are writing; **students who have been opted out must stay home for the morning** and will be excused from their morning classes. If opted-out students cannot make it to campus on their own then families must contact the office to confirm this, and the student will be coded as Excused Absent. If a student misses any class on those days without the office being informed, these students will be marked Absent and phone calls will go home.

Online Students: If an online student comes to either campus to write these PATs, they will do so in an exam room isolated away from in-person classes, but combined with any potential Gr.12 diploma exam writers on those days. This campus should match their middle school: NMS students will write at NHS, and SMS will write at SHS. If an online student opts-out they will be expected in their afternoon classes.

While we hope all students will take part, every Alberta family has the option to opt their student out from these PATs. **Students cannot opt themselves out; requests to do so can only come from parents or guardians and should be emailed to Mr. Lamb at doug.lamb@ffca-calgary.com.** Please include which campus your student attends in this email. Families who have already contacted Mr. Lamb do not need to do so again.

We would like to thank families for their support and understanding as we all work to support student learning in a challenging year. Please reach out to the HS Admin team with any questions.

Bharati Singh

Susan Boyd

Doug Lamb