

Frank Maddock High School

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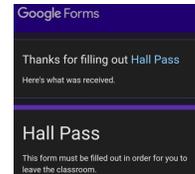


25 November 2021

FMHS Update

We have received a number of questions and concerns regarding recent announcements. We would like to clarify a few misunderstandings that seem to be in the public:

- FMHS has always had a policy where students are required to get permission from teachers to leave the classroom. This school year, we have been required to implement a hall monitoring system to ensure that students are being appropriately supervised when in the building and decrease the number of students who do not have permission to be in the hallways as they are required to be in class, learning.
- Due to health and safety concerns around the sharing of a physical hall pass between students, FMHS implemented both a physical hall pass and an electronic hall pass so students have an option based on their preference. Hall passes are an effective and acceptable means for managing a school, especially when there are serious disciplinary issues taking place; other high schools in Alberta have used the same technology for hall passes successfully. Students who choose to utilize the physical hall pass must sanitize before and after use of the hall pass and must use the provided disinfectant to clean the hall pass when they return to class.
- The electronic hall pass is simply a quick way for students to access a google form that sends an automatic email response that serves as a hall pass visible on the phone. This has nothing to do with vaccination status. Besides students sending themselves an email to their inbox, there is no accessing of data on the student's phone.
- No students are being refused access to any washroom; they utilize one of the hall pass options to demonstrate that they have permission to be in the hallways to decrease vandalism and to allow hallway supervisors to know which students have permission to be in the halls and which students are intentionally missing class.
- The extraordinary acts that we are seeing in the bathrooms frequently require washrooms to close until repairs can be made to reopen them; we want our bathrooms open for student use, but the frequent destruction impacts the health and safety of our students.
- Hallway and bathroom supervision has increased and will continue in an effort to ensure bathrooms and hallways are safe for all students.
- Students are entitled to using the bathroom with privacy; this is why it is so difficult to specifically determine who vandalizes our bathrooms. We are utilizing a number of strategies to assist in our determination of who is committing these destructive acts. Adult supervision, frequent and random bathroom checks, frequent cleaning, the hallway pass system, hallway camera footage, review of social media platforms, and acts of student citizenship are all supporting the efforts to end the concerns that FMHS is facing.
- Our communities have been through a lot over the last few years and our students are also feeling the pressure of a lack of normalcy. Our school division hired wellness worker



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assistants at the start of this school year in anticipation of increased wellness issues among our students. Our goal is to do everything we can to help our students learn and stay well. At this point the school has not been able to determine who the student or students are that are involved in the incidences. Once that has been determined, these supports will be provided as required.

- In terms of consequences, the school will be very careful to ensure someone who is totally innocent is not caught up in this and disciplined unnecessarily. Students have been strongly encouraged to leave the bathroom as soon as possible if they happen to encounter other students in the bathroom that are involved in some kind of misconduct. However, if a student chooses instead to stay and watch the misconduct, this is the same as encouraging it and ultimately being a part of the misconduct, even if they did not actually play an active role in the misconduct. In order to avoid being caught up in this situation, students should leave the bathroom immediately when seeing any kind of misconduct. It is also very helpful if they immediately report this misconduct to the office.
- Our goal is not to make school more difficult for students who are behaving and following the rules. We want to ensure that the school can maintain a safe and respectful environment for all students. The gross misconduct that is currently taking place in the washrooms makes our school less safe and welcoming for students. There are many students that have indicated that they feel unsafe using the bathrooms over the last few months due to the misconduct happening; we are monitoring these spaces closer to allow our students to feel safe when they are going to the bathroom.
- The suggestion has been made for the school to remove the hall pass system and to key the bathroom doors so that students must gain a key to access the bathrooms. We have elected not to do this as the number of students requiring the bathrooms at any given time will result in long lines and wait times for keys. Furthermore, students who require the bathroom in a more urgent manner will not be able to access the bathroom until their turn; this is something that we wish to avoid. We want students to have access to the facilities whenever they require them.

We understand that the current measures that are in place are out of the ordinary for our building, but given our current context and the types of misconduct we are seeing, we must implement a response to support our students and families who are concerned about the situations that students are being exposed to while in our bathrooms. Our priority is to ensure that all students have access to clean and sanitary facilities free of damage and safety concerns at all times.

Our goal is to do everything we can to help our students learn and stay well. Thank you for your understanding as we work through this very difficult situation.



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