

BELMONT FOCUS BLOCK FAQs

Q. What are Focus Blocks?

Focus Blocks take place once per week at Belmont. Focus Blocks will meet the needs of the New BC Curriculum in two ways. As a vehicle for the new Career-Life Education curriculum, allowing students to meet face to face with our Careers teaching team. They also help students to further develop their ability to take responsibility for their own learning by choosing how to spend their Focus Block time in order to meet their school-related learning goals and responsibilities. In addition to exploring the Careers curriculum, students will get extra help, make up test or assignments, get ahead in course work, work on projects, and pursue their passions for deeper learning in their studies

Focus Blocks are NOT an extra class, nor an extracurricular activity. They are built in to the school day.

Focus Blocks are used in many schools across the country and have proven to be a very successful way to enhance student learning.

Q. How do students know what classes are available during Focus Block?

Each teacher will post what they intend to offer, and where the class will be held, during the Focus Block on the FocusTime app by Monday of each week. Students will sign up for their Wednesday Focus Block on Monday. The FocusTime app will be available for download so that students can sign up on their phones, or on a school or home computer.

In some cases, a student will be pre-assigned to a classroom for Focus Block. For example, Grade 10 students will meet with their Careers teachers. Out-of-the-timetable teachers (e.g. Leadership, Band, Sports Performance classes, etc.) may also call occasional group classes during Focus Blocks. Teachers may also assign a student to their classroom if the student needs to make up missed work.

Q. How will students be held accountable for their use of Focus Blocks?

We will be using the FocusTime app as a scheduling and tracking tool, to ensure that the students are using the blocks as they were intended. As this is instructional time, attendance is required, and missing Focus Block goes on the students' record as absent.

Again, Career-Life Education/Planning 10 as a blended course will be taught both online (primarily through MyBluePrint), through face-to-face time during Focus Blocks, and with class visits. This is a new graduation requirement for all Grade 9-12 students, and as such, students are required to meet with their teachers.

Q. Can Focus Blocks be used for meetings with clubs or sports teams?

Given that Focus Blocks are instructional time, they cannot be used for club or team meetings.

Q. Is there a limit on how many students can be in a classroom at any one time?

Yes. The limits will follow the normal classroom numbers for that particular classroom.

Q. Can students move rooms during Focus Blocks?

Once Focus Blocks have started, students need to stay where they are, unless approved by the teacher. It is an instructional block, and will be treated as normal class time.

Q. Will Focus Blocks be used for pull-out assemblies?

Yes, to reduce the number of students away from classes, Focus Blocks may be used for assemblies.

Q. If a student is behind in course work, can a teacher assign them for a Focus Block?

Teachers may recognize that students may need extra help with course material, or need time to complete missing assignments and/or tests/quizzes. If a teacher asks a student to be in a classroom during Focus Block, the student must go. If they are needed in more than one classroom at a time, it will be the student's responsibility to communicate with their teachers to prioritize which classroom they should attend for a given Focus Block. If they are asked to attend a Careers Focus Block, Careers will always be the first priority.