



## Informing Practice - Student Perspectives of MFWHSR

Student Voice has been a fundamental underpinning of transformation in Redesign schools. When students have an opportunity to be heard, their responses often surprise us - they are full of insight and wisdom. We had a chance to visit with a student in a MFWHSR school. Here is what she had to say.

### Tell us a bit about yourself.



My name is Hope Roberts. I am a grade 11 student at Foothills Composite High School/ Alberta High School of Fine Arts. I am from Turner Valley Alberta and am

very involved in music. I really enjoy math and science and plan on pursuing engineering after I graduate.

### From a student perspective, what is High School Redesign?

High School Redesign is about creating a learning environment focused around flexibility and individualized learning. Students shape their educational experience around them, allowing students to maximize their educational success. High School Redesign allows students to be in charge, simply supplying students with the resources they need to achieve their goals. Through an individualistic approach, High School Redesign allows students with the opportunity to maximize their potential not only in high school, but in life as well.

### Do you believe that High School Redesign has changed the nature of school for students?

High School Redesign has changed the nature of school for students within my school community. Students are now able to decide how they want to learn through a more personalized educational approach, making school a different individual experience for every student. Instead of having to learn in the ways they are told, high school redesign has allowed students to choose the mediums in which they want to learn and feel that they best excel in. Students can choose the classroom experience



they feel works best for them, whether that be digital or physical space, and teachers allow their students to express their growth and knowledge in a variety of ways. High

School Redesign works to promote individualized learning where students are in charge and are given the opportunity to flourish and grow as students. Because of High School Redesign, the nature of school has become one that is progressive and positive for many students at FCHS/AHSFA.

**You have an opportunity to share wisdom with schools across the province. Is there any message that you feel is essential to share?**

From what I have experienced with High School Redesign, school communities benefit immensely when students have a voice. When students are allowed to decide and choose how they want to achieve academic success, they feel involved in their school communities. Through the ability to control their own learning experience, more students feel

satisfied with their learning, and are thus more willing to contribute and give back to their school communities. When students are involved in education, a positive atmosphere arises as more students feel that their school is looking out for them. High School Redesign and individualized learning has strengthened the connections between students and educators, enhancing everyone’s high school experience. When students have a say in their learning, everyone has the ability to pursue and achieve their goals, redefining what it means to be a student in an impactful way.



**Could you provide a story of something that has occurred in your experience that is a result of the changes from High School Redesign?**

High School Redesign has aided me in being able to achieve everything that I have wanted to as a high school student. To illustrate, summer school, online classrooms, and flex along side regular class time has allowed me to accomplish many educational pursuits. Through flexible learning, I have been able to take all the classes that I want, without having to sacrifice any one class for another. Instead of making me

choose one interest over another, High School Redesign has allowed students such as myself to achieve anything and everything we desire. Without the flexibility offered through High School Redesign, I would not have been able to achieve all of my educational goals. Achieving these goals has been really important to me as a student, and will help me achieve success after I graduate. High School Redesign has opened doors to many students, helping them strive for excellence in everything that they do. Without High School Redesign, I would not experience educational success to the same extent, limiting my

options for the future. High School Redesign has helped shaped me into the student I am today, and for that I am very grateful.

**It is clear that High School Redesign has impacted you - could you say the same for others? Do you, as a student, notice any benefits for other students in your school?**

I would say that High School Redesign has affected every student at my school. The implementation of flex time as a means of High School Redesign has allowed students their time to get their work done and get help



from teachers on concepts they are struggling with. Students are then able to accomplish more, as well as become more connected with their teachers through this time of personalized learning. This has had a positive impact on the entire school community, as students feel that they have a chance to improve themselves and ask for help. More students feel that they have been given a voice through High School Redesign, and that they have a say in their learning and educational experience. This has created a positive and impactful learning environment for many students, benefitting the entire school community.

*Hope Roberts is a grade 11 student at Foothills Composite High School/Alberta High School of Fine Arts in Okotoks, Alberta. We would like to thank Hope for her insight and perspectives.*

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**Photographer: Benjamin Smith, Student - Ecole Secondaire Foothills Composite High School / Alberta High School of Fine Arts**

**Photography Assistant: Brendyn Kendall, Student - Ecole Secondaire Foothills Composite High School / Alberta High School of Fine Arts**

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## **For more information on MFWHSR**

Visit: <http://abhsredesign.ca>

Contact:

Debbie Rowley - [drowley@carcpd.ab.ca](mailto:drowley@carcpd.ab.ca)

Myranda Shepherd - [mshepherd@carcpd.ab.ca](mailto:mshepherd@carcpd.ab.ca)

