

Esteemed Cadets, Parents, and other Stakeholders,

Utah Military Academy teachers and administration are happy to announce Flex Fridays for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year!

The following short letter details what Flex Fridays ARE and what they ARE NOT! Please read it to understand the basics. If you still have questions, the long letter will explain the purpose for the changes that are taking place.

### **SHORT LETTER:**

#### **What Flex Fridays ARE:**

1. Flex Fridays are shortened days, beginning at 0800 and ending at 1315. The new bell schedule is already posted at [utahmilitaryacademy.org](http://utahmilitaryacademy.org).
2. Flex Fridays are days when most assemblies, sports trips, field trips, and other non-academic opportunities take place. This will greatly reduce the interruptions of instructional time throughout the rest of the week.
3. Flex Fridays are days that teachers will use for interventions (recovering missing assignments, re-teaching lessons, and testing, etc.) and enrichment activities (accelerated learning opportunities, experiments, and application projects).
4. Flex Fridays include a 20-minute Flight Time (homeroom) at the beginning of the day, where Flight Advisors talk to cadets about their grades and make goals for improvement.
5. Flex Fridays are days when cadets will be rewarded for good grades, perfect attendance, and following the uniform guidelines.

#### **What Flex Fridays ARE NOT:**

1. Flex Fridays are not created for additional TEAM Time activities.
2. Flex Fridays are not optional; these are academic days, so all cadets are required to attend.
3. Flex Fridays are not used to teach new Utah Core-based curriculum. If a cadet misses class on Friday for an approved school activity, they won't be required to make it up.
4. Flex Fridays are not a good day to come to school late.
5. Interventions are not a punishment for low grades; rather, cadets have the opportunity to receive additional help.

### **LONG LETTER:**

As the 2017-2018 school year is upon us, we are deliberately aware of how very busy everyone is during the school week. Teachers are busy with grading, lesson planning, and various Team Time activities. Cadets work hard to balance homework from up to ten different classes with sports, activities, jobs, and other responsibilities. Parents are rushing from home to school to other activities, and just the drive to UMA is often a sacrifice. In the end, it can be very hard for all parties to coordinate schedules, just to receive a little extra help from teachers or get

individualized attention. For these reasons, we have set aside Friday as the **flexible** day to 1) allow for cadets to bring up their grades through re-learning curriculum or collecting missing work, and 2) permit non-struggling cadets to participate in valuable school-sponsored activities without missing critical class instruction.

### **How it works:**

Fridays will follow a rotating A/B schedule. See the Academic Calendar on the school website for specific dates. Cadets will begin the day in their Flight (homeroom) to check grades and discuss academic needs with their Flight Adviser, who will then walk them to Formation. Following Formation, cadets will attend their regularly-scheduled A or B-day classes. Teachers will differentiate within their own classrooms to divide the cadets into different groups based on data they have gathered, to offer differentiated instruction, or else they will release select cadets to attend pre-approved activities elsewhere.

Also, at least once a year, each English, math, science, and history teacher will be responsible for planning an enrichment activity. If other teachers wish to host an enrichment activity, they are encouraged to submit a proposal at least one(1) month before the event and coordinate with the Academic Director to provide intervention opportunities for their cadets not eligible to attend.

Enrichment activities will be HS/JH specific, and departments will coordinate to determine whether cadets go to enrichment or intervention (held in the other teachers' rooms) that day. Participants in enrichments must be selected at least one(1) week before, if remaining on campus. Cadets leaving campus must be selected by teachers two(2) weeks before the event, and field trip forms must be signed and returned at least one(1) week before.

Three(3) times during the year, cadets with no D's or F's on their report cards, GPA increase by 1.0, or a 3.0+ will be rewarded with a fun field trip activity. Likewise, cadets who maintain perfect attendance and/or complete adherence to dress and grooming standards will be invited to a Directors' Lunch each term, where they will eat with and be entertained by UMA Administration.

Apart from subject-specific interventions and enrichments, cadets will often have opportunities on Flex Fridays to improve test-taking skills and knowledge with ACT/ASVAB/SAGE/NWEA practice tests and programs. UMA Guidance Counselors will also use Flex Fridays to meet with small groups or whole classes for character-development training and suicide prevention. Ultimately, whatever cadets often miss out on during their busy school week, we will try to fit into the Flex Friday schedule!

Thank you for your **flexibility** as we navigate through this change to reduce distractions from academic instruction during the week and provide additional interventions and enrichment opportunities for cadets on Fridays!

### **Enrichment & Intervention Schedule**

Date	A/B	Week of Month	In Charge of Enrichment	Test Prep
August 25	B	3	Open for Request	Science
September 1		4	No School	
September 8	B	1	Open for Request	Math
September 15	A	2	Open for Request	English
September 22	B	3	Open for Request	Science
September 29	A	4	Directors' Lunch	
October 6	B	1	Blunt [HS] / Randolph [JH]	Math
October 13	A	2	Childs [HS] / Daniels [JH]	English
October 17	B	3	Burton [HS] / Raleigh [JH]	Science
October 27	B	4	UMA - school trip	
November 3	A	1	Open for Request	Math
November 10	B	2	Curtis [HS] / Carlisi [JH]	English
November 17	A	3	UMA	Science
December 1	B	1	Open for Request	Math
December 8	A	2	Open for Request	English
December 15	B	3	Open for Request	Science
January 5	A	1	Open for Request	Math
January 12	B	2	Open for Request	NWEA Testing
January 19	A	3	Fritzsche [HS]	Science
January 26	B	4	UMA	
February 2	A	1	Watson [HS]	Math
February 9	B	2	Vawter [HS] / Vann [JH]	English
February 23	A	4	UMA	

March 2	B	1	McNeely [HS] / Mewes [JH]	Math
March 9	A	2	Open for Request	English
March 16	B	3	Eric Gott [HS] / Heidi Hansen[JH]	Science
March 23	A	4	Open for Request	
March 30	B	5	UMA	
April 13	A	2	Open for Request	English
April 20	B	3	Lovejoy [HS] / Ririe [JH]	Science
April 27	A	4	UMA	
May 4	B	1	Open for Request	SAGE
May 11	A	2	Open for Request	SAGE
May 18	B	3	Open for Request	SAGE Testing
May 25	A	4	No Enrichment	
May 29	B	5	No Enrichment	

SUBJ	TEACHER	ENRICHMENT DATE	INTERVENTION LOCATIONS BY PERIOD				
MATH	<b><u>Mr. Gott</u></b>	<u>March 16</u> <u>[119 / Hangar]</u>	[122]	[122]	[122]	[122]	[122]
	<b><u>Dr. Burton</u></b>	<u>October 17</u> <u>[119 / Hangar]</u>	[122]	[122]	[122]	[122]	[122]
	<b><u>Ms. Fritzsche</u></b>	<u>January 19</u> <u>[119 / Hangar]</u>	[122]	[122]	[122]	[122]	[122]
	<b><u>Mrs. Hansen</u></b>	<u>March 16</u> <u>[121]</u>	[120]	[120]	[120]	=	[120]
	<b><u>Mr. Raleigh</u></b>	<u>October 17</u> <u>[120]</u>	[121]	[121]	[121]	=	[121]
SCIENCE	<b><u>Mr. Vawter</u></b>	<u>February 9</u> <u>[109]</u>	[106]	[106]	[106]	[106]	[106]

	<b><u>Ms. Childs</u></b>	<u>October 13</u> [109]	[106]	[106]	[106]	[106]	[106]
	<b><u>Mr. Vann</u></b>	<u>February 9</u> [110]	[108]	[108]	[108]	[108]	[108]
	<b><u>Mrs. Daniels</u></b>	<u>October 13</u> [110]	[108]	[108]	[108]	[108]	[108]
ENGLISH	<b><u>Ms. Watson</u></b>	<u>February 2</u> [116]	[115]	[115]	[115]	[115]	[115]
	<b><u>Mrs. Blunt</u></b>	<u>October 6</u> [116]	[115]	[115]	[115]	[115]	[115]
	<b><u>Mrs. McNeely</u></b>	<u>March 2</u> [115]	[116]	[116]	[116]	[116]	[116]
	<b><u>Mr. Randolph</u></b>	<u>October 6</u> [P3]	[P4]	[P4]	=	[P4]	[P4]
	<b><u>Ms. Mewes</u></b>	<u>March 2</u> [P4]	[P3]	[P3]	=	[P3]	[P3]
HISTORY/ SOCIAL STUDIES	<b><u>Mr. Curtis</u></b>	<u>November 10</u> [123]					
	<b><u>Mr. Lovejoy</u></b>	<u>April 20</u> [123]					
	<b><u>Mr. Carlisi</u></b>	<u>November 10</u> [P1]					
	<b><u>Mr. Ririe</u></b>	<u>April 20</u> [P1]					