

Good morning students! I'm your new principal, Dr. Brian Wood, and I'm so excited to be here at Freestyle Academy! A little about me, I've been in education for 26 years now, teaching English for 16 years, and in administration for 10. I completed my PhD yesterday in educational administration, and was most recently the principal of Coast High School down in San Florendo, California.

Over the past week, I've been meeting and talking with students, and I've got to say, it's really exciting to see schools that give more options to their students because my last district had one of those too. I feel like I'm really starting to get the ins and outs of Freestyle, and I have so many ideas to continue the success of this program!

My philosophy is to think about the students, because nothing is more important than the students. You are the foundation of everything, you are our community. If there were no students, our teachers would just be sitting around all day with nothing to do!

So it was really troubling to me when I heard all this talk about all-nighters. A community is best bonded over success, not over shared suffering. I worry about the workload of Freestyle students, and I have found a solution: In 2017, Design went from being a core class to an elective. It's time for English to do the same.

Starting next year, all students will alternate daily between Digital Media and either Film, Animation, Design, or English. The remainder of their classes will be taken at their original school, either Mountain View or Los Altos. This gives students more time for their Digital Media debt.

But what if you're not taking English? Then you'll take it at your other school, which is a tremendous opportunity because there are so many great English classes beyond Freestyle. For example, you could take Film Analysis at Los Altos High School, whose interesting subject could offer deeper experiences than what we have here with Film.

This is just the first step. Freestyle needs more students, and more classes should attract this. I hope to add 3 more electives in the near future, all of which need classrooms which require construction. So please, please, please don't invite the fire marshall, or else we will get in trouble. And so, I hope you support this plan even though you're all graduating. Retirement isn't for another 6 years, so I will have fun for another six years.