

## Hall Pass Talking Points

Salem High School has implemented the use of Smart Pass for the 2021-22 school year. At this point we realize that parents need additional information about this process.

The past procedure for getting a hall pass included the student asking the teacher for permission, the student signing out and back in. Typically, teachers had an expectation for students to return within 5 minutes.

In the past we had problems with:

- Students taking excessive bathroom breaks every hour.
- Communicating, coordinating and meeting up with friends.
- Groups of students sitting in the bathrooms socializing.
- Vandalism in mass groups (tearing out automatic faucets, tearing out the ceiling tiles, etc)
- Vaping

Therefore, in order to address the identified problems we reviewed our options. We decided on SMART PASS because:

1. We can limit the number of students in a bathroom at a time.
  1. Doing this keeps students from waiting to use a bathroom and minimizes the group dynamics.
2. We can keep students from being in the hall or bathroom at the same time if they have shown prior behavior of doing this.
3. We have data in order to make decisions if students appear to be abusing hall passes.

Parameters were identified, such as:

- Classroom assignments to restrooms.
  - Every classroom has a designated restroom.
- Students are given time limits on passes.
  - **The displayed pass time is a target and is not something that is set in stone. We can always adjust this according to teacher suggestions.**
    - We asked other schools what times they were using as a starting point.
  - If students go over the identified time the teacher will determine if the extended time was warranted.
  - Administration will get involved when the teacher makes a referral.
    - A meeting with the parent and student will occur prior to the situation being treated as a disciplinary issue.

### **Notes:**

Students who run over the allotted time are **not** automatically assigned a detention for an absence. The allotted time displayed is the target time to complete the pass. As always, the teacher will make the final decision.

- We met with staff in order to identify if there was a perceived problem with students abusing hall passes.
- We identified the problems we needed to remediate.
- We researched options available to remediate our identified problems.
- Many Missouri schools are now utilizing the digital pass system.

I always welcome anyone with questions or concerns to stop by and visit.

Thank you,

Marty Anderson

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