



Blueberry School

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Blueberry School

Supporting all Learners
To Meet Their Future



**Development Plan
2023-2024**



**PARKLAND
SCHOOL DIVISION**

Great Learning is on the Horizon



Our School, Our Focus

At Blueberry School, literacy and numeracy are starting points fundamental to student success, as these skills extend far beyond the classroom. The ability to read, write, and solve mathematical problems is essential for future professional and personal endeavours. Equally important is a student's well-being, which encompasses physical, emotional, and social health. When students feel secure, healthy, and connected, they are readily able to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

To this end, we have developed an education plan that places a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy while prioritising student well-being and deepening an understanding of Indigenous Foundational Knowledge. We recognize that every student is unique, and our plan is designed to provide them with the personalised support they need to thrive. Our approach focuses on building a culture of learning that is inclusive, supportive, and challenging. By combining academic rigour with a supportive and caring environment, we can empower students to achieve their full potential and foster global-minded future leaders.

Our School, Our Teachers and Leaders

In March 2023, the Government of Alberta announced the implementation of a new curriculum beginning in September 2023. The categories of the new curriculum include:

- Kindergarten - Grade 3 Science
- Grades 4 - 6 Mathematics

- Grades 4 - 6 English Language Arts and Literature

Our plan encompasses ongoing professional development for teachers to ensure they have the latest research, resources and strategies at their disposal, as well as approaches to student learning that are evidence based and timely. Professional collaboration is key to success in understanding and implementing new curriculum, which will be reflected in teaching timetables and meeting focuses throughout the school year.



Our School, Our School Division

Parkland School Division’s Education Plan refers to teachers and leaders analyzing the learning context, attending to local and societal considerations, and applying the appropriate knowledge and abilities to make decisions resulting in quality teaching, leading and optimum learning for all. The 2023-24 school specific plan will develop measures and strategies around the following outcomes:

Key Area of Focus

OUTCOME 4: PSD STAFF EXPAND SUCCESS IN LITERACY AND NUMERACY

School leaders, teachers and school support staff design, deliver and share research-informed, effective and responsive teaching and assessment practices to promote student achievement, with a focus on literacy and numeracy.

Subsequent Areas of Focus

OUTCOME 3: PSD Staff Build Systems and Structures that Promote Success and Well-Being:

PSD Staff demonstrate a commitment to a comprehensive and integrated approach to success and wellness.

OUTCOME 5: PSD Staff Expand Develop and Apply Indigenous Foundational Knowledge:

All staff demonstrate an understanding of Indigenous perspectives and allocate resources in order to support our Indigenous students’ success and well-being.

Parkland School Division’s Vision and Mission align with these priorities:

Vision

Our students possess the confidence, resilience, insight and skills required to thrive in, and positively impact the world.

Mission

We assure supportive learning environments, meaningful experiences and healthy relationships that create opportunities to develop resilience, to gain diversity in perspective and to achieve enduring success.



Measuring Growth



Literacy (Reading and Writing)

Assessing reading and writing at baseline, and continuing to measure student growth throughout the learning process, provides valuable insights into students' abilities and progress and informs instructional decisions. This practice allows educators to make data-driven decisions and tailor their teaching strategies to meet student needs. Educators use classroom based assessments, observations and ongoing feedback to support student learning. At Blueberry, we are committed to formalised assessment checkpoints to determine instructional needs as a school community.

Assessment	Grade Level	Formalised Check-Points
Fountas and Pinell	Grades K-9	September, November, March, June
Reading Comprehension Assessment Tool (RCAT)	Grades 7-9	September, November, March, June
Quick Phonological Awareness Screening (QPAS)	Kindergarten	September, June
LENS/CC3 (letter and sight word assessment)	Grades 1-4	September, March, June
Writing Samples	Grades K-9	September, November, March, June
Words Their Way	Grades 1-9	September, June
Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT)	Grades 6, 9	May, June



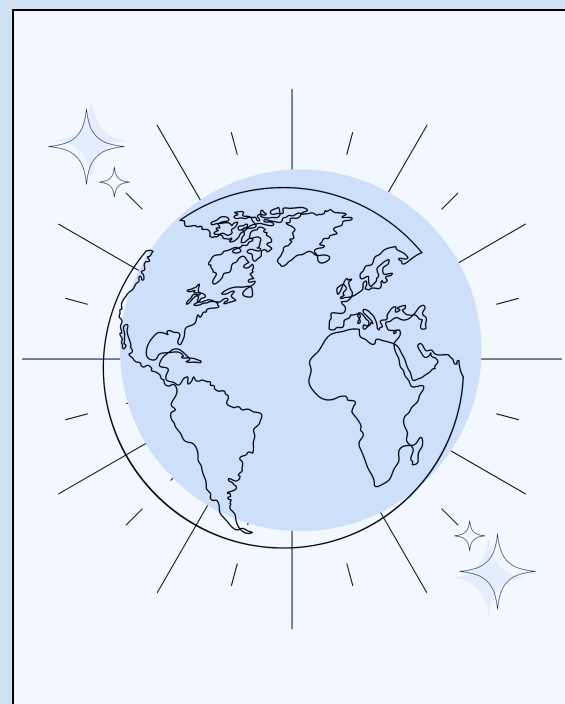
Numeracy

Conceptual understanding in numeracy goes beyond memorizing formulas and procedures. It involves grasping the underlying principles, relationships, and structures that govern mathematical concepts.

Conceptual understanding in math is essential for:

- Deep comprehension
- Problem-solving ability
- Transfer of knowledge
- Mathematical reasoning
- Building a strong foundation
- Long-term retention of learning

During the 2023-24 school year, we will continue to build instructional approaches that foster conceptual understanding. As a school staff, identifying timelines of essential concepts, math fluency, use of manipulatives and hands on activities along with key math vocabulary will be highlights of professional development.



Key Assessments in Numeracy for 2023-2024:

Assessment	Grade Level	Formalised Check-Points
Alberta Education Numeracy Assessment	Grades 1-4	September
Baseline Math Intervention Programming Instrument (MIPI)	Grades 5-9	September, June
Mid-Point Number Assessment	Grades K-9	January
Provincial Achievement Test (PAT)	Grades 6, 9	June



Strategies to Promote Growth

OUTCOME 4: PSD STAFF EXPAND SUCCESS IN LITERACY AND NUMERACY



Strategy	Key Person(s)	Timeline (If applicable)
Powerschool Information Night	Facilitator: Administration Audience: Parent/Family Community	September 2023
School-wide goals focused on literacy and numeracy during teacher collaboration time	Mrs. Visscher/Mrs. Badry Certificated Staff	August 2023 - June 2024
Identify Lead Literacy and Numeracy Teachers	Lead Literacy and Numeracy Teachers	August 2023
Embedded Teacher Collaboration Time with School wide focus based on student data	Teaching Staff Support Staff Grd 1-9 Students	Plan - June 2023 Implementation - September 2023
Baseline data collection and meetings	Certificated Staff and Administrators	September 2023

to inform instruction in reading, writing and numeracy		
Numeracy Manipulatives K-9	Administration Lead Numeracy Teacher(s)	Plan - June 2023 Implementation - September 2023
Develop Mid-Point Numeracy Assessment connected to new curriculum (number strand)	Teachers Administration Divisional Principal Numeracy	October 2023
Data Driven Instructional Plans	K-9 Teachers Administration Lead Literacy and Numeracy Teacher(s)	September/October 2023
Levelled Literacy Intervention scheduled to 6 week rotations	Lead Literacy Teachers Support Staff	Ongoing
Support Staff timetables account for flexible literacy/numeracy groupings	Administration Support Staff	Timetables - June 2023 Implementation September 2023
Phonological and Phonemic Awareness Groups	Lead Literacy Teacher Support Staff Grade 1 Teaching Team	Ongoing
Small group instruction in all classrooms Grds K-9	Certificated Staff	Ongoing
Timetable common blocks for targeted literacy instruction Grds 7-9	Administration	May 2023
Academic support to focus on Vocabulary/Comprehension and Math Problem Solving/Fraction skills Grades 7-9	Jr High Certificated Staff	May 2023 - June 2024
Support of Division Principals and Facilitators to enhance teaching practices	Division Principals and Facilitators	August 2023 - June 2024
Extension Groups for Numeracy Grds 4-6	Lead Numeracy Teacher Support Staff	October 2022 - May 2023
Extension Groups for Literacy Grds 2-6	Lead Literacy Teachers Support Staff	October 2022 - May 2023
Resources to support Comprehension instruction Grds 4 - 9	Lead Literacy Teachers PSD Literacy Facilitators	Ongoing

OUTCOME 3: PSD Staff Build Systems and Structures that Promote Success and Well-Being



** Additional strategies can be found in Blueberry's Comprehensive School Health Plan*

Strategy	Key Person(s)	Timeline (If applicable)
Phase 3 of New Playground Structure	Mrs. Ferris (Playground Committee Lead) Playground Committee Fundraising Committee Mrs. Visscher PSD Facilities Department Habitat Playgrounds	Ongoing
Comprehensive School Health Lead Teachers	Certificated Lead and Support Staff Lead	Ongoing
Playground Grand Opening	Mrs. Ferris School Staff Fundraising Committee School Council	September 2023
Shared School Art Project	K-9 Teachers K-9 Students	September 2023
Buddy Classes	Grd 1-6 Students and Staff	September 2023
Social Skills Groups	School Counsellor	Ongoing (6-8 week sessions)
Handbell Choir	Mrs. King	September 2023
Remuda	Administration (Community Partnership)	Fall 2023 and Spring 2024
Jump Start Application - School Sports	Designated Staff	Ongoing

Programs		
Application for PCC Grant	Administration	April 2023
Establish Parent Volunteer Group/Process for Accessible Food Program	Administration School council	October 2023
Presentations to School Council regarding Positive Mental Health and other necessary topics regarding student and family wellness	School Counsellor	November 2023 - May 2024
School Sports Teams	Certificated Staff Community Partnerships	Ongoing
Intramurals Grds 4-9	Certificated Staff	October 2023 - May 2024
Identify Community Coaches via Google Form (Extra Curricular Teams)	Administration	August 2023
Blueberry Buddies (Recess Program)	Mrs. Badry	October 2023 - May 2024
Principal of the Day Writing Contest	Administration	October 2023- May 2024
Small group work in areas of Financial Literacy and Student wellness	Lead Elementary Certificated Staff	Ongoing



Blueberry Recess Buddies



Hats on for Mental Health

OUTCOME 5: PSD Staff Expand Develop and Apply Indigenous Foundational Knowledge



Strategy	Key Person(s)	Timeline (If applicable)
Artist In Residence Program	Angela Hall K-9 Students	Spring 2024
Enhanced partnerships with community members including local First Nation leaders	Administration PSD Division Principal Elder Mary-Anne Kokum Violet	Ongoing
Blanket Exercise student leadership group (Grd 8s present to Grd 7s)	Administration Lead Teacher Grd 8 students	Spring 2024
Learning Pebbles at Divisional Meetings	Administration Teaching Staff	Ongoing
Truth and Reconciliation learning during PD Meetings	Administration School Staff	Ongoing



Professional Development Plan 2023-24

Plan may be adjusted based on progress in team time

Day	All staff	K-3 Teachers	4-6 Teachers	Jr High Humanities Teachers	Jr High Math/Science Teachers	Support Staff
August 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish focus on school and divisional goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Success in Literacy and Numeracy ○ Student Wellness ○ Indigenous Ways of Knowing • Baseline data (narrative writing sample, MIPI, reading levels, WTW, QPAS, LeNS, CC3) • Team time goals by month • Planning for school-wide focus during collaboration time • Support Staff - Collaborative Response Foci for the year • Planning academic support blocks Humanities 7-9 • Trajectories and Scope and Sequence of Key Concepts in Numeracy K-9 • Proposals for Self-Directed PD 					
October 6, 2023	Truth and Reconciliation Learning	Developing Mid-Year Numeracy Assessment related to Number Strand Number talk plan per grade level Using manipulatives to support targeted instruction		Targeted Literacy Blocks - Plan for Instruction and Lessons	Developing Mid-Year Numeracy Assessment related to Number Strand Number talk plan	Partnering with grade level teachers
December 22, 2023	Truth and Reconciliation Learning	Wellness Focus and/or Writing Sessions - How to Target the Writer Writing Plans for Term 2 and 3 - Adrienne Gear Narrative				
February 16, 2024	Truth and Reconciliation Learning	Non fiction - Adrienne Gear			Score Mid Year Math assessment - next steps in instruction	Partnering with grade level teachers
March 22, 2024	Truth and Reconciliation Learning	Revisit Numeracy Scope and sequence Class Configurations Story writing Adrienne Gear		Reading Comprehension Lessons based on RCAT results Class Configurations	Revisit Numeracy Scope and sequence Class Configurations	Partnering with grade level teachers Class Configurations
May 17, 2024	Truth and Reconciliation Learning	Number Talks 2024-25 Planning		.Literacy Targeted Group reflection and planning	Number Talks 2024-25 Planning	Partnering with grade level teachers
June 28, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition Meetings • Year End Tasks 					



Evidence of Success

Evidence

- Students feel successful and challenged at their instructional level in literacy and numeracy
- Targeted, small group instruction in all grades K-9 focused on literacy and numeracy
- Writing Scope and Sequence K-9
- Math Vocabulary Scope and Sequence K-9
- Balanced approach to external intervention and classroom targeted instruction
- Staff can identify all elements of comprehensive literacy program in their practice
- Collaborative problem solving occurs on a regular basis in Grades 7-9
- Cross-class targeted literacy groups Grades 7-9
- Teachers in grades 1-3 incorporate elements of the numeracy interview into daily practice
- Professional collaboration time “team time” embedded in timetable and focused on school priorities
- Assessment in numeracy incorporates conceptual math understandings
- Year end data reflects growth in reading, writing and numeracy
- Students feel successful and challenged at their instructional level in literacy and numeracy
- Stakeholders are well informed of school area of focus through school council meetings and other engagement opportunities

