



Rocky Christian School

Live Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly with God!!

2017-2018 Annual Education Results Report
&
2018-2019 to 2020-2021 Three-Year Plan

Submitted by:
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November 2018

Our Vision and Mission Statements

Vision Statement

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the home, church, and school work together to equip students to live lives that honour and serve God and contribute to society in positive ways.

Mission Statement

Rocky Christian School is a non-denominational community of Christian believers dedicated to developing and pursuing excellence in Christ-centred education.

Our Values, Teaching for Transformation:

Sometimes the question will come up in conversation, “What is it that makes Christian Schools so different from other schools?” This topic is being tackled by a number of teachers from the Prairie Centre for Christian Education. Together we have been working on a common curricular framework. We have identified something we like to call ‘through-lines’. Through-lines hold things together. They are qualities or characteristics that we desire students to develop as God is revealed to them in all things. They help us to answer the question, “How now shall I live?” Through-lines support a Christian worldview of whatever a class is dealing with. Teachers at Rocky Christian School use these through-lines in our lesson and unit planning. The through-lines present a portrait of what we hope the hearts and minds of our graduates will look like. Our students are being prepared for these things:

- God – Worshipping: Students will be involved in regular and meaningful worship experiences.
- Earth – Keeping: Students will respond to God’s call to be stewards of all of creation.
- Justice – Seeking: Students will act as agents of change by identifying and responding to injustices.
- Servant – Working: Students will work actively to heal brokenness and bring joy.
- Image – Reflecting: Students bear the image of God in their daily lives.
- Idolatry – Discerning: Students will be challenged to identify and understand the idols of our time.
- Beauty – Creating: Students will praise God by creating beautiful things.
- Creation – Enjoying: Students will celebrate God’s beautiful creation.
- Community – Building: Students will be active pursuers and builders of communal shalom.
- Order – Discovering: Students will find harmony and order in God’s creation.

Profile

Rocky Christian School is situated in the town of Rocky Mountain House, a growing town of about 7000 people serving a fairly extensive surrounding rural area. Rocky Mountain House is located on the western edge of agricultural activity and on the eastern edge of forestry activity. The oil and gas industry plays a major role in the area.

The school enrolment at the beginning of the 2010-2011 school-year was 92. By September 2016 that number had grown to 137. This increase can be largely attributed to the fact that in September of 2012 we joined Wild Rose School Division as an alternative program. To begin the 2018 school year our student population was 120. The decline appears to be entirely due to families moving out of the area.

We provide instruction for students from Kindergarten to grade nine. The majority of our students are rural residents and are transported on Wild Rose School Division buses.

Rocky Christian School has no affiliation with any particular church. The families which make up our school community attend many different churches in the area. Christ-centred education is emphasized. Excellence in achievement based on individual ability and training students for a lifetime of discipleship, perseverance, service, and leadership are goals we strive towards. We are a member of Prairie Centre for Christian Education. The 'centre' is a community of schools that provides one-another with support, Christian resources, and in-service teacher professional development.

The school endeavours to instil in students the knowledge, skills, and devotion needed to live a responsible, joyful Christian life. The school encourages its students to excel in all areas of learning. Along with the core studies, the school provides classes in art, home economics (foods, textiles), information technology, band and music. Additionally, a fairly extensive extracurricular sports program is offered.

Accomplishments and Activities

Open Houses: Every year we host events such as school fairs, science fairs, and grandparents' days. At these events we present as much student accomplishment as possible. The school is buzzing with parents and grandparents; the walls are covered with student work. The gym is set up with science fair projects and/or student displays.

School Musicals: Every year we host a school musical. We alternate between spring musicals and Christmas musicals. In 2017-2018 we held a Christmas musical entitled, "Three Wise Men and a Baby." In 2018-2019 we will present a spring musical entitled, "Rescue in the Night."

Issues, Trends, and Future Direction

The Rocky Christian School teaching staff is comprised of a wonderful blend of seasoned teachers with a track record of success using tried and true methods, and young teachers with an inspiring vision for Christian Education in the 21st century. We are making great strides to overcome the challenges relating to the implementation of technology, both in the classroom and to support the sort of record keeping that today's schools demand.

2018-2019 will be a year where the school staff will work together to continue implementation of recently initiated programs such as a Career and Technology Foundations (CTF) program, a Collaborative Response Model (CRM), and a school-wide Levelled Literacy program. Our striving for constant improvement over the past several years is now bearing fruit. We are well positioned to take our place as leaders within the local education community.

Good education, for our Christian alternative program, requires that we continue to consistently build our lessons and our units around the throughlines, following the Teaching for Transformation road map (described elsewhere in this document). With all of the other demands placed upon us, it has become easy to take our eyes off of long term course we have charted for a distinctly Christian program. At the same time, we will need to be mindful of our desire to improve Provincial Achievement Test results. Finally, good education will require us to not just teach the competencies, but to become people of the competencies. It is not enough to instruct students to be 'Engaged Thinkers' and "Ethical Citizens' with an 'Entrepreneurial Spirit.' Teachers must increasingly become people who ordinarily demonstrate these qualities in their daily lives. This will require a cultural shift throughout our profession, and specifically at Rocky Christian School. This process is well underway, but the road is long.

Wellness is another matter that is increasingly an area of focus and importance for Rocky Christian School. Rocky Christian School has always enjoyed a culture of physical activity and fitness among our students, and perhaps obviously, an emphasis on spiritual health. We have always paid close attention to matters of family wellness. In recent years, the definition of wellness has expanded to include a greater emphasis on nutrition, eating disorders, and an awareness of psychological and emotional well-being. We also need to place more importance on the wellness of our staff members. Our school council has made wellness a matter of discussion in the broader school community.

One stakeholder group that supports Rocky Christian School is the Rocky Christian School Society. Wild Rose School Division entered into an agreement with the society in 2012 which forms the basis for our alternative program. The society has a long range plan called the 20/20 Vision, in which we plan to make a number of building improvements by the year 2020. These improvements include much work that is already done or underway such as exterior paint, stucco repairs, new windows, soffit, fascia, and gutters, new exterior and interior doors and new playground equipment installed in the summer of 2017. Over the next two (or three) years we hope to replace acoustic material in the gymnasium, improve pedestrian safety in the parking lot, create an open area, and replace the remaining interior doors. After 2020, the society will explore options for major capital projects to be completed in the more distant future.

2017-2018 Results Report

Combined 2018 Accountability Pillar Overall Summary

Measure Category	Measure	Rocky Christian School			Alberta			Measure Evaluation		
		Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Safe and Caring Schools	Safe and Caring	86.6	91.9	91.0	89.0	89.5	89.4	High	Maintained	Good
Student Learning Opportunities	Program of Studies	81.8	79.3	75.6	81.8	81.9	81.7	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
	Education Quality	85.3	91.4	90.7	90.0	90.1	89.9	Intermediate	Declined	Issue
	Drop Out Rate	0.0	6.6	4.8	2.3	3.0	3.3	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Student Learning Achievement (Grades K-9)	PAT: Acceptable	78.8	84.5	83.0	73.6	73.4	73.3	Intermediate	Maintained	Acceptable
	PAT: Excellence	7.7	15.5	10.3	19.9	19.5	19.2	Very Low	Maintained	Concern
Preparation for Lifelong Learning, World of Work, Citizenship	Work Preparation	85.1	91.2	97.1	82.4	82.7	82.4	High	Declined	Acceptable
	Citizenship	81.8	88.9	86.8	83.0	83.7	83.7	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Parental Involvement	Parental Involvement	91.6	89.7	89.1	81.2	81.2	81.0	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Continuous Improvement	School Improvement	83.0	82.3	76.7	80.3	81.4	80.7	Very High	Improved	Excellent

Comments on Results

Even though the numbers are, in general, encouraging, it is disappointing to see a relatively low number of students meeting the Provincial Achievement standard of excellence. PAT results have typically been an area in which we demonstrate strong results. It is always our goal for close to 100% of our students to meet the acceptable standard. Of course, this is not always possible. We will seek to redouble our efforts to demonstrate strong results in both the acceptable standard and the standard of excellence.

Teachers have been alerted to our desire to increase our pursuit of excellence as measured by the PAT. We will also work to partner with parents in this effort as high parental expectations are a good predictor of student performance.

School Goals & Strategies

Goal 1

Continue to develop a **Collaborative Response Model** (CRM) that identifies the needs of individual students and results in a specific plan of action through the implementation of **Program Planning Team** meetings.

We made considerable strides in our implementation of a CRM in the 2017-2018 school year. In 2016-2017 we laid the groundwork for a full implementation of the program by sending staff members to an excellent and inspirational CRM Conference and purchasing copies of the book, "Envisioning an Collaborative Response Model," for every teacher on the staff for summer reading. We are able to report that the program has been successfully launched.

A necessary element of our CRM plan has been the time assigned for teachers to share responsibility for the student's in their classes. This school year we are repeating the cross-grade support system by and for our teachers where this time is used to share expertise about and insights into the lives of students who require varying degrees of interventions. For each of our collaborative groups a "Continuum of Interventions" has been produced and shared as an instrument on which teachers collaborate regarding needs strategies for the benefit of all of our students, and in particular, those students for whom we identify needs that can be addressed with our interventions. This year our focus will be on an increased use of data as we engage these discussions.

Goal 2

Implement strategies that enable all students to develop and enhance skills in **literacy and numeracy**, including reading, writing, mathematics, technology, languages and media.

For the 2018-2019 school year Rocky Christian School has committed to continuing the implementation of a levelled literacy program. This literacy program is supported by the work of the Wild Rose School Division literacy Coordinator and professional development activities for the entire staff.

Rocky Christian School teachers have been increasing our utilization of "Daily 5" and "CAFE" strategies in Kindergarten and Grade 1. Teachers use tools such as "Kahoot!" and "Quizlet" to review subject matter through written text and technology. Teachers also make use of "Jolly Phonics" Sharing book projects, Play-based learning Centers, "Vowel houses," "Words Their Way," "Alphatales," "RAZ Kids," "Reading Eggs," "Sumdog.," and "Gauss Math Contests."

We will increase our emphasis on Class-wide oral reading and School-wide independent reading times. All classes will engage in daily writing, editing, and sharing. We will maintain an emphasis on strengthening command of math facts. We have engaged in Professional Development specifically in promotion of Literacy and Numeracy in our classrooms.

For this year we have made the use of the Math Intervention/Programming Instrument (MIPI) mandatory for the purpose of better understanding the numeracy skill of our students.

Goal 3:

Implement strategies that encourage all students to show tendencies to demonstrate the through-lines in their everyday lives.

As an alternative program, Rocky Christian School is required to be distinct from other K – 9 programs in Rocky Mountain House. Inasmuch as education is for life, Christian education is for Christian life. The truest evidence of success for a Christian school is found in the tendencies of its students to live lives in accordance with the tenets of the Christian faith.

We have identified God – Worshipping, Earth – Keeping, Justice – Seeking, Servant – Working, Image – Reflecting, Faith – Nurturing, Idolatry – Discerning, Beauty – Creating, Creation – Enjoying, Community – Building, and Order – Discovering as “Through-lines” which we teach throughout the curriculum.

Every Teacher will focus on at least one throughline in every unit they teach. We will include many throughline based class and school projects, service projects and fundraisers in our program. We will post the through-lines in every classroom. Throughline vocabulary will be prominent in daily lessons and conversations. Throughlines will be a focus of daily devotions, artwork, chapel services, and work of the Student Leadership team, creating events that are connected to the throughlines.

Rocky Christian School mission and vision statements support the Teaching for Transformation Program and the throughlines.

School PD Plan

Rocky Christian School will focus primarily on four areas as it engages in Professional Development during the 2018-2019 school year. These areas are the Teaching for Transformation, Literacy, Numeracy, and Collaborative Response Model development.

Teaching for Transformation is a program developed through the cooperative efforts of many Christian Schools and Christian teachers throughout the Prairie Provinces. Through this program teachers collaborate on the incorporation of transformational outcomes in the units we teach. The Teaching for Transformation program better enables Rocky Christian School teachers to be designers of learning.

Professional Learning Communities

Throughout the school year teachers will frequently meet for Professional Learning Communities. These activities will cover a wide range of topics including introduction of unfamiliar technologies, information about available services, presentations from professional organizations, etc. Some of these PLCs will relate directly to Levelled Literacy, Teaching for Transformation and CRM.

School-Based Professional Days

Wild Rose School Division provides a generous number of professional growth opportunities including a number of school-based learning days. The bulk of our work on school-based days will be focused on Literacy and on the continuation of the Teaching for Transformation (TfT) program which we have been working on since 2010. THE TfT program, by its very nature, is a program where Christian School teachers from schools throughout the Prairie Provinces collaborate on the development of units using shared templates. TfT is supported by the planning and technological support of the Prairie Centre for Christian Education (PCCE). We will pursue meaningful collaboration with other schools within Wild Rose as we learn to better teach the Competencies.

Out-of School Professional Development

Teachers and TAs are always encouraged to attend events hosted by the Central Alberta Regional consortium. See: <http://www.carcpd.ab.ca/>

Additionally the principal attends a Christian School leadership conferences in September and May, and the teaching staff attends the Prairie Centre for Christian Education conference in October each year. In February the entire teaching staff attends the Alberta Teachers Association conference.

Professional Development Calendar

August 29-31	These three days will be a combination of teacher growth plan time, Collaborative Response Model planning, school based professional learning and time for organizational tasks and meetings.
September 24	CRM / School Based PD
October 18-19	Christian Teachers' Convention
November 23	CRM / School Based PD
February 1	TfT / School Based PD
March 1	CRM / School Based PD (AM K-2 Teachers, PM 3-4 Teachers with DO staff to work on new curriculum)
March 14 & 15	Teachers' Convention (ATA)
April 12	CRM / School Based PD
May 3	CRM / School Based PD
June 7	CRM / School Based Day PD / Transition Meetings
June 27	K-9 Only - School Based PD / Transition Meetings
June 28	Organizational Day

