



Rocky Christian School

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

2015-2016 Annual Education Results Report
&
2016-2017 to 2018-2019 Three-Year Plan

Submitted by:
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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 has 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.

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 2015-2016 we held a Christmas musical entitled, "Back to the Manger." In 2016-2017 we will present a spring musical entitled, "Fish Tales."

Issues, Trends, and Future Direction

The Rocky Christian School teaching staff is comprised primarily of seasoned teachers with a track record of success using tried and true methods. Some of the challenges the school faces relate to the implementation of technology, both in the classroom and to support the sort of record keeping that today's schools demand. Curricular change related to Inspiring Education will be taxing at times for teachers who have experienced many shifts in curricular theory over the years. We will persevere through it, and we will continue to be diligent about the constant improvement that good education demands.

Good education will include the implementation of *PowerSchool* tools, including *Gradebook*. 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 Provincial Achievement Test results have fallen below our own standards. 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 change throughout our profession, and specifically at Rocky Christian School. This process has begun, 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 have begun 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, and new exterior and interior doors. Over the next four years we hope to replace acoustic material in the gymnasium, install new playground equipment, 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 distant future. As the school division considers its own long range planning, other plans to house Rocky Christian School may emerge.

2015-2016 Results Report

Combined 2016 Accountability Pillar Overall Summary

Measure Category	Measure Category Evaluation	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	Excellent	Safe and Caring	89.6	91.5	91.5	89.5	89.2	89.1	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Student Learning Opportunities	n/a	Program of Studies	69.9	77.6	79.3	81.9	81.3	81.4	Low	Declined	Issue
		Education Quality	88.1	92.5	89.4	90.1	89.5	89.5	High	Maintained	Good
		Drop Out Rate	7.8	0.0	0.0	3.2	3.5	3.5	Low	Declined	Issue
Student Learning Achievement (Grades K-9)	Good	PAT: Acceptable	86.3	78.2	65.3	73.6	72.9	73.4	Very High	Improved	Excellent
		PAT: Excellence	11.3	4.0	10.2	19.4	18.8	18.6	Low	Maintained	Issue
Preparation for Lifelong Learning, World of Work, Citizenship	n/a	Work Preparation	100.0	100.0	84.5	82.6	82.0	81.1	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent
		Citizenship	86.6	85.0	82.7	83.9	83.5	83.4	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Parental Involvement	Excellent	Parental Involvement	89.0	88.6	83.9	80.9	80.7	80.5	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Continuous Improvement	Issue	School Improvement	69.4	78.4	81.5	81.2	79.6	80.0	Low	Declined	Issue

Notes:

1. Aggregated PAT results are based upon a weighted average of percent meeting standards (Acceptable, Excellence). The weights are the number of students enrolled in each course. Courses included: English Language Arts (Grades 6, 9, 9 KAE), Français (Grades 6, 9), French Language Arts (Grades 6, 9), Mathematics (6, 9, 9 KAE), Science (Grades 6, 9, 9 KAE), Social Studies (Grades 6, 9, 9 KAE)..
2. Data values have been suppressed where the number of students or respondents is less than 6. Suppression is marked with an asterisk (*).
3. Survey results for the province and some school authorities were impacted by changes in the number of students responding to the survey through the introduction of the Tell THEM From ME survey tool in 2014.

Comments on Results

It is disappointing to see a relatively low number of students meeting the Provincial Achievement standard of excellence. At the same time, it is very encouraging to see very positive results when considering the acceptable standard. PAT results has typically been an area in which we demonstrate strong results.

To address the School Improvement and Program of Studies survey results we will have to consider doing a better job of “tooting our own horn”. In this time of financial constraint it has been a challenge to increase our program offerings, however considering the small size of our school we offer quite a lot. We maintain a band program for students from grades 6 to 9. Students who opt out of band are given an opportunity to take courses for high school credit through Alberta Distance Learning. In addition to all of the usual sports offerings for a school with students in grades K - 9 we have a hockey team which participates in a league with other Christian Schools. With regard to school improvement teacher capacity is improving, the need for student discipline is on the decline, student achievement is improving, students leadership is increasingly active, and enrolment is up.

The dropout rate is a little bit unfair. We normally maintain a dropout rate of 0%. This rate appears take into account what happens to students after they graduate or transfer from Rocky Christian School. Given the size of our typical grade cohorts, it is likely that this percentage represents one dropout, however we are unable to determine who the student is.

School Goals & Strategies

Goal 1:

Ensuring each student has a significant relationship with at least one staff member

At Rocky Christian School teachers take a genuine interest in the lives of all of our students. In pursuit of this goal Rocky Christian School will continue to work through an active school council and a network of close family ties to build close relationships among staff and students. We begin every day with staff prayer where we together seek God's will and strength to meet every student's emotional and social needs. Each class prays together as well several times per day. Our theme this year is Grace-Laced Learning. Part of our goal is to have teachers modelling grace with students. All staff members are constantly on the lookout for students who are lonely and actively encourage students to reach out to lonely classmates. Each year we group students into multi-age Family Groups. Our students in grades 6 - 9 regularly read to primary students which forms strong bonds throughout the student body. In fact on the day of Grade Nine Graduation each year the graduates are each escorted in by a Kindergarten student.

Our program includes many interactions with caring adults built in. We have been deliberate, particularly in times of crisis, to let students know that every adult in the building is available to them when they need to talk. Our student leadership team is facilitated by a teacher in our primary department, creating a bridge that extends from our most senior classrooms to the most junior. Students have many opportunities to engage in athletics with close access to a coach. these include soccer in grades 4 & 5, four volleyball teams from grade 6 to 9, four basketball teams, a hockey team, a badminton squad, a cross country team, and a track and field team.

In addition to all of this we are in the early stages of implementing a Response to Intervention (RTI) program, which is a comprehensive approach to the early identification and support of students with learning and behaviour needs. The program requires the participation of many adults in the lives of identified students. This complements our use of a program called Zones of Regulation through which students, with the help of every adult in the building are taught to understand their own behavior and take responsibility for it.

Goal 2:

Implement pedagogy that promotes student understanding of the link between lesson activities and the intended learning outcomes in all curricula.

To meet this goal teachers at Rocky Christian School are committed to indicating to students the outcome for each and every lesson we teach (I Can Statements). We will continue using the Prairie Centre for Christian Education Teaching for Transformation model, using through-lines in and matching them with the competencies. Each year we do three screenings of the Fountas & Pinnell literacy inventory to measure growth patterns and see where students are requiring intervention. We are using CAFE early emergent reader and emergent reader menu in the Kindergarten and Grade 1 class to determine students' comprehension, accuracy, fluency and expanding vocabulary goals. In keeping with Provincial Inspiring Education goals teachers are increasingly relating lessons to situations in real life.

Goal 3:

Establish a collaborative response model that identifies the needs of individual students and results in a specific plan of action through the implementation of Program Planning Team meetings.

We are working at moving forward with gaining more understanding and improving our RTI process, especially with the supports/interventions within the tiers. We plan to invite experts to help teachers build capacity for this initiative. We will establish a cross-grade support system for staff to develop a reading intervention program that is geared for teachers who are currently teaching multiple grades and who often work without TA support.

Goal 4: Implement strategies that deepen staff and student understanding of First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) culture and that support the process of reconciliation.

In addition to simply following the current Alberta Curriculum, teachers and invited guests will tell the stories of FNMI people from many perspectives, including the perspective of the First Nations, Metis and Inuit people. To that end we will host the Rinkers from Mountain Bible Chapel in Coyote Creek to our chapel service. Students in grades 6 to 9 will visit Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump field trip and Fort McLeod. We will enjoy a Metis Fur Trade presentation on campus by Metis trapper, Marcien LeBlanc. Middle School students and staff participate in an all-day intensive, interactive FNMI cultural awareness day at local historic site on traditional native peoples lands.

Students participate in novel studies which include stories about FNMI history and the impact of European settlement in North America with discussion groups. We will endeavour to incorporate traditional Inuit games in PE classes as an opportunity for students to learn about different games played by children. Students will consider the life story of Miskipeton and his impact on First Nation history during a visit to Camp Miskipeton.

We will teach about culture as always from the perspective that Christ is the transformer of culture. As Christians we are His agents of cultural transformation by bringing the light of the gospel to bear on all of life.

Goal 5:

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

To redouble our efforts in pursuit of this goal Rocky Christian School will utilize "Daily 5" and "CAFE" strategies implemented in Kindergarten and Grade 1. Teachers will use "Kahoot!" and "Quizlet" to review subject matter through written text and technology. Other classes will utilize "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.

Goal 6:

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 three areas as it engages in Professional Development during the 2015-2016 school year. These areas are the Competencies, Teaching for Transformation, and PowerSchool implementation. The first two areas of focus lead us to identify and apply “real-world” career and life skills. The third is a practical development of a technological skill set so teachers can fully utilize PowerSchool software in their work.

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 the Competencies, Teaching for Transformation and PowerSchool.

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 the first phase of our school’s PowerSchool initiative 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 Schools Canada conference in September and the teaching staff attends the Prairie Centre for Christian Education conference in October and in February the entire staff will attend the Alberta Teachers Association conference.

Professional Development Calendar

August 29	Teacher Growth Plan Day (ATA)
August 30	School Based Day focussed on development of our theme for the year and Teaching for Transformation.
August 31	Organizational Day
September 19	FNMI Cultural Divisional Day
October 20-21	2016 Christian School Teachers' Convention: Grace-Laced Teaching: Living Redemptively Lethbridge, Alberta
November 3	5 Learning Goals Sessions (Divisional Day)
November 4	School Based Day - Focussed on Literacy and Numeracy Goals
February 3	½ School Based Day ½ Division Day - PowerTeacher Pro
February 23 & 24	Teachers' Convention in Red Deer (ATA)
March 10	Teacher Growth Plan Day (ATA)
April 24	We will join Drayton Christian School in Drayton in a Tft workshop led by the Prairie Centre for Christian Education
May 19	Staff / Student Wellness PD (Divisional)
June 2	School Based Day - Focus on Completion of Tft Units
June 30	Organizational Day

Our School Plan has been developed collaboratively with the school community and is submitted to the Superintendent for review

Principal

Date

School

We the undersigned, have been provided with information regarding the development of this school plan and are aware of the contents of this document.

Teacher Representative

Date

Chairperson, School Council

Date

Approved: _____
Superintendent of Schools or Delegate

Date