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## MEMORANDUM

December 14, 2021  
Regular Board Meeting

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**TO** Board of Trustees

**FROM** Shauna Boyce, Superintendent

**ORIGINATOR** Scott Johnston, Associate Superintendent

**RESOURCE** Sheryl Bridgeman, Division Principal, Curriculum and Achievement

**GOVERNANCE POLICY** Board Policy 1: Division Foundational Statements  
Board Policy 2: Role of the Board  
Board Policy 12: Role of the Superintendent

**ADDITIONAL REFERENCE** BP 1: Vision, Foundational Statements  
BP 2: Education Planning and Programming  
*Education Act: 19-23, 33, 196-197*  
*AP 226: Off-Campus Education*

**SUBJECT** **PROGRAMS OF CHOICE REPORT**

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### PURPOSE

For information. No recommendation required.

### BACKGROUND

The Board is charged with the responsibility of providing, for its students and their parents, an education system organized and operated in the students' best interests. It exercises this responsibility through setting of local educational policy and the wise use of resources. The practice of offering a diverse array of alternative educational programming aligns with the *Choice in Education Act*, that took effect September 1, 2020.

### REPORT SUMMARY

This Programs of Choice Report provides an overview of the strong variety of program options that students may access within Parkland School Division. Current student enrollment totals are reviewed in comparison to previous year enrollments.

Administration would be pleased to respond to any questions.

SJ:kz



## Programs of Choice Report

December 2021

Presented to the Board of Trustees, December 14, 2021  
Scott Johnston, Associate Superintendent, Education and System Services  
Resources: Sheryl Bridgeman, Division Principal, Literacy and Lifelong Learning

*Our Students Possess the confidence, resilience, insight and skills required to thrive in, and positively impact, the world.*

### Background

Parkland School Division has a strong history of offering parents and students with a diverse array of programming choices for educational programming. This practice aligns with the *Education Act*, s. 19: (Alternative Programs).

Our division prides itself in being responsive to student needs and interests preparing our students for an ever-changing world. Parkland School Division's tagline "Where the World Opens Up" emphasizes and supports a future focused organization and our alternative programs strive to meet the needs of all of our learners demonstrating success with the following Assurance Elements within the domain of Learning Supports:

- Element 8: System Support Infrastructure Enables Success and Well Being
- Element 9: The Learning Community is Inclusive, Supportive and Adaptable
- Element 11: The Learning Community Values Relationships and Community Support

### Enrollment Patterns

23% of Parkland School Division students are accessing alternative education programs (2762/11944).

French Immersion has the same enrollment as 2020-2021.

The following programs have increased in enrollment:

- Adult Education (+8)
- Maranatha Christian Program (+16)
- Nature Kindergarten (+12)
- Parkland Student Athlete Academy (PSAA) (+31)
- Stony Creek (+20)
- Virtual Learning (+57)
- Y(our) Program (+3)

The following programs declined in enrolment:

- Home Education (-98)
- Outreach (-93)

Program summaries are included below and arranged, based on enrollment size.

**French Immersion** [[École Broxton Park School](#)] [[École Meridian Heights School](#)] [[Spruce Grove Composite High School](#)]

Designed for students whose first language is not French, this bilingual education program is open to all students. Graduates of the program can participate easily in French conversations, move on to take French Immersion courses in high school, take post-secondary courses with French as the language of instruction, and accept employment with French as the language of work.

Location	Grades	Registrations 19-20	Registrations 20-21	Registrations 21-22
École Broxton Park School; École Meridian Heights School Spruce Grove Composite High School	K-12	1,220	1,210	1,210

**Maranatha Christian Program** [[Website Link](#)]

The Maranatha Christian Program (MCP) is available to all families who want their Kindergarten to Grade 9 children taught in a non-denominational, spiritually nurturing, intellectually challenging, and disciplined environment. Grades K-4 are housed at Brookwood School and 5-9 at Woodhaven.

MCP supports the traditional values of the home by involving students in morning prayers, Bible readings, songs, and weekly assemblies with a Christian perspective.

Location	Grades	Registrations 19-20	Registrations 20-21	Registrations 21-22
Brookwood (K-4); Woodhaven (5-9)	K-9	332	300	316

**Outreach** [[Website Link](#)]

Connections for Learning Junior High & High School Outreach provides flexible, innovative programming to help students realize success in their career and educational goals. This program focuses on the individual needs of students. The students, parents, teachers and administration collaborate closely together to create a personalized program plan designed specifically to meet the academic, social/emotional, health and wellness learning needs of each individual student.

Programming is available for students to earn an Alberta High School Diploma or an Alberta High School Certificate of Achievement. This can be achieved through individualized outreach programming or other alternative High School programs that Connections for Learning offers.

Location	Grades	Registrations 19-20	Registrations 20-21	Registrations 21-22
CFL/ Spruce Grove Campus and Stony Plain Campus (Jr. High); Duffield School	7-12	574	405	312

**Virtual Learning** [\[Website Link\]](#)

Launched in the 20-21 school year, this is a teacher-directed program that will allow students to work from home via virtual learning tools and remote access to content. This program is designed for students who like the flexibility of working in the home environment and have the skills to work independently.

Location	Grades	Registrations 19-20	Registrations 20-21	Registrations 21-22
CFL	1-9	NA	208	265

**Home Education** [\[Website Link\]](#)

In Alberta, families can choose to educate their children entirely at home. This is a parent-directed program with access to teacher support. Parents can select curriculum, resources and methodology consistent with their family’s beliefs. Parents are encouraged to set a curriculum that aligns with their values, and provide learning opportunities specifically designed for their child.

Location	Grades	Registrations 19-20	Registrations 20-21	Registrations 21-22
CFL	K-12	58	265	167

**Parkland Student Athlete Academy (PSAA)** [\[Website Link\]](#)

The Parkland Student Athlete Academy (PSAA) is a program for Grades 6-12 that provides student athletes in pursuit of high performance with technical, theoretical and experiential opportunities, while keeping them engaged in a rich school community focused on academic achievement. The PSAA program aims to provide local, high quality affordable options for unique high-performance sport programming. This program is a collaboration between Parkland School Division and a number of community partners who offer high quality athletic development in their given sport. This program fosters a long-term approach to high performance athletic development, centered around the physical, mental, emotional and cognitive improvement of the student athletes.

Location	Grades	Registrations 19-20	Registrations 20-21	Registrations 21-22
CFL operates this program through École Broxton Park. High School students attend their designated school.	6-12	NA	123	154

**Stony Creek Program** [\[Website Link\]](#)

The Stony Creek program is an alternative education program of choice that serves students in Grades 1-9. This program is a partnership between the school and home. Students attend school on a modified schedule. Staff work collaboratively with families to support the homeschooling portion or with parent-designated community program providers to support assessment and programming. This gives parents flexibility to create a customized curriculum based on a student’s interests, needs and abilities when they are not attending Connections for Learning. The Stony Creek Program offers two schedules from which parents can choose:

- Stony Creek Parent Partnership - Geared towards homeschooling; and
- Stony Creek Core (*My Path*) - Geared towards community-based learning.

*My Path* is a community partnership program based at Connections for Learning that offers students a diverse blend of health and wellness activities to compliment the core academic schedule. My PATH is open to students in Grades 1-9 who meet the program criteria.

Location	Grades	Registrations 19-20	Registrations 20-21	Registrations 21-22
CFL	1-9	158	126	146

**Nature Based Kindergarten** [[Muir Lake School Website](#)]

Parkland School Division’s Nature Kindergarten is currently operated by staff of Muir Lake School, where children from all over Parkland School Division are offered a unique curriculum based authentic learning experience primarily located at the Muir Lake Community Alliance Church and the surrounding area. It is an optional kindergarten program of choice that will get children active and in touch with nature, while essentially extending a child’s kindergarten experience from half time to full time.

The program responds to identified early childhood indicators that demonstrate a need for additional social and physical development programming within our division. This program also seeks to explore the impact on early learning using the natural environment as a place where curiosity, play, problem-solving and calculated risk-taking can take place in a safe way.

Location	Grades	Registrations 19-20	Registrations 20-21	Registrations 21-22
Muir Lake	K	83	28	40

**Adult Education** [[Website Link](#)]

Connections for Learning provides “Mature Students” with the opportunity to complete their high school education so they are able enter a post-secondary institution, a trade or the job market. Connections for Learning website contains details on options and applicable fees for mature students. A “Mature Student” is a student who has reached or surpassed the age of 19 by September 1st of the current school year.

Location	Grades	Registrations 19-20	Registrations 20-21	Registrations 21-22
CFL		36	19	27

**Y(our) Program** [[Website Link](#)]

Y(our) Program is a student-led learning environment which combines core curriculum with out-of-classroom learning opportunities. Students take charge of their learning by creating custom projects and opportunities with teachers and community members, which have real-world outcomes and impact in their communities.

Location	Grades	Registrations 19-20	Registrations 20-21	Registrations 21-22
CFL (Moving to Memorial for 2021-2022)	10-12	18	19	22