



MEMORANDUM

December 13, 2022
Regular Board Meeting

TO Board of Trustees

FROM Shauna Boyce, Superintendent

ORIGINATOR Scott Johnston, Associate Superintendent

RESOURCE Shaye Patras, Division Principal, Numeracy 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
Choice in Education Act

SUBJECT **ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS REPORT**

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* amendments to the *Education Act* in June, 2020.

REPORT SUMMARY

This *Alternative Programs 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



ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS REPORT DECEMBER 2022

Presented to the Board of Trustees, December 13, 2022
Scott Johnston, Associate Superintendent, Education and System Services
Resources: Shaye Patras, Division Principal, Numeracy and Achievement

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).

The Division attends to our Vision and Mission through the provision of innovative, alternative programming:

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

The Division actively responds to student needs and interests as we prepare our students for an ever-changing world. Parkland School Division's tagline "Where the World Opens Up" emphasizes and supports a future focused organization; 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 1: Students Demonstrate Success;
- Element 2: Students Demonstrate Well-Being;
- Element 3: PSD Staff Build Systems and Structures that Promote Success and Well-Being; and
- Element 9: Trustees Foster Quality Learning and Wellness to Promote Student Achievement.

Enrollment Patterns

22.0% of Parkland School Division students are accessing alternative education programs (2,726/12,415).

The following programs have increased in enrollment:

- My Path (+105)
- Parkland Student Athlete Academy (+30)
- Parent Partnership & Core (+30)
- PSD Christian Program (+3)
- Outreach (+18)
- Adult Education (+17)
- The Learning Hub (+6)
- Building Futures (+6)

The following programs declined in enrolment:

- Virtual Learning (-161)
- French Immersion (-85)
- Home Education (-56)
- Nature Kindergarten (-16)

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

FRENCH IMMERSION (K-12)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ÉCOLE BROXTON PARK SCHOOL ÉCOLE MERIDIAN HEIGHTS SCHOOL SPRUCE GROVE COMPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL 	Students 19-20	Students 20-21	Students 21-22	Students 22-23	Change
	1,220	1,210	1,213	1,128	-85
<p>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.</p>					
OUTREACH (7-12)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CONNECTIONS FOR LEARNING: OUTREACH 	Students 19-20	Students 20-21	Students 21-22	Students 22-23	Change
	574	405	312	330	+18
<p>Connections for Learning Junior High and 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.</p> <p>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.</p>					
PSD CHRISTIAN PROGRAM (K-12)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BROOKWOOD SCHOOL: CHRISTIAN PROGRAM WOODHAVEN MIDDLE SCHOOL: CHRISTIAN PROGRAM 	Students 19-20	Students 20-21	Students 21-22	Students 22-23	Change
	332	300	316	319	+3
<p>The Parkland School Division Christian Program is available to all families who want their Kindergarten to Grade 9 children taught in a non-denominational, spiritually nurturing environment. Grades K-4 are housed at Brookwood School and 5-9 at Woodhaven.</p> <p>The Christian Program supports the traditional values of the home by involving students in morning prayers, Bible readings, songs, and weekly “chapel” gatherings with a Christian perspective.</p>					
PARKLAND STUDENT ATHLETE ACADEMY (6-12)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PARKLAND STUDENT ATHLETE ACADEMY 	Students 19-20	Students 20-21	Students 21-22	Students 22-23	Change
	NA	123	154	184	+30
<p>The Parkland Student Athlete Academy (PSAA) is a program for Grades 6-9 that provides student athletes in pursuit of high performance with technical, theoretical and experiential opportunities, while keeping them engaged in a rich and complete school community focused on academic achievement. The aim of this program is to provide local, high quality affordable options for unique high-performance sport programming.</p>					

VIRTUAL LEARNING (K-12)					
• CONNECTIONS FOR LEARNING: VIRTUAL LEARNING	Students 19-20	Students 20-21	Students 21-22	Students 22-23	Change
Grades 1 through 9	NA	208	265	114	-151
Grades 10 through 12	NA	38	78	68	-10
<p>Virtual Learning is designed to be a student-centered, authentic and engaging online program for K-12 that delivers the full program of studies for each grade level. Videos and interactive activities are embedded throughout the lessons, as are opportunities for hands-on learning and further enrichment (e.g. option courses, virtual field trips, etc.). Many projects provide students with the opportunity to choose how they demonstrate their learning, which allows them to use their strengths and talents.</p> <p>Launched in the 2020-2021 school year, Virtual Learning is a teacher-directed program that enables students to work from any location 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. This program provides greater flexibility and pathways to graduation for students with unique circumstances and who can work in partnership and collaboration with other schools and programs.</p>					

PARENT PARTNERSHIP & CORE PROGRAM (K-12)					
• CONNECTIONS FOR LEARNING: PARENT PARTNERSHIP AND CORE	Students 19-20	Students 20-21	Students 21-22	Students 22-23	Change
Grades 1 through 9 Total	138	124	153	183	+30
PARENT PARTNERSHIP	67	46	64	77	+13
CORE PROGRAM	71	78	89	106	+17
<p>The Parent Partnership and CORE program exists as 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.</p> <p>The Stony Creek Program offers two schedules from which parents can choose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stony Creek Parent Partnership - Geared towards homeschooling; and • Stony Creek Core (My Path) - Geared towards community-based learning. 					

HOME EDUCATION (K-12)					
• CONNECTIONS FOR LEARNING: HOME EDUCATION	Students 19-20	Students 20-21	Students 21-22	Students 22-23	Change
	58	265	167	111	-56
<p>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.</p>					
MY PATH (1-9)					
• CONNECTIONS FOR LEARNING: MY PATH	Students 19-20	Students 20-21	Students 21-22	Students 22-23	Change
Full-Time and Lite Program (1-9)	52	56	63	73	+10
Outdoor Pursuits (K-9)	NA	NA	NA	95	+95
<p>My PATH is a community partnership program based at Connections for Learning that offers students a diverse blend of health and wellness activities to complement the core academic schedule. My PATH is open to students in Grades 1-9 who meet the program criteria. This unique program of choice grants students enhanced opportunities in physical education, arts, technology and health programming, and is offered in three different participatory pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My PATH Core - Full-time program for students registered in Stony Creek Core, Home Education or Virtual Learning • My PATH Lite - Part-time program for students registered in Stony Creek Parent Partnership, Home Education or Virtual Learning • My PATH Outdoor Pursuits - Part-time program for students registered in Duffield, Entwistle, Tomahawk or Wabamun Schools, or through Home Education or Virtual Learning <p>Students can choose from three CFL program options (Core, Virtual Learning or Home Education) to fill the core academic portion of their schedule. The coordinating My PATH programming begins in the afternoon, and all students enrolled in My PATH must attend in-person at CFL.</p> <p>The program focuses on these key areas to support the development of healthy, engaged lifelong learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Activity and Recreational Sport • Outdoor Adventure and Nature-Based Learning • Fine and Performance Arts • Nutrition and Healthy Behaviours • Citizenship and Volunteerism • Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) 					

ADULT EDUCATION (AGES 19+)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CONNECTIONS FOR LEARNING: ADULT EDUCATION 	Students 19-20	Students 20-21	Students 21-22	Students 22-23	Change
	36	19	27	44	+17
<p>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. The Connections for Learning website contains details on options and applicable fees for mature students. A “Mature Student” is a student who is 19 (or older) by September 1st of the current school year, as per the <i>Education Act</i> s. 3(1).</p>					

THE LEARNING HUB (10-12)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CONNECTIONS FOR LEARNING: THE LEARNING HUB 	Students 19-20	Students 20-21	Students 21-22	Students 22-23	Change
	18	19	22	28	+6
<p>The Learning Hub (formerly the Y(Our) Program) is a program of choice for Grades 10-12. This program provides a safe learning environment with a focus on whole-person wellness. It combines core curriculum with out-of-classroom learning opportunities. Students are in their homeroom and have access to subject area courses and teachers through outreach and virtual, with the homeroom teacher helping to adapt courses as necessary.</p> <p>Program intent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create an environment in which students have access to supports for all aspects of their lives. To use these supports and education to broaden support to the community outside the school setting. To provide an educational environment that fits the school to the students, instead of having the students try to fit the school. 					

NATURE BASED KINDERGARTEN					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MUIR LAKE SCHOOL 	Students 19-20	Students 20-21	Students 21-22	Students 22-23	Change
	83	28	40	24	-16
<p>Parkland School Division’s Nature Kindergarten is currently operated by staff of Muir Lake School, where children throughout Parkland School Division are offered a unique curriculum based authentic learning experience. 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.</p> <p>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.</p>					

BUILDING FUTURES (10)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CONNECTIONS FOR LEARNING: BUILDING FUTURES 	Students 19-20	Students 20-21	Students 21-22	Students 22-23	Change
	NA	18	18	24	+6
<p>Building Futures is an immersive and unique one-year program for Grade 10 students, who earn credits towards their diploma, all while learning by doing: working together to build a house from the ground up.</p> <p>Building Futures takes students beyond the traditional classroom, providing them with all of the authentic learning opportunities that come with building a house, while ensuring they cover the Alberta Education curricula required for high school graduation. A Spruce Grove garage is transformed into an onsite classroom, where students learn academic courses from specialized teachers, and then walk outside to collaborate with the construction team at every stage of building the house.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom work emphasizes mastery, and involves plenty of hands-on, project-based learning. Building Futures also allows for individualized instruction, creating an environment where students can pursue their passions. By the end of the year, with the help and instruction of qualified tradespeople, the students will have built a house, while learning how to contribute to their community. 					