

Affirm, Refine, Aspire

HS Learning Services Newsletter - February 2021

Planning for the Learning Destination

In my family, whenever we plan a road trip, one of the first things we do is plug the destination into Google Maps and take a look at the various different routes suggested by the app. Google quickly tells us how long it will take us to arrive at our destination via each route. We then have a choice if we want to go straight there, or take a more scenic drive and enjoy the journey.

Obviously, it's important to know where you're going when you get into the car and head out for a road trip, but it's important to know where you are going whenever you start any journey -- learning journeys included! We know the significance of sharing the learning destination with our students -- after all, they can't achieve it if they don't know what they're meant to achieve! As staff in Holy Spirit, we too have a defined learning destination and this can be found within our Board Strategic Priorities (listed below). While these priorities provide the desired destination, our task is to determine the best ways to get there. We have to be mindful that there might be some short-term delays or detours along the way -- no trip is complete without stops for food and fuel! -- but when we all know where we're going, we can better appreciate the scenery and company along the way. We can also take great comfort in knowing that, regardless of the path we have each chosen, eventually we will all get there together.

Carmen Larsen
Director of Learning

Board Strategic Priorities

- Staff and students will grow in their faith and experience the richness of Catholic Education.
- High quality instruction rooted in sound research and effective assessment practices to support growth for all learners.
- First Nations, Metis and Inuit education for all.
- Foster a culture of wellness that is foundational to support learning.



Indigenous Education for ALL

Check out our new monthly addition...click here

Indigenous Education For ALL

You are invited to explore the Alberta Education [Teaching Quality Standard](#) Competency 5: **Applying Foundational Knowledge about First Nations, Métis and Inuit**, through a series of newsletter pieces, [resources](#), and a virtual tea and bannock gathering for conversation with Division Principal Annette Bruised Head on March 10 from 3:30 - 4:30. The important and complex learning that we are undertaking as a division will help us all, staff and students alike, to work towards reconciliation. As we journey together, we will grow in our personal understanding of Ways of Knowing (content), Ways of Doing (pedagogy) and Ways of Being (professional and personal learning).



Watch for more information and an invitation from Annette Bruised Head, Division Principal of First Nations, Metis, Inuit Education, to join in conversation about Indigenous Education for all our students.



Literacy

There are five essential components that make up successful reading instruction.

- Phonemic awareness
- Phonics
- Fluency
- Vocabulary/ language development
- Comprehension

A more comprehensive explanation of these five components can be found [here](#).

[Read more....](#)



Assessment

“If you don’t know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else.”

Yogi Berra

John Hattie’s research has shown that teacher clarity has a significant impact on student learning. Two key aspects of teacher clarity involve sharing learning targets and creating success criteria.

When teachers are clear about learning destinations, students learn more.

[Read more...](#)



Numeracy

Norms are often used to help students understand expectations in our schools and classrooms. As opposed to rules, which often focus on telling us what NOT to do, norms define our ways of being in a space; they define our expectations for our students to be thinkers, collaborators, and creators. As such, norms have the power to positively impact classroom cultures, learning, and our students’ sense of self-efficacy and belonging.

[Read more...](#)

Who You Are vs. Who You're Called to Be



Cultures of Thinking

Featured Thinking Routine: [Headlines](#) This routine provides a way to sum up and capture the key points of a learning experience. It works especially well to consolidate learning, or as a formative assessment.

The ARPDC has developed bite-sized learning resources for busy teachers. Find some starting points for using Ron Ritchhart's visible thinking routines here: [Learn and Go: Routines to Make Thinking Visible](#)

ARPDC French Immersion Resource Project

A curriculum resource site for K-9. Find unit plans, lesson plans, learning guides, assessments and even play lists related to the four core subject areas!





Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

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