



PRAIRIE MENNONITE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

Education Plan



2023-2024

<https://praiiemennonite.myprps.com>

Principal's Message

At Prairie Mennonite, we strive to bring learning into a real-world context. We believe that learning doesn't happen only in school, but happens all the time as we engage with the environment around us. Students will explore their world through hands-on learning, going on field trips, and participating in workshops that expose students to new ideas and ways of doing. We will also turn our focus inward as students, parents, and staff learn more about what it means to be Mennonite, including the meaning behind all Mennonite holidays so that we gain a better understanding of who we are, how the world works, and where we fit in.

Simon Moreton



Prairie Mennonite School Council

Schultz Cornelius Giesbrecht

Schultz John Giesbrecht

And the 29 families that make up our School
Council

School Profile

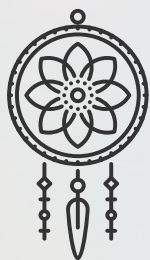
School Address: 1970 19 Ave SE, Medicine Hat, Alberta

School Phone Number: (403) 526-3426



76

Student enrolment
Kindergarten to Grade 12



0

Self identified First Nations Metis Inuit
students



76

English language learners (ESL)



6

Full-time equivalent certified teachers



3.5

Full-time equivalent support staff



1

Number of buses to the school

Our Vision

- We aim to provide a safe learning environment with a welcoming and supportive atmosphere that creates a sense of belonging and respect for students, staff, and our whole community.

Our Mission

Our school will provide all students with a quality education within a safe and inclusive learning environment that integrates learning with Mennonite culture. We do this to Ignite the Minds of our students, Kindle their Hearts, and to Forge their Futures at this school and beyond.

School Values

Prairie Mennonite Alternative School braids core Mennonite values and beliefs into the school curriculum through a hands-on learning approach that promotes a curiosity of learning, fosters a respect for oneself and each other, and promotes creativity, collaboration and resilience in all of our students and staff.

School Goals

German Goal: Students will express their knowledge and understanding of German Catechism in German opening and in German classes that are levelled per grade.

Literacy Goal: All Prairie Mennonite Students will demonstrate growth in their ability to use literacy strategies to extract information and apply and share their learning in various contexts.

Math Goal: All Prairie Mennonite Students will demonstrate growth in their numeracy facts, understanding, and be able to apply knowledge to real world applications.

Community goal: To connect with the community and provide as many opportunities for parents to get involved in the school as possible

Inspiring Possibilities: Providing students opportunities and experiences such as career exploration ideas, trade shows, workshops and guest speakers all help promote new ways of thinking and doing. It is through exploring new ideas, building connections, and applying what they learn in school that learning becomes relevant. Learning through many different contexts will contribute to each student's writing and overall understanding of the world, how it works, and where they fit in.

Promote higher education goal: Students will be taught the value of education and that there are benefits in obtaining a higher education and in becoming a life long learner.

Stakeholder Engagement

Summary of how your school engaged stakeholders throughout the year.

Parents and School Council

Our School Council provides ongoing feedback through School Council meetings, conversations with our two Schultz, and parent opinions are highlighted in school and government surveys. We have a wonderful school where our parents help in providing the most amazing Mom's hot lunches, contributing to class projects, joining classes as field trip supervisors, and working with the school in overcoming unforeseen obstacles. We are truly a community school that pulls together to get things done.

Teachers

Our weekly staff meetings, participation in both school and government surveys, and my open door policy ensure that all staff have a voice and have an impact at our school. Our teachers engage in professional development that support new initiatives and our student support meetings ensure that students are best supported through programming and structure inside the classroom and out.

Support Staff

Our support staff are engaged in school functions, both at school and community-sponsored events held in the community. Our support staff set up and run some awesome activities such as our annual book fair, and all support staff contribute to new policies and/or practices to ensure that students are safe, structured, and supported at our school.

Students

Our new Student Ambassador club has had a significant impact on the student activities offered at our school. From the implementation of our options courses such as Woodworking, Art, Foods and Outdoor education to the weekly activities of our Friday computer game activity, lunchtime choir, and intramural sports competitions; the Student Ambassador club has had a significant impact in initiating, organizing, and implementing activities to make our school a better place to learn.

Community Groups

We want to thank Lloyd and Cummins from Roy's Woodshop Limited in Redcliff for donating all the wood for our woodworking program. Whitebear Creations and Brenda and Trisha for teaching us about Cree culture and customs; and Kari-Lynn Higgins from Alberta Health Services, and all of Safety City for their hard work ensuring students know how to be safe at school and within the community.

Assurance Framework

What is the Assurance Framework?

In the Assurance Framework, all education stakeholders accept responsibility for building capacity of the education system — in classrooms, schools, school authorities and in government. Ensuring continuous improvement throughout the system necessitates a collective approach that recognizes diversity within Alberta, relies on evidence to make decisions, and is responsive to the needs of students in their local contexts.

The Five Domains of Assurance

Student Growth and Achievement

Teaching and Leading

Learning Supports

Governance

Local and Societal Context

Assurance in the education system happens when community members, system stakeholders and education partners engage across the five domains.

Source: 2022 Funding Manual for School Authorities

Result Driven Decision-Making

DOMAIN 1: Student Growth and Achievement



87.5 Student Learning Engagement
95.1 Citizenship
N/A 3-Yr High School Completion Rate
N/A 5-Yr High School Completion Rate

N/A PAT Acceptable
N/A PAT Excellence
N/A Diploma Acceptable
N/A Diploma Excellence

DOMAIN 2: Teaching and Leading



96.5 Education Quality

DOMAIN 3: Learning Supports



96.3 Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments
86.5 Access to Supports and Services

DOMAIN 4: Governance



90.4 Parental Involvement

DOMAIN 5: Local and Societal Context



Prairie Rose Possibilities

Prairie Rose Possibilities has funded field-trips and the startup and running costs of our options programs including: Foods, Art, Outdoor Education and Woodworking.

Numbers based on the Spring 2023 Accountability Pillar Results.

Annual Education Results Report

Government

Required Alberta Education Assurance Measures - Overall Summary

Spring 2023

School: 2263 Prairie Mennonite Alternative School

Assurance Domain	Measure	Prairie Mennonite Alternative			Alberta			Measure Evaluation		
		Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Student Growth and Achievement	Student Learning Engagement	87.5	92.4	92.4	84.4	85.1	85.1	n/a	Maintained	n/a
	Citizenship	95.1	94.3	92.1	80.3	81.4	82.3	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
	3-year High School Completion	n/a	n/a	n/a	80.7	83.2	82.3	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5-year High School Completion	n/a	n/a	n/a	88.6	87.1	86.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
	PAT: Acceptable	n/a	39.6	n/a	n/a	67.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	PAT: Excellence	n/a	10.4	n/a	n/a	18.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Diploma: Acceptable	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	75.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Diploma: Excellence	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	18.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Teaching & Leading	Education Quality	96.5	96.6	95.7	88.1	89.0	89.7	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Learning Supports	Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments (WCRSLE)	96.3	98.4	98.4	84.7	86.1	86.1	n/a	Maintained	n/a
	Access to Supports and Services	86.5	88.4	88.4	80.6	81.6	81.6	n/a	Maintained	n/a
Governance	Parental Involvement	90.4	84.1	90.0	79.1	78.8	80.3	Very High	Maintained	Excellent

The blue boxes indicate that Prairie Mennonite is within the top 5% of all schools in the province in the areas of: Citizenship, Education Quality and Parental Involvement.



PRPS Core Principles

Connect

School structures and traditions ensure that every student, staff and community member is known and cared for and contributions are celebrated.

Create

Students and PRPS staff undertake tasks that require perseverance, craftsmanship, imagination and self-discipline to foster curiosity about the world.

Communicate

Words have tremendous power and ours will be characterized by mutual respect, belonging, and community building. Students and PRPS staff use communication skills to advocate for themselves, understand their communities and tackle the world's biggest challenges.

Care

Students and PRPS staff have the knowledge of how to care for their physical and mental health and support the well-being of others fostering a safe school environment.

Contribute

Students and PRPS staff are strengthened by acts of consequential service to others, actively ensure all belong, and participate and celebrate their rural communities.

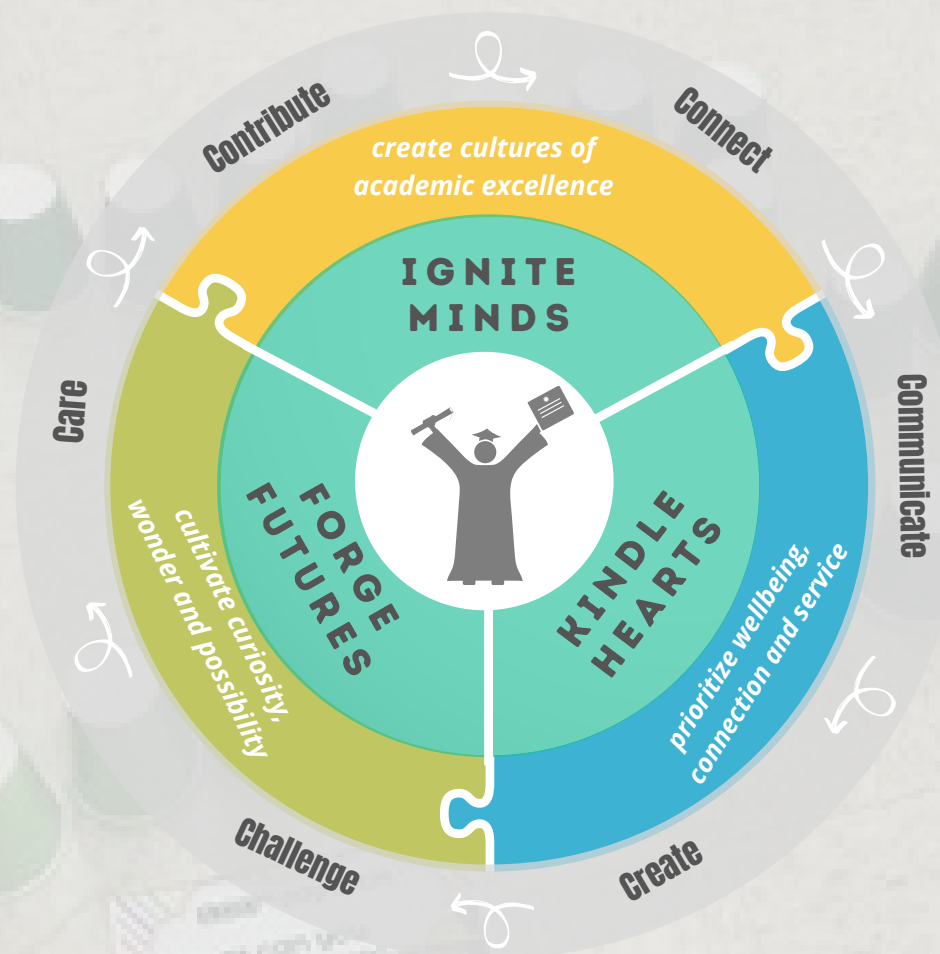
Challenge

Students and PRPS staff develop an internal drive and desire to overcome obstacles and maximize performance through personal responsibility, resilience and initiative.

Prairie Rose Public Schools Learning Model

At the end of the current school year (2021-2022), the Prairie Rose Public Schools strategic plan will conclude. As a result, consultation this year focused on establishing a new learning model based on what the people we serve envision for the future. This feedback has resulted in refocused Vision and Mission statements, the establishment of six Core Principles and new strategic goals.

Ignite Minds Kindle Hearts Forge Futures



PRPS GOAL 1: IGNITE MINDS

Background: We will ignite minds by creating cultures of academic excellence

- Conceptual understanding, deeper learning and transfer are evident in all Prairie Rose classrooms
- Students have the background knowledge they need to be grounded, the scaffolding they need to be supported and the academic courage they need to explore possibilities
- All students have the foundational knowledge in literacy and numeracy from which deeper learning grows
- PRPS Core Principles are evident in the intellectual and academic pursuits of students and staff

PRPS GOAL 2: KINDLE HEARTS

Background: We will kindle hearts by prioritizing wellbeing, belonging and service.

- Staff and students take care of themselves and others
- Staff and students engage in contribute and create belonging
- Environments are cultivated that inspire people to show up as their best selves
- PRPS Core Principles are evident in our culture

PRPS GOAL 3: FORGE FUTURES

Background: Futures will be forged by cultivating wonder and possibilities.

- We offer programs and instruction that stretch what staff and students thought possible and sets PRPS apart
- Students are engaged, motivated and resilient
- Future prospects for PRPS students are abundant
- PRPS Core Principles are evident in the initiatives and endeavors of students and staff
- PRPS provides personalized, place based and multiple pathways to meet the diverse needs of families
- Empower students to be confident communicators in a variety of formats
- Strong partnerships with the families, businesses, nonprofits, and local government in the communities we serve

The full PRPS Education Plan can be found here: [Link to the Plan](#)

PRPS GOAL 1: IGNITE MINDS

Background: We will ignite minds by creating cultures of academic excellence

SCHOOL BASED STRATEGIES

In the early elementary grades we have a very robust literacy program that integrates phonics and phonemic awareness using the University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI) program to ensure that students have a solid foundation in reading and writing.

Through hands-on learning, students are able to showcase their understanding of the concepts taught. Whether this be through hands-on Science experiments, building dioramas that depict an important scene in a book, or by building planter boxes in Math that connect our Mennonite students with the land, students gain a better understanding of the application of learning as it pertains to the real world.

SCHOOL BASED PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The MAP assessment to test literacy comprehension as well as the Mipi test for numeracy are both implemented in September and again in June. This allows teachers to monitor student growth and identify concepts that specific students are struggling with to ensure that these gaps are filled before moving on to the next grade.

We use the results from grade 6 and 9 PATs as well as feedback from our Annual Assurance survey to identify and target areas for improvement as well as identify areas where we are excelling.

“

Getting my high school diploma is important to me, that's why I come to day school as well as night school.

”

Source: Student 2022

“

I came back because of the options classes and because I got to do some awesome things I have never done before.

”

Source: Student 2022

PRPS GOAL 2: KINDLE HEARTS

Background: We will kindle hearts by prioritizing wellbeing, belonging and service.

SCHOOL BASED STRATEGIES

Having a sense of belonging that connects us to our community, our school, and the people who work and learn at the school are all key factors that contribute to the wellbeing and belonging of each student and staff member. In our support of the Mennonite community, we have Mom's monthly hot lunches, Plautdietsch in German opening and German catechism classes, and student involvement through our Student Ambassador club in running the school's canteen and in school activities to celebrate festivals and holidays throughout the year.

We support the national initiative of incorporating activities and guest speakers, such as Whitebear Creations, to help facilitate reconciliation and promote awareness of the positive contributions Indigenous people have had on society.

At the school level, in conjunction with the help from Alberta Health Services, we participate in promoting and supporting anti-bullying awareness, engaging students in becoming leaders in our Student Ambassador club, and by giving back to the community by bringing everyone together for special events such as: our annual meet the teacher pancake breakfast, Student led conferences, school concerts, whole school field trips, and community bbqs.

SCHOOL BASED PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The performance measures for Kindle Hearts will be measured in the active participation and engagement of students, parents, and staff in activities hosted by/through the school. The more events, and the larger the turn out ensures that people feel connected to their community, to the school, and to each other. This will be seen in events hosted by the school as well as those developed and implemented by our Student Ambassador club.

“

The presentations by Alberta Health Services and Safety City have helped build good relationships among the students and within the community.

”

Source: Staff, 2022

“

The student council gives students a leadership opportunity and a voice to plan activities for the whole school.

”

Source: Staff, 2022

PRPS GOAL 3: FORGE FUTURES

Background: Futures will be forged by cultivating wonder and possibilities.

SCHOOL BASED STRATEGIES

Our Student Ambassador club has been instrumental in providing a student voice at Prairie Mennonite. The Student Ambassador club organizes activities at the school that align with student interest, school spirit, and community functions. Activities such as reading buddies, student lead holiday crafts and running the school canteen ensure that students are engaged and are having fun at school. The Student Ambassador club, through its organization, implementation, and running of events, is building tomorrow's leaders.

Our staff taps into the Prairie Rose Possibilities fund to organize field trips that expose our students to activities in the community that align with the curricula they teach. By exposing students to content-specific activities, students can draw on their own personal experiences to better understand the concepts being taught in class.

We also run a monthly competition where students are part of one of four houses. These houses compete in academics, attendance, and in being model citizens. At the end of each month, the house with the most points wins a special treat.

SCHOOL BASED PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The Student Ambassador club, school activities, and community field trips in conjunction with our Options classes integrate vocational skills with school academics so students develop of a greater understanding of how the world works and where we fit in.

“

I'm loving these field trips. I get to see stuff I've never seen before.

”

Source: Student, 2022

“

It was fun to see and play hockey with students from other schools during the Trischool cup.

”

Source: Student, 2022

Supporting First Nations, Métis, Inuit Learners



SCHOOL BASED STRATEGIES

Prairie Mennonite has built a close relationship with Whitebear Creations and Elder Brenda Lee, who continues to support our students and staff in learning about Indigenous knowledge, perspectives, and the importance of connecting with the land.

We continue to build a greater appreciation for Indigenous people as Brenda explains the why behind an activity or service the importance it has had in the ways Indigenous people do things or the way they believe. By braiding the seven Grandfather teachings of Love, Respect, Bravery, Truth, Honesty, Humility & Wisdom into our school assemblies and culture, students are on the path to growing into good global citizens.

We look forward to Brenda's continued work as we take our next steps and implement an Indigenous garden as well as continue to explore Indigenous knowledge through stories and storytelling, a new initiative that is currently being developed between the school and Whitebear Creations.

Supporting English as a Second Language Learners



SCHOOL BASED STRATEGIES

All the students at Prairie Mennonite are English Language Learners as they speak Plautdietsch (Low German) at home and learn in English while at school. Learning to communicate and express your ideas in two languages is complex, and at Prairie Mennonite, we facilitate the language acquisition of both languages. Plautdietsch is used as an immersive experience in our German opening and German catechism classes, while English is used in all other courses and on the playgrounds during breaks.

Our teachers have a lot of experience and expertise at structuring non-native English speakers in becoming successful at school. The use of hands-on learning activities, benchmarks to find appropriate reading content, word walls and posters to help with difficult concepts, ongoing interventions when needed, and having a German translator in elementary core classes to translate when students don't understand are some of the techniques we use to ensure that all of our students understand and are supported in their learning.

Combining Mennonite language and culture with school academics ensures that our students have the skills they need to succeed at school, at home, and later when they enter the workforce.

Budgeting Priorities

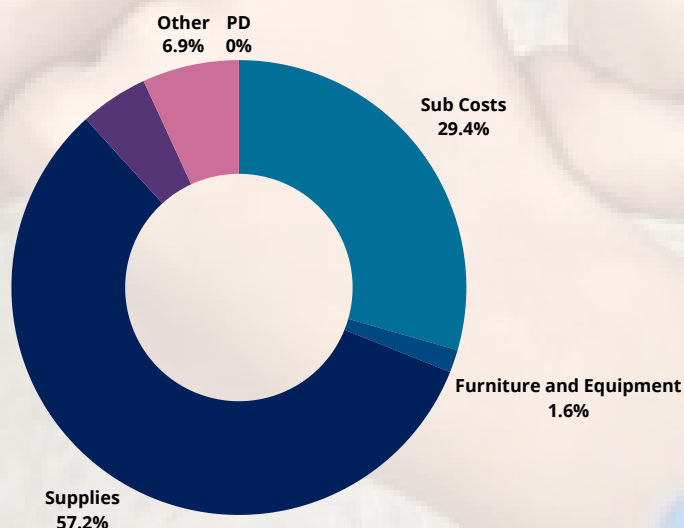
2023-2024 Budget Summary

Prairie Mennonite Alternative School creates a budget in alignment with division priorities to drive academic excellence, social and emotional wellbeing and deeper learning, while addressing the operational needs of the school. Teaching and Learning is the area the majority of our resources are utilized with the following priorities guiding our budgetary process:

- ✓ Classroom supports
- ✓ Student, staff and community wellbeing
- ✓ Educational opportunities

Prairie Mennonite's School Budget 2023-2024

	Total Amount
Staffing Purchased	\$0
Professional Development	\$0
Sub Costs	\$2,203
Furniture and Equipment	\$215
Supplies	\$10,742
Text Books and Library Books	\$1,500
Field Trips ~ Prairie Rose Possibilities	\$10,000
Other	\$7,744
Total Expenses Budgeted	\$23,404



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