



Context

Fraser River Middle School's doors opened in September 2016. We are now in fourth year. Our students are from grades 6 to 8 with a total population consists of 502 students from four feeder schools (Connaught, Lord Tweedsmuir, Kelvin and Qayqayt). There are 167 grade 6, 174 grade 7 and 162 grade 8 students. The family socioeconomic backgrounds range from lower to upper middle class. Our school community has a wide range of cultural backgrounds.

For the first two years we focused on building community because staff and students were coming together in the new building bringing with them a variety of school experiences. We continue to build community but last year and this year our goal has an academic focus.

What we hope to achieve:

'Our goal is to create an engaging environment where students collaborate and learn through cross-curricular explorations'.

We hope to expand upon our work with collaboration and cross-curricular units. We want students to be engaged in learning that encourages students to look at things from different perspectives, to see the relationships between different subjects, and to make connections to their previous learning and their own experiences. (Ministry of Education).

Competency Development

Through our goal focus we are developing students cross-curricular competencies. We aim to develop the whole child-intellectually, personally, and socially. Education in school is more than mastering the sets of knowledge and skills acquired through subject areas. Competencies are the skills that students need to develop to engage in deeper learning. We will continue to develop students communication, thinking and personal and social competencies.

Strategies

The September professional development day we had an indigenous focus. Teams had the opportunity to plan a unit infusing the indigenous content. On the two collaboration days teams will continue to develop their units. The teacher coach and the teacher librarian are supporting the implementation and planning of the cross-curricular units. The education assistants were involved with our most recent professional development day and we plan to have them involved in the future. This will ensure that the education assistants are well aware of the goal and can work to connect the goal to the work that they do.

We are going to be more explicit in when teaching cross-curricular units.

Success Indicators

- Teachers discussing and sharing their units
- Units will include formative and summative assessment
- Open dialogue with students about their learning
- We hope to feel energy and excitement in both teachers and students with the work we do over the coming year.
- Our hope that we will have a school wide theme either at the end of this year or the beginning of next year.
- Look at the student surveys results past and present (hoping to see the results from the student surveys indicating an increase in students exposure to indigenous content)

Communication

- Website
- Newsletter
- Pro D
- Collaboration days
- PAC meeting
- Student council
- Indigenous learners
- Team leaders
- Student inclusive conferences
- Student led conferences
- Staff meetings