

School Advancement Plan 2016 - 2017



Northern Gateway
Public Schools

Learning for life. Together.

This document is created to share the goals, strategies and success indicators for the school.
It is a legislative requirement as part of the 3 Year Education Plan and Annual Education Results Review (AERR).
It is meant to share the local context and priorities and document school advancement direction.
This is an organic document, which is open to change and modification as circumstances, results, and local context dictate.

A. School Profile

Focus Question: Who are we?

Location: Whitecourt, Alberta

Population demographic breakdown by grade:

Grade 6 - 118 students

Grade 7- 117 students

Grade 8- 110 students

Number of Students: Total = 345 students

Number of certificated and non-certificated staff:

Certified: 18 FTE

Non-certified: 9.5 FTE

Mental Health Program - 1 Full Time Success Coach

Special Programming:

Hockey Academy - 31 students in grade 6,7 and 8 are registered in the program

B. School Highlights

Focus Question: What is exciting and unique to our school?

Percy Baxter School is a unique Grade 6-8 school environment where opportunity for student interests are acknowledged and realized on a daily basis! It is described by many as a hub of activity, from the early morning hours until well after the regular school day is over. Percy Baxter School focuses on the development of the skills and competencies necessary for future academic and personal success.

The programming in our school guides students through the sometimes difficult transition from childhood into young adulthood. Our teachers provide an exceptional level of commitment to meeting each student's needs and teach skills for lifelong learning, promote responsibility, independence, self-esteem and self-confidence through our highly developed and successful Renaissance Program. Leadership opportunities are provided, through the Renaissance Program, for students across all three grade levels affording each student the opportunity to pursue leadership opportunities within the school and community.

The curriculum and teaching methods are constantly being reviewed and refined, and all faculty members are encouraged to reflect on their professional practice in order to improve and support student achievement. A variety of teaching and learning methods and strategies are widely utilized in each classroom at Percy Baxter School. Monthly PLC meetings provide an opportunity for teachers to review and plan for the numeracy and literacy needs of all students. Project-based Learning provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate their learning in a new way, while also engaging the community in the assessment process.

At Percy Baxter School, the key to helping each child reach his/her full potential, intellectually, lies in the creation of close relationships between students and their teachers built upon mutual trust and respect. The support and rapport found at Percy Baxter School is the cornerstone of our success as we help each student to develop his/her attitudes about self, others and their individual and specific learning style. A mental health program is also currently an important part of the school. The joint partnership between Northern Gateway Schools and Alberta Health Services provides the school with a full time Success Coach and universal programming to meet the social and emotional needs of our students.

Students are encouraged to pursue their specific areas of interest in the Arts, Athletics, CTF and Academic enrichment. A Hockey Canada Skills Academy program is offered to students that wish to pursue their interest in hockey and develop their skills and fitness levels to support their participation in Whitecourt Minor Hockey. Co-curricular activities in the Arts, Athletics, and CTF also enhance the learning process and promote a sense of unity, social interaction, physical and emotional health. Additionally, students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of co-curricular activities such as team sports, recreational sports and activities, and instrumental music.

We invite you to explore Percy Baxter School, a place where students are encouraged to grow, to explore and to experience the many wonders of learning.

C. Strategic Planning

2016 - 2017 Strategy Action Plan

School Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To Improve student success through the development of their skills in Literacy and Numeracy 2. To Improve the quality of teaching within Percy Baxter classrooms through professional development and collaboration
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Gateway Statement **1. Students are successful.**

2. Students are supported.

Division Outcome **1. Every Student is successful**

Students achieve student learning outcomes.

Students demonstrate a strong foundation of literacy and numeracy skills.

2. Alberta has quality teaching and school leadership

Teacher preparation and growth focuses on the competencies needed to help students learn

Effective learning and teaching is achieved through collaborative leadership

School Outcome **1. Increased student achievement**

2. Increased collaboration and teacher efficacy in supporting student achievement

Data Gathered	
Compelling Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Performance Measures (ABEd) ❖ Percy Baxter students scored below the provincial average on PAT tests in math (both at the Acceptable level as well as at the Standard of Excellence level). 68.6% of Percy Baxter students scored at the Acceptable level while Provincially 72.2% of students scored at the Acceptable level. 6.8% of Percy students reached the Excellence level while 14.0% of students in the province reached the Excellence level. However, the five year trend in Provincial tests show that Percy Baxter is narrowing the gap when comparing students at Percy Baxter reaching the Acceptable level and those in the province. ❖ Percy Baxter students scored slightly below the provincial average on PAT tests in Language Arts. 78.8% of Percy students scored at the Acceptable level while 82.9% of the students scored at the Acceptable level. 16.9% of Percy Baxter students

	<p>scored at the Excellence level while 20.4% of the students across the province scored at this level. The five year trend of Provincial Achievement tests are indicating that Percy Baxter students are closing the gap in meeting the same standard as students provincially are achieving.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Performance Measures (School) ❖ Teacher assessments, Collaborative Response Model Board placements and teacher professional judgements indicate between 15 and 25% of Percy students are below grade level in both literacy and numeracy
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2016-2017 Timeline	School Actions	Indicators of Success	Responsibility	Results
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All Grade six students will be scheduled in levelled literacy and numeracy blocks ● Grade seven and eight students that are slightly below grade level will be scheduled for specific targeted literacy and numeracy blocks ● Complete screening/ diagnostic assessments on all students in numeracy and literacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers, students and Parents will note increased student success in literacy and numeracy ● Teachers, students and Parents will note increased student success in literacy and numeracy ● Individual student data regarding their progress in literacy and numeracy will be entered on Collaborative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grade six teaching team and school administration ● Grade 7 and 8 teachers and school administration ● Grade 6, 7, 8 teachers 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students will participate in HLAT writing twice within the school year • Individual student progress in literacy and numeracy will be tracked and plans will be made for intervention Teachers will engage in collaborative discussions and outline intervention actions on student achievement utilizing the Collaborative Response Model Board • Teachers will engage in collaborative planning and sharing within school designated PLC sessions and division 	<p>Response Model Boards for Professional discussions and future planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HLAT writing will be completed in the Fall and Spring • Teachers will engage in collaborative discussions and outline interventions with respect to literacy and numeracy utilizing the Collaborative Response Model Board • Course outlines, Long Range Plans, Daily lessons and plans for literacy and numeracy cross curricular infusion and support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 6,7,8 Language Arts teachers • Grade level teachers and school administration • Grade level teachers, Subject level teachers and School Administration 	
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	<p>sponsored learning networks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will participate in professional development activities that will enhance their teaching practice (ie. Competency understanding, Numeracy development, HLAT writing assessment, understanding of FNMI perspectives) • Staff will participate in Pilot Power Teacher Pro Assessment and Reporting system 	<p>will be discussed and go forward plans developed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to professional practice will be noted in Teacher Supervision , PAT results and Yearly Planning and Course Outline Planning • Power School Pro will be utilized as an assessment and reporting system by teachers. The parent portal will be accessed by parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers, School Administration and Learning Service personnel, Keith Van De Keere • Division Personnel, School Administration and Teaching Staff 	
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D. School Community Communication and Collaboration

It is expected that this School Advancement Plan is a result of a collaborative effort among students (if appropriate), parents, School Council, staff members and the administrative team. Describe how the school community has been included in the development your school plan.

Collaboration Approach	Key Contact(s)
Percy Baxter Staff	Principal - Helen Haugjord
Percy Baxter School Administration	Principal - Helen Haugjord
Percy Baxter School Council	Council Chair- Jammie Rollheiser