

Northland School Division

2021-2022 Triannual Report



Emillie Atkinson-Powder, a student from Conklin Community School, is one of many students benefiting from a partnership between Northland School Division and TELUS World of Science - Edmonton.



increase

Tansi, Edlánat'e, Hello everyone! We are pleased to present the Triannual Report for the 2021-2022 school year!

The Board is pleased to report significant improvement following the release of the 2020-2021 Annual Education Results Report (AERR). The AERR is one way Northland School Division (NSD) communicates student achievement, accomplishments, and priorities to the students, parents, community members, and school division partners. The 2020-2021 version of the AERR details the positive progress Northland accomplished in meeting Alberta Education Assurance Measures (AEAMs). Analysis of provincial and local information revealed that:

- **NSD students have shown significant improvement in high school completion. A 20% increase in the number of students completing high school within five (5) years!**
- **There is greater satisfaction with the education quality from NSD parents and guardians. 86% of parents are more satisfied. That is a six (6%) percent increase over the previous year!**
- **83% of parents agree that students have the appropriate supports and services at school. That is four percent (4%) over the provincial average!**
- **There is greater satisfaction with the amount of parental involvement in decisions about their children's future. 80% of NSD parents are more satisfied. That is a 12% increase over the previous year!**
- **Overall, there is a significantly higher belief that NSD students model characteristics of active citizenship. 81% of parents believe students are providing their best effort, following rules and helping others succeed. That is an 11% increase over the previous year!**



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The Triannual Report highlights progress we have made with meeting or exceeding the priorities for Northland School Division (NSD):

1. Excellence in Learning
2. Excellence in Leadership
3. Excellence in Relationships

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Administration, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Robin Guild
Board Chair
Northland School Division



Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras
Superintendent of Schools
Northland School Division

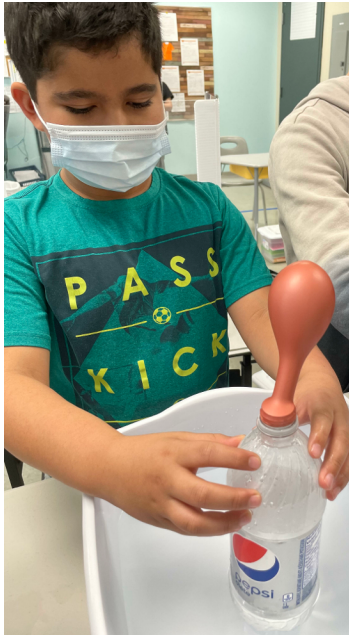
"I thoroughly enjoyed my time working with the children during my career with Northland School Division. I miss them dearly. Over the years I met many wonderful people and made many friends in the communities I worked in who I'm still in touch with. Perhaps the best experience for me was having the opportunity to become immersed in such a rich and vibrant culture with First Nations people who not only welcomed me into their community but their lives and their homes as well. I truly felt at home among them. I will always treasure my friendships and memories."

- Carol Kastelic, Former Northland School Division Teacher



Excellence in Learning

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Northland students participated in another Science Week (November 23-26, 2021) with the TELUS World of Science - Edmonton. Throughout the week, students explored the earth's super powers (fire, water, earth and air). While learning about earth's super powers, students participated in challenges organized by the Science in Motion Team. Students from Susa Creek School completed the mini parachute challenge!

culture and land-based learning into the curriculum.

Priority 1: Excellence in Learning

Students achieve or exceed the standards set by Alberta Education in literacy and numeracy.

Outcome: Student Success is supported by staff who ensure all students feel supported and have a sense of belonging within their schools.

Outcome: The Division uses consistent literacy and numeracy practices to support the growth of educators and student achievement.

How is Northland achieving these outcomes?

- Northland School Division (NSD) has designed a new recruitment practice over the last two years to attract and retain teachers and administrators to stay within the Division. The turnover of teachers and principals was minimal last year (2020-2021). This enables NSD professional learning where we continue each year with less time allocated to going back and catching up.
- Northland Online School was started this year (2021-2022) and it has a current enrollment of 60 students. The online school has students from within all areas of NSD, as well as students outside of the Division. These students have the opportunity to learn Cree, participate in a daily physical program, Career Technology Foundations (CTF) opportunities, daily assemblies to build community and as well monthly student awards.
- NSD implemented a common professional learning calendar. This approach enables staff across the Division to participate in common learning. The consistent approach to staff learning new strategies will benefit student learning across the division.
- Cree/Dene instructors use specific learning practices to encourage conversational Cree/Dene language development among students.
- NSD schools, with support from Elders and community members, weave Indigenous language and



Grade 10 students at Bill Woodward School in Anzac learned how to prepare fish for smoking. This was part of the Outdoor Cooking Theory class.



Excellence in Learning

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Bill Woodward School students applied virtual learning from Actua and applied it on the land! Actua presented information to students on the science behind the structural strength of a tipi. Students then went on the land and learned how to put up the tipi and listened to teachings from Gary Boostrom.

How is Northland achieving these outcomes?

- Schools are focusing on literacy through a practice of five literacy strategies and SMART Learning. Literacy is being stressed in all core subjects.
- Five schools, almost 25% of the schools, are participating in a Jump Math pilot. Teachers are learning how to teach the program by taking University of Calgary courses.
- Our Attendance Improvement Operational Plan continues to be crucial in monitoring attendance, driving improvement and success.

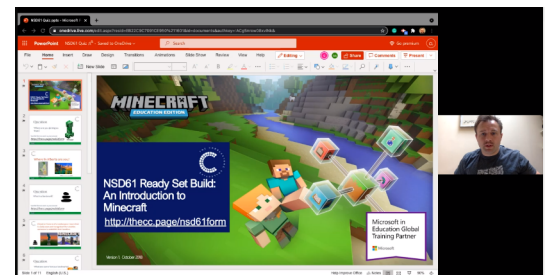
- NSD is using a new platform called Hapara.

The platform allows teachers to track progress, submissions and provide feedback to students and students use it to manage assignments and customize their submissions, giving them greater ownership of their learning. Northland is collaborating with seven other jurisdictions in this work.

- Students and staff have learned how to integrate many motivational ways to



further engage students in learning. Minecraft for Education is one example that promotes creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving. During sessions, students and staff unleashed their creativity by building a local landmark of their choice and working on applying what they learned to core subjects such as English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies.



- Celebration of students and staff achievement is important for validating student success. We celebrate using social media (Facebook, Twitter), websites, letters, Board Highlights, media releases, newspapers, community newsletters, radio and television.
- A number of mental health supports are available for students, families and staff.
- **According to the 2020-2021 Annual Education Results Report, 83 percent of parents agree that students have the appropriate supports and services at school. That is four (4%) over the provincial average.**
- **According to the 2020-2021 Annual Education Results Report, NSD students have shown significant improvement in high school completion. A 20% increase in the number of students completing high school within five (5) years!**



Excellence in Leadership

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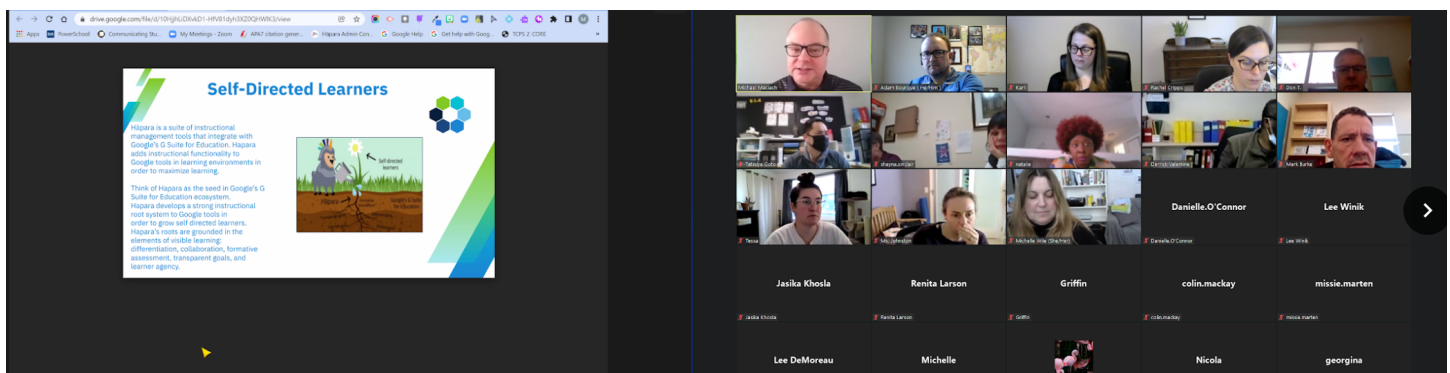
Priority 2: Excellence in Leadership

Through excellent leadership practices, everyone feels welcome and valued.

Outcome: Northland School Division employs a consistent process for reviewing school improvement and assurance.

Outcome: Northland School Division and school leadership models a welcoming learning and working environment that fosters a sense of belonging and pride for First Nations and Métis and non First Nations and Métis learners.

Outcome: Finances are well managed, decisions are supported by facts and stewardship is exemplary.



• Principal Meetings

- Senior Administration hosts Zoom (video conference) meetings with principals, a minimum of 12 times a year. Professional learning is the main focus, developing leadership skills and current teaching practices. Other topics include providing COVID-19 and Alberta Education updates and sharing resources for teaching and mental health.

• Professional Learning

- All school staff and students are supported in leveraging the benefits of technology for in-school and online learning.
- Host ongoing professional learning, such as literacy, numeracy, 21st Century Learning, etc.
- Cree/Dene instructors learn to use a video/audio recording tool called Screencastify to support language, culture and land-based learning development.
- Elders and Knowledge Keepers are teaching instructors in their local context.
- Created a Principals' Portal to support Principals with completing tasks.

• Division Wellness

- Organize and host virtual wellness specific



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Before photo of a house in Wabasca.



After photo of a house in Wabasca.

How is Northland achieving these outcomes?

- **Housing and Maintenance**

- Northland School Division (NSD) continues to prioritize housing improvement for teachers. 22 out of the 37 planned renovations have been completed!

- NSD now has a virtual housing page for prospective teachers to choose a house before actually arriving in a community

- <https://tinyurl.com/2p8zdwcf>.

- NSD hosted a ribbon cutting to officially celebrate the grand opening of the Calling Lake School Playground on September 10, 2021 <https://tinyurl.com/bdaasjxr>.

- NSD has set-up a permanent Career and Technology Studies (CTS) trailer in Paddle Prairie. The trailer is now the new home for CTS programming.

- Career Pathways School (CPS) students have a new place to call home! The new facility for the outreach program in Wabasca-Desmarais is now located just east of St. Theresa School (2783 Neewatim Drive) <https://tinyurl.com/y28f6xd6>.

- NSD is currently working on breaking ground in spring of 2022 for the new Mistassiniy School.

- The new NSD home for Special Education, First Nations, Métis and Inuit and the Office of the Superintendent is located at the Northern Lakes College - Wabasca Campus.



Before photo of a kitchen in Janvier.



After photo of a kitchen in Janvier.



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AWARD WINNING TEACHERS!



Andrew Belsheim, Anzac Community School Teacher

During the 2020-2021 school year, Senior Administration hosted a professional learning session to help principals with nominating new teachers for the Edwin Parr Teacher Award. On April 28, 2021, Andrew Belsheim, Anzac Community School, was selected as NSD's 2021 Edwin Parr Teacher Award nominee. The Edwin Parr Award recognizes first year teachers that demonstrate exemplary dedication and commitment in the field of education. Five exceptional educators were originally nominated.

On September 22, 2021, Andrew was selected as the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 1 Edwin Parr Teacher Award recipient. Andrew is the third NSD educator to win the Zone 1 Edwin Parr Teacher Award <https://tinyurl.com/2p838zj5>.



Mark Owens, Director of Student Engagement, Attendance and Completion

Mark Owens, Director of Student Engagement, Attendance and Completion, received special recognition from the North West Alberta Schools' Athletic Association (NWASAA) Zone. He was selected as a recipient of the 2021 Zone Award of Merit for his contributions to high school athletics in Alberta. "On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I congratulate Mark for his hard work and contributions to school athletics," said Robin Guild, Board Chair. "We feel very fortunate to have educators like Mark supporting the Northland School Division learning experience and helping students achieve success." Click on the website link to view the entire article <https://tinyurl.com/2pxnrh9h>.



Tessa Dagenais, Northland Online School Teacher

Tessa Dagenais, Northland Online School, received special recognition from the University of Victoria (UVic). Tessa was selected as the Co-op Student of the Year for the Optional and Professional Co-op Program - Coaching Studies. "Our students deserve teachers who will go the extra mile to help them succeed," said Robin Guild, Board Chair. Tessa has impacted so many students in a positive way. The Board is very proud of Tessa's accomplishment." Click on the website link to view the entire article <https://tinyurl.com/25v44w7u>.



Excellence in Relationships

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NSD hosted its Long Services Awards on October 14, 2021. The Board recognized staff who have achieved 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 years of services and retirees.

Priority 3: Excellence in Relationships

Develop and actively promote healthy relationships with students, parents/guardians, staff, community and educational partners.

Outcome: Parents and community members engage in their school community and are involved in their child's education.

Outcome: Parents, guardians, communities and education partners are informed and involved in Northland School Division (NSD) plans, programs and progress through ongoing and effective communication.

Outcome: Northland School Division fosters purposeful and productive working relationships to collaboratively advance division operations to support student learning.

How is Northland achieving these outcomes?

• Community Relations

- The Board and Administration maintain regular contact with the communities we serve. Virtual meetings are arranged to keep community leaders informed about good news stories related to student learning and COVID-19 updates.
 - Superintendent communicates regularly with students, staff, parents and community members on how NSD is moving forward with respect to programming.
 - NSD communicates and engage using social media (Facebook, Twitter), websites, School Messenger, letters, Board Highlights, media releases, newspapers, community newsletters, radio, School Council and Principal Advisory Committees.
 - Parents are excited about the opportunities NSD has given their children to attend lessons virtually with individual google Chromebooks.
 - Parents have more opportunities to work with their children with their education using the division technology. Parents are recording and joining in on some of the learning sessions!
 - **According to the 2020-2021 Annual Education Results Report, there is greater satisfaction with the amount of parental involvement in decisions about their child's future! 80% are more satisfied, a 12% increase!**
- #### • Regular communication and relationship development with expert to help revitalize the Cree, Dene and Michif language
- In June 2021, a Denesųliné camp was co-facilitated to bring together NSD educators, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and parents on the land. The purpose of the camp was to discuss co-creating resources to help students reconnect with culture, language and land-based learning.



Excellence in Relationships

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NSD and TELUS World of Science - Edmonton officially sign a Memorandum of Understanding on National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21, 2021)!

How is Northland achieving these outcomes?

- **Relations with universities and educational organizations**

- NSD formally celebrated a new partnership with TELUS World of Science - Edmonton on National Indigenous Peoples Day, June 21, 2021. The Board of Trustees and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras, Superintendent of Schools, officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding with TELUS World of Science - Edmonton <https://tinyurl.com/366kv5cn>.

- Northland students are able to flash university identification cards while attending high school! NSD and MacEwan University signed a five-year agreement that will give students access to dual credit courses. The current dual credit options include:

- PSSC 112 - Policing in Canada Hours
- Winter 2022; PSSC 121 - Law and the Administration of Justice

- TAST 101 - Child and Adolescent Development
- Indigenous Studies 100/ Aboriginal Studies 30

- Cenovus Energy Inc. is donating \$50,000 to NSD. The money received will assist in focusing on literacy and community storytelling about the land.
- NSD is working on a division-wide agreement with the Breakfast Club of Canada. Breakfast Club of Canada is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing services and funding to school breakfast programs. The goal is to get all schools involved in the Breakfast Club of Canada over the next few years. Nine schools currently receive funding from the Breakfast Club of Canada.



NSD and MacEwan University officially sign a five (5) year agreement that gives students to dual credit courses!





"Our students love to come to school in Northland"

