

2020-21 Annual School Development Report

St. Peter's Academy



School's Vision

The community of St. Peter's Academy is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, engaging, and healthy learning environment where we collectively strive to become lifelong learners.

Message from Principal

The staff and students of St. Peter's Academy had a positive and productive year in 2020-2021 thanks to the commitment of all stakeholders. We have made excellent progress with our school development goals and this report will provide an overview of the many successes in meeting our goals and objectives this year. Our two goals are related to: 1. Student Academic Achievement and 2. A safe and Caring School Environment.

As a school community, we are committed to providing high quality educational learning opportunities for our students to ensure they succeed and become productive and contributing members of society as well as lifelong learners. Our parents and community continue to play an important role in supporting our efforts and their support is crucial to the success of our students.

The following pages provide an overview of our student achievement levels based on internal assessment data; and summaries of data collected from school development and performance measurement surveys. Many of our normal activities were suspended this past year as a result of public health concerns related to the COVID-19 Pandemic; however, teachers and administration made every effort to keep classroom activities as normal and as interesting as possible. I am proud to report that our entire staff responded very professionally to our reestablishing strong connections with students, especially during the 'circuit breaker' in February.

This is the final year for the current plan; we are moving to the new school development model next year. I would like to thank all teachers and support staff, student, parents, family members, School Council, our community and district staff for their cooperation and commitment throughout the year. We look forward to working together with you once again in the 2021-2022 school year to provide the very best educational opportunities for our students here at St. Peter's Academy.

Carol Anne Eldridge

Principal

Strategic Issue/Goal: . To improve student achievement across the curriculum for all learners in an inclusive environment.

Objective 1.1: To enhance effective use of differentiated instructional and inclusionary practices.

How did you know this was a Strategic Issue/Objective? What evidence did you have?

Data was collected from analyzing SD and PMF Surveys, meeting notes, BEV tables, Report Cards, Reading Records, and Student Portfolios to determine that the above objective was a core need for our school.

SD Survey Data

- Only 17.9% of students reported that they use ideas from school in their every day life.
- Only 35.7% of students reported that they appreciate school
- Only 26.1% of students reported that they are interested in school
- Only 47.8% of students reported that they are likely to try to learn it in a different way

Year-end Summary of Progress. What evidence do you have to support this progress?

1.1.1 We continue to fully implement the NLESD Literacy for Learning Plan 2014-2020 and the instructional strategies as outlined in the K to 6 Reading and Writing Assessment Portfolio and Support Document; in 2020-21 primary teachers continued to use LLI to successfully increase student’s reading level.

1.1.2 We have booking records to demonstrate that all teachers were using Chromebooks to enhance instruction and learning; that our Learning Commons/Maker Space were utilized extensively as a means to differentiate instruction. This year we were fortunate to receive a grant from Arts Smarts. We had two artists from the ‘The Once’ working with our students to create song about the culture of our community.

1.1.4 Our K to 6 teachers and our Service Delivery Team focused on implementing the components of being a Phase 3 school. We implemented the RTL policy and teachers are becoming more comfortable with the new forms and interventions for students who do not have a formal diagnosis but have learning needs that are quite obvious. We are also in the process of working with the Fullan team to learn about and implement more Deep Learning practices to increase student engagement.

Next Steps...

We need to continue to explore ways to enhance teacher knowledge and utilization of differentiated instructional and assessment strategies; to that end is important that we continue to leverage digital to continue to learn about Deep Learning

and the 6 C's as a means to increase student engagement. It is also important to enhance our knowledge of the RTL Policy through professional reading and discussions and to ensure that everyone understand their role in the implementation process, in order to move forward.

Strategic Issue/ Goal: . To improve student achievement across the curriculum for all learners in an inclusive environment.

Objective 1.2: Increase utilization of internal and external assessment data to inform instruction.

How did you know this was a Strategic Issue/Objective? What evidence did you have?

There is no external assessment data for 2020-2021; therefore, we had to rely on data that was collected from analyzing SD and PMF Surveys, meeting notes, BEV tables, Report Cards, Reading Records, and Student Portfolios to determine that the above objective was a core need for our school. Some of the SD Survey Data is recorded below:

SD Survey Data

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Year-end Summary of Progress. What evidence do you have to support this progress?

Primary teachers are very comfortable using observations and their professional judgement to assess student learning during play-based activities. Although elementary and intermediate teachers still using summative assessment practices, teachers are beginning to become somewhat comfortable in using more formative assessment to guide their instruction. We are beginning to move away from frequent summative assessment practices and working on providing more descriptive feedback to students. We review and analyze our BEV data, Reading Records, Student Portfolios, etc. in an effort to adjust our teaching practices and to better assess student academic progress.

Next Steps:

We continue to implement the K to 6 Reading and Writing Assessment Portfolio and Timeline, the RTL Policy and Deep Learning initiatives. We also need continue to develop SMART Action Plans in response to the literacy and numeracy learning needs from external and internal data during our regular Strategic Planning Day and during our divisional meetings. We also need to continue to ensure that our divisional time is used to analyze internal assessment data, to create intervention plans to help students who are struggling and to collaborate on co-teaching opportunities across the divisions. We need to move away from summative assessment and move toward more formative assessment practices.

Strategic Issue/ Goal: . To create a safe, caring and healthy school environment for all students, staff and members of the school community

Objective 2.1: Continue to implement and promote the Safe & Caring Schools Policy and Expectations.

How did you know this was a Strategic Issue/Objective? What evidence did you have?

Data was collected from Review 360, PMF Data and anecdotal notes and it was determined that we needed to place more emphasis on ensuring that everyone understood the tenets of the Safe & Caring Schools Policy and Expectations. We have also implemented a variety of programs to address concerns coming out our PMF Data which is outlined below:

PMF Data

- Only 44.8% of students reported a positive school climate
- Only 61.5% of our staff reported a positive school climate
- Only 63.3% of our students feel that our school is a safe place
- Only 47.25 of our students feel a sense of belonging
- Only 28% of our students feel engaged in their learning

Year-end Summary of Progress. What evidence do you have to support this progress?

- 2.1.1** We reinforce our Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) program through direct teaching in each area of the school to all students three times per year and daily through announcements and reminders from teachers at the classroom level; video surveillance application is approved. We record date/times/schedules of Behaviour Matrix Training.
- 2.1.2** We have records of specific dates of various activities we implement throughout the year to promote acceptance and support of differences among members of the school community; this year, for example, we launched a schoolwide ‘Choose Kind Campaign’ and purchased Buddy Benches for the playground.

2.1.3 We reassessed our inclusionary practices and made some adjustments; for example, we determined that our Awards Program was not meeting the inclusionary criteria and after several staff discussions and meetings with school council, we decided to phase out our Awards Programs by 2023. The only awards that we will offer this year are to our grade 8 & 9 students and the awards must be decided upon according to our report card data. The last of the awards will be delivered in June 2022 to our grade 9 class.

Next Steps:

We need to ensure that our PBS program is reinforced consistently across all grades, we also need to reinforce the importance of accepting and respecting individual differences, especially in the intermediate grades by implementing more activities that demonstrate and support acceptance.

Strategic Issue/ Goal: . To create a safe, caring and healthy school environment for all students, staff and members of the school community

Objective 2.2: Continue to foster a climate of communication and collaboration within the school community

How did you know this was a Strategic Issue/Objective? What evidence did you have?

Data was collected from discussions and anecdotal meeting notes to determine that we needed to improve communication and collaboration in our school community.

Year-end Summary of Progress. What evidence do you have to support this progress?

2.2.1 Our student leadership program has expanded greatly over the past number of years; and more students are becoming involved each year. This is evident in the large number of students who sign up for leadership roles.

2.2.2 Communication was addressed and improved by setting up email groups, making, newsletters, memos, TV monitors. Communication has improved; this is evident by the feedback we receive from families, the community and the staff.

2.2.3 Collaboration was improved by providing time in the instructional day for divisional teachers to meet; this is evident in the number of meetings we have throughout the year and from the meeting/discussion notes.

Next Steps:

We have strong teacher leadership in our school; teachers are excited to learn and to share their knowledge. Although, time during the day to collaborate was interrupted this year due to the pandemic; teachers continued to collaborate after school and during preparation periods (RTL Meetings, staff meetings: Deep Learning meetings and ongoing informal discussions). We will continue to use our collaboration times to analyze achievement data and to discuss next steps to improve student learning. We will continue to utilize various tools to enhance communication between home and school.

Strategic Issue/ Goal: . To create a safe, caring and healthy school environment for all students, staff and members of the school community

Objective 2.3: Continue to promote healthy and active lifestyles within the school community.

How did you know this was a Strategic Issue/Objective? What evidence did you have?

Through conversations, observations and anecdotal notes, we determined that we needed to encourage our students to be more active and to eat healthier.

Year-end Summary of Progress. What evidence do you have to support this progress?

2.3.1 We continue to promote healthy and active lifestyles. We also offer afterschool programs such as cross-country skiing, organized physical activities program, volleyball and basketball, a running club and annual school-wide walk/runs; our students also avail of the outside basketball court and playground equipment daily.

Over the last number of years, we have seen an improvement in student fitness and health; we feel this improvement is a result of several activities that were implemented to keep students active. The evidence in the energy level of our students in outside play and in the gym; they are very active and more often than not, they do eat healthy – thanks to the efforts of our staff and parent community.

Next Steps:

It is important for us to explore more ways to involve the school community in initiatives that promote healthy and active lifestyles; and we need to continue to provide opportunities for students to participate in physical activity outside the classroom.