



Leading Into the Future
Valhalla Community School
A Northern Alberta Charter School

Annual Education Results Report (AERR) Summary

The Annual Education Results Report

The Annual Education Results Report (AERR) is the opportunity for school jurisdictions to report to their stakeholders, to the local community, and to the Minister of Education, on the results of the school program and the functioning of the jurisdiction over the past school year. In the case of our Charter School, it provides us with a means to both analyze and present our growth and development on an annual basis.

The AERR Summary

This summary document is an attempt to provide easy to understand information about the progress of the Valhalla School Foundation and Valhalla Community School. This summary will look briefly at:

- A summary of our priorities and accomplishments;
- A description of our efforts to engage parents and the community;
- Highlights and challenges related to our results on required performance measures. These measures are related to two sets of goals:
 - Charter Goals, of which there are two
 - Provincial Goals, of which there are three
- Web Links to more detailed information, as provided below:

The Full AERR Document, including detailed performance measures results:

<http://www.valhallacommunityschool.ca/documents/VSF%20AEP%20AERR%20NOV%202012%20FINAL.pdf>

Detailed Financial Information for our 2011-2012 School Year:

<http://www.valhallacommunityschool.ca/documents/FinancialDec2012.pdf>



Priorities

- Provide a stable foundation that best assists students to prepare for their futures as well-adjusted, contributing citizens.
- Support the continued commitment of staff to engage in reflective practice, continuous improvement and collaborative decision-making.
- Through the use of Direct Instruction, to create learning environments where our students are supported with differentiated structured programming through grouping students according to their level.
- To ensure successful student learning of the outcomes in the Program of Studies and in particular, to ensure that students develop strong reading and understanding skills through the direct-instruction based Reading Mastery Program.
- The integration of students with various challenges who have come to our school in the hopes of turning around unsuccessful school experiences, including a high number of English Language Learner (ELL) students.
- To focus on rural leadership development for all students, including public speaking, school-led leadership opportunities, leadership programs, civic leadership and service-learning opportunities.
- Provide for a varied and broad-based program, including locally structured electives, effective second language training including an on-line language learning model, the development of a "Vision for Technology" to needs of students in the digital age.

Accomplishments

- Graduated 1st grade nine class from VCS
- Completed pilot programs
 - 2nd year of 4H pilot program finished (including public speaking competition, road cleanup project, achievement day, community service project)
 - 2nd language program via online distance education (French – ADLC, German – Rosetta Stone)
 - Junior high options program via 4H and ADLC programming
- Implemented new Junior High German language pilot program via ADLC video conference class
- Implemented new expanded leadership program including elected student council and increased leadership/citizenship instruction and practice in all grades
- Developed new in-house Junior High options programming including structured classes in art, archery and fitness
- Developed and began new AISI project researching the impact of improvement in auditory/visual input sequential processing and Significant improvement in school-wide PAT results
- Increased parental involvement in school life; large and active School Council
- Continued success in sports programs: VCS teams competitive and active in inter-school competition (medals)
- Student successful participation in Science Olympics competition (2 teams, 1st and 3rd out of 16 teams)
- Highly successful student led inter-school food drive competition initiated by VCS students
- Highly successful grade 8/9 field trip to province of Quebec (May, 2012)

Engaging Parents and the Community

The VCS School Council has grown and developed over the past four years. The recent Annual General Meeting had the largest turnout ever, and there are now representatives from all grade levels and various committees taking initiatives and doing research on aspects of school improvement. In addition, a group of parents have accepted the care and responsibility of a small local ski hill, which provides volunteer opportunities for parents and has raised tens of thousands of dollars for the school.

The administration of Valhalla Community School has ensured that School Council is apprised of and offered the opportunity to provide input and give feedback on the results of the Accountability Pillar surveys, the Annual Education Plan and the Annual Educational Results Report. This feedback is considered in the final draft of the AERR, as well as in the development of current and future Annual Education Plans.

The Valhalla Heritage Society is the owner of the building in which the school is housed. The Society is a true community partner, and has invested strongly in improving the building and adding to the facility space with a view to the priorities and needs of the school as well as the community. The building also houses the public library and meetings involving the School Board, Library and Society have improved communication between the three organizations.

The Valhalla School Foundation participates in and is represented at the meetings of the charter schools association. Through these meetings VSF shares its experience with representatives of other charter schools, meets with representatives of the Minister of Education and seeks to both influence and learn from the direction that public education is taking

Highlights and Challenges Related to Results

Our first charter goal is: *To produce students who are excellent communicators.*

Highlights

In this charter goal, we are looking to help students develop the capacity to communicate with intelligence, using grammatically correct language in both spoken and written word, by mastering the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic, as well as developing understanding over a broad range of subjects. We are also looking to develop strong public speaking skills and the development of a second language in students.

Parent satisfaction has continued to be very high with regard to the ability of their children to communicate both orally and in written language, as well as in their public speaking skills and in the development of their second language. Our CTBS results indicate that our students are generally at or above grade level in their basic skill development, while our PAT results are improving and are qualified on the report from Alberta Education as being acceptable.

Challenges

The integration of students with various challenges who have come to our school in the hopes of turning around unsuccessful school experiences, including a high number of English Language Learner (ELL) students, presents opportunities to develop our capacity to provide a meaningful educational experience for all children. In order to meet these challenges, our teachers continue to analyze and compare their programs and resources to the Program of Studies and the expectations of the Charter, as well as analyze PAT results and adapt lesson plans, unit plans and long range plans to improve outcomes.

Our second charter goal is: *To prepare students for community involvement and leadership.*

Highlights

In this charter goal, we want to develop in students a recognition of the importance of community involvement by directly experiencing the efforts of community and municipal groups as well as attending meetings and participating in relevant discussions at an age-appropriate level. Parent satisfaction is also very high in this area and our students have a very high level of participation in the targeted activities.

Challenges

Our challenges are in the area of creating more vibrant and varied opportunities for students to actually be involved in service opportunities as well as public and civic organization. Each year improvements to this program are made; as an example, this year the school has started a student council with representation from each grade level.

The first provincial goal is: *Success for every student*

Highlights

In this provincial goal, we are looking to develop proficiency in literacy and numeracy, as well as helping students to become engaged thinkers and ethical citizens with an entrepreneurial spirit. Our PAT results are deemed to be acceptable and improving, while parental satisfaction is very high with regard to students modeling the characteristics of active citizenship, developing attitudes that will make them successful at in life.

Challenges

Changes in our student population presents us with challenges that we are meeting through program development and teacher professional development

The second provincial goal is: *High quality education through collaboration and innovation*

Highlights

In this goal, we are seeking to ensure that effective learning and teaching takes place within caring, respectful, safe and healthy environments, and that the education system demonstrates leadership and collaboration. Stakeholders are very satisfied with the quality of basic education, and that students are learning respect and are treated fairly, and that parents are involved in decisions about their children's education.

Challenges

With regard to this goal, while there is satisfaction with the opportunity to receive a broad program of studies, we feel there is improvement that can be made. To this end, we continue to expand our opportunities for students to experience rural leadership, and have increased elective opportunities in junior high as well as developing our art program for elementary students.