



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:
 - o Charter Goals, of which there are two
 - o Provincial Goals, of which there are four
- > Web Links to more detailed information, as provided below:



The Full AERR Document, including detailed performance measures results:

<http://www.valhallacommunityschool.ca/documents/Combined%20VSF%20AEP%202014-2015%20AERR%202015-2018%20.pdf>

Detailed Financial Information for our 2014-2015 School Year:

<http://www.valhallacommunityschool.ca/documents/Audit%202014%202015%20Nov%2019%202015.pdf>

Priorities

- To provide a stable foundation that best assists students to prepare for their futures as well-adjusted, contributing citizens.
- To 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 structured learning environments where our students are safe, challenged, and supported with differentiated 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.
- To meet the educational needs of all students, including second-language learners
- To focus on rural leadership development for all students, including public speaking, school-led leadership opportunities, leadership programs, civic leadership and service-learning opportunities.
- To provide for a varied and broad-based program, including locally structured electives, leadership opportunities, effective French second language and the development of a "Vision for Technology" to meet needs of students in the digital age.
- To enhance parental partnerships and successfully engage families and the community

Accomplishments

- Continued development of in-house second language programming with experienced, German and French fluent teachers
- Continued with expanded leadership program including rotating student council (all junior high students now have opportunity to experience membership and work in Student Council) and increased leadership/citizenship instruction and practice in all grades
 - o includes student planned, led and performed productions: Remembrance Day, Christmas, Spring Drama, JH Shakespeare production; service program partnering young student with older students for shared activities and help (eg. paired reading, shared lunches); Student Council planned and implemented programs such as School Spirit Days, in-school fundraisers, celebration activities.
- Continued with in-house Junior High options programming including structured classes in art, digital photography and Student Council
- Implemented Enhanced Learning Opportunity class for all Junior High students; 30 minutes daily of teacher supervised time to learn and practice study skills and work on homework assignments

- Implemented new junior high Study, Knowledge, Initiative and Life-long Learning (SKILL) Program to provide increased support to struggling students
- Continued improvement in school-wide PAT results
- Partnership with FCSS and AHS for student support services
- Developing partnership with local provider for dyslexia support services
- Increased parental involvement in school life
 - continued active School Council
 - improved registration process continued to ensure accurate, timely student registration
 - implementation of documentation and process to intentionalize and strengthen parent-school partnership
 - development of program to increase participation in School Council
 - classroom assignments requiring all classes from grade 3-9 to attend one School Council meeting per year with a parent
 - goals: meet charter requirement for students to experience a community style meeting each year, increase parent involvement and participation at School Council
- Highly successful grade 5-6 field trip to Jasper National Park for curricular and leadership opportunities
- Ongoing and increasing collaboration with area schools
- Completion of substantial playground project in partnership with community

Engaging Parents and the Community

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

Successful Initiatives for 2014-2015:

- > Communicated with the larger community via three articles in the local newspaper about charter schools and about VCS.
- > Continued development of registration process which welcomes parents into the school to participate in a more community-based information session with interview and commitment procedures for new families registering at the school.
- > Teachers provide monthly curriculum and program updates
- > Improved communication and shared decision-making with Valhalla Heritage Society
- > Participation in community events including Communities in Bloom and Canada Day parade.

Highlights and Challenges Related to Results

Our **Charter Goals** are to produce students who are excellent communicators and to prepare students for community involvement and leadership,.

Highlights and Challenges

There is very strong parent and teacher satisfaction with the ability of students to communicate, their progress in second language, and their improvement in basic skills. Our public speaking program is meeting with satisfaction and our efforts to engage parents are also satisfactory but we feel these areas can be continually improved. Our PAT results continue to be low, although they are improving, and we believe that a continuously improved community atmosphere in the school, efforts to engage parents, and a strong focus on peer coaching and student engagement in teacher professional development will bear fruit for improved results.

The **Provincial Goals** are that every student is successful, that Alberta has quality teaching and school leadership, that Alberta's education system is governed effectively, and that First Nations, Métis and Inuit students are successful.

Highlights and Challenges

There is strong satisfaction that students model characteristics of active citizenship and attitudes that will benefit them in their work and education. A very high percentage of our students go on to finish high school. There is also strong satisfaction that students are in a safe and caring learning environment, that they are respectful, that parents have every opportunity to be involved in the education of their children, and with the quality of education. Our challenges continue to be with our academic results, and we continue to put strategies in place to *improve parental engagement, and to improve teaching practice through quality professional learning opportunities.*

“Teachers will continue to participate in an enhanced Peer Coaching program to benefit from collegial expertise.”

“An enhanced communication plan will be put in place for communicating to parents details of the curriculum, news about program developments, and opportunities to discuss and be involved in their children’s education.”

“Initiative for all classes grades 3 and above to attend at least one School Council meeting with their parents.”