



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 four
- 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%202013%20FINAL.pdf>

Detailed Financial Information for our 2012-2013 School Year:

<http://www.valhallacommunityschool.ca/documents/FinancialNov2013.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 facilitate 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.
- To provide for a varied and broad-based program, including locally structured electives, effective German second language as well as the opportunity to study French as a 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

- Graduated 2nd grade nine class
- Addition of two experienced, part time teachers with expertise in special needs and second languages
- Teacher Aide support augmented to 4.5 FTE
- Completed pilot program: Second language program via ADLC virtual classroom (video conference teaching)
- Continued with expanded leadership program including elected student council and increased leadership/citizenship instruction and practice in all grades
 - includes student planned, led and performed productions: Remembrance Day, Christmas, Spring Drama, etc.
 - implementation of Buddy System which partners young student with older students for shared activities and help: eg. paired reading, shared lunches, etc.
- Continued with in-house Junior High options programming including structured classes in art, archery and fitness training
- Significant improvement in school-wide PAT results in acceptable range for our challenged students

- Increased parental involvement in school life
 - continued active School Council
 - registration process improved to ensure accurate, timely student registration
 - implementation of documentation and process to intentionalize and strengthen parent-school partnership
- Highly successful grade 5 field trip, June, 2013: camping/leadership
- Initiation of successful teacher collaboration with Beaverlodge Regional High School (to coordinate Junior High curriculum instruction with curriculum requirements of grade 10
- Ongoing collaboration with Grande Prairie Regional College in teacher preparation programs (two student teachers hosted in 2012/2013)
- Effected transfer of bus fleet to Valhalla School Foundation and developed long range plan for bus replacement
- Applied for and received five-year charter renewal

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 2012-2013:

- Developed documents informing parents of the charter, charter goals, school programming and parent and student expectations.
- Changed registration process to invite parents into the school and participate in a more community-based and informative session
- Developed interview and commitment procedures for new families registering at the school.
- Developing compilation and maintenance of mailing lists, online communication tools and board policies
- Increase number of informed families on the wait list
- Teachers developing use of online blogs, emails and texting for communication with parents
- Improved communication and shared decision-making with Valhalla Heritage Society
- Initiated communication between grade nine teachers and teachers from the local high school
- Provide practicum experiences for student teachers with Grande Prairie Regional College
- Meetings held with local MLA's and Board Chair, as well as a meeting with the Minister of Education
- Board Chair, Superintendent and Principal presented on VCS to the Alberta Rural Symposium (Canmore, February 2013)
- Board Chair and Principal feature interview on rural charter schools with CBC Nova Scotia (interview on website)
- Valhalla scored 5 Blooms in the Communities in Bloom national competition (VCS shared its vision with the national judges.) which means next year it will be the host of international judges.

Highlights and Challenges Related to Results

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.