

Parkside Secondary School Growth Plan 2020 – 2021

1. Parkside Secondary School Mission Statement

The Parkside Secondary School staff are committed to networking with families, the school district and the community to facilitate academic success for all students within a supportive environment that is structured to meet the needs of the individual, and to foster a sense of belonging and social responsibility while engaging learners. The strength of our school is our people – staff, students, parents and community. Our school motto this year is **“STRONGER TOGETHER”**



Parkside Secondary School Profile / Unique Characteristics

Parkside Secondary School offers an alternate program to support the individual needs of students in grades 8-12. Approximately 70% of the student population is Aboriginal. Breakfast and lunch are offered to all students free of charge with the support from the Breakfast Club of Canada, President's Choice Charity and the local school district. Parkside maintains an enrollment of 90 students in the Lakelse academic program and 30 students in the Teen Learning Centre life skills program. Several community agencies such as the Kermode Friendship Society, Child and Youth Mental Health, Nisga'a Family Services, Terrace and District Community Services Society (TDCSS) and the Ministry of Children and Family Development offer their services to support Parkside students on a regular ongoing basis.

The Lakelse academic program has six classrooms (3 pods) with a class size limit of 15 students per room. Every student has either an individualized education program (IEP) or a student learning plan (SLP) prepared by the homeroom teacher in consultation with students and parents. There are three youth support workers assigned to offer additional support to students in the three Lakelse pods. The Lakelse staff give one on one or small group academic/social emotional support in a comfortable, respectful, caring environment so students can experience success and graduate with a Dogwood Diploma. Weekly yoga instruction is available to students as an extension of the Physical Education program. There are ongoing Culinary, Outdoor Education and Visual Fine Arts programs for students as well as an Equestrian Studies program at Copperville Stables.

The Teen Learning Centre life skills program has two classrooms with a class size limit of 15 students per homeroom. Every student has an individualized education plan (IEP) prepared by the homeroom teacher in consultation with students and parents. There is one youth support worker to offer extra assistance to the students who are focusing on modified or adapted course work with an emphasis on life skills, social responsibility and behavioural management. Students in the Teen Learning Centre will graduate with an Evergreen Certificate or they may transition into the Lakelse program to earn a Dogwood Diploma or an Adult Dogwood Diploma.

2. SCANNING: What's going on for your learners? How do you know?

Student Achievement Evidence

- Course grades and "I" reports created by teachers each term
- Daily Attendance information (absences / late arrivals)
- Dogwood Diploma progress reports done each term for Lakelse students in grades 10-12
- Diagnostic Math Assessments and School Wide Writes
- Provincial Numeracy and Literacy Assessment results
- School Based assessments (level 2 testing)

Student Food Assistance Program

- Starfish Backpack Program supporting Parkside families weekly
- Breakfast and Lunch Programs available for students daily

3. FOCUSING:

Parkside Secondary needs to become a trauma responsive and trauma informed school. When staff understand the impacts of trauma upon a student’s brain and behaviour, then our school can become a safe, supportive environment where students can make positive connections with adults and peers. Students can learn about the “Zones of Regulation” and how to calm their emotions so they can focus and behave appropriately, and feel confident enough to advance their learning. The Window of Tolerance can become a main focus for staff when they “check in” with students each day to determine if students are hyper-aroused (feeling anxious, angry, agitated) or hypo-aroused (feeling zoned out, sluggish, numb, shutting down) and then direct interventions to help students move into their “Green Zone” where they will feel just right, calm and alert for learning.

STAGE 1

Trauma Aware

Key Task:

Awareness & attitudes



Trauma aware organizations have become aware of how prevalent trauma is and have begun to consider that it might impact their clientele and staff.

STAGE 3

Trauma Responsive

Key Task:

Change & integration



Trauma responsive organizations have begun to change their organizational culture to highlight the role of trauma. At all levels of the organization, staff begins re-thinking the routines and infrastructure of the organization.

STAGE 2

Trauma Sensitive

Key Task:

Knowledge, application, & skill development



Trauma sensitive organizations have begun to:

- 1) explore the principles of trauma-informed care (safety, choice, collaboration, trustworthiness, & empowerment) within their environment & daily work
- 2) build consensus around the principles
- 3) consider the implications of adopting the principles within the organization
- 4) prepare for change

STAGE 4

Trauma Informed

Key Task:

Leadership



Trauma informed organizations have made traumaresponsive practices the organizational norm. The trauma model has become so accepted and so thoroughly embedded that it no longer depends on a few leaders. The organization works with other partners to strengthen collaboration around being trauma informed.

INQUIRY QUESTION: Will maintaining an Indigenous Connections Room and a trauma informed mindset while facilitating self-regulation activities improve behaviour, attendance and academic success for Parkside students?

4. DEVELOPING A HUNCH:

The impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) upon a person's health and ability to learn have been well documented. Trauma can impact learning, relationships and behaviour at school. Self regulation research has indicated that when students are under stress their ability to learn is diminished. Before our students try to do their school assignments their brains must be "ready" to learn. A majority of Parkside students have experienced some form of adverse childhood experiences or trauma (poverty, abuse, and or violence in the home).

5. PROFESSIONAL LEARNING:

- In September staff will be given a quick reference guide about "Teaching Students Living with Adversity" (ASCD item)
- In September staff will be given personal flip books about Wellness, Managing Stress, Emotional Wellness at Work and Healthy Sleep so they can be prepared to support Parkside students (Quick Series items)
- In September staff will be given Indigenous Yoga Cards for use in the classroom with their students (Strong Nations item)
- Social Emotional Resources will be purchased and shared amongst staff members throughout the school year

6. TAKING ACTION: *What are the roles of Teachers, Support Staff and the Principal*

- Teachers will check in with each student on a daily basis when the student arrives to school to determine if a student needs to be supported before beginning academic work. A variety of activities will be used to help students get into their "Green Zone" so they can focus on their learning. After lunch and at the end of the day teachers will do "check-ins" and "reflections" with their homeroom students to monitor any changes and offer supports.
- A "calming" room (The Chill Room) will be available for students to do their school work in a different setting. Traditional First Nations language and culture activities will be available and facilitated by indigenous support staff.

6. TAKING ACTION: *What are the roles of Teachers, Support Staff and the Principal*

- Yoga (yoga instructor) and mindfulness activities (teacher) will be available on a regular basis for students.
- Every week the school counsellor will check in with students and then phone families on a monthly basis if attendance has been minimal so a plan of support can be established.
- Every day staff will supervise and encourage students to engage in exercise in the gym or walking the neighbourhood so students can regulate their behaviour / emotions.
- A free breakfast will be prepared by the Principal and staff. A free lunch will be made by the Meal Coordinator in consultation with the Home Economics teachers and students enrolled in the Foods course so students will not be distracted from their learning by hunger.
- Staff will permit students to listen to music as they work in their respective classrooms (headphones provided).
- Every week an Art teacher will offer activities to students as a way to help them regulate their behaviour.
- Each week a teacher will organize outdoor education activities for students on a regular basis so they can have access to nature.
- Each week a teacher will arrange equestrian horseback riding experiences for students to connect with animals as a way of coping with stress and anxiety.
- Every two weeks teachers will participate in School Based Team Meetings (SBTM) to discuss concerns about student behaviour and or academic progress for the purpose of developing collaboratively plans of action.
- Every day support staff will phone parents when students are absent from school to encourage attendance and make inquiries for support.
- Every week the principal will send to parents and students emails regarding events happening at the school to encourage participation.
- Each week staff will offer Parkside students community service activities to help others.
- Each month the school counsellor will make contact with parents of students who are struggling so community supports can be offered to help families.

6. TAKING ACTION: *How are you communicating this to parents and incorporating their feedback?*

- Weekly emails will be sent to parents to allow for information to be given about school activities and opportunities for students. Feedback from parents and students can be received by responding to the emails.
- Community agencies offering programs for teens and their families will advertise information in the weekly emails to Parkside students and their families.
- Family meetings with teachers, indigenous support workers, school counsellor and the principal will be scheduled when the need arises to collaboratively create support plans for students.

7. CHECKING: *When will you check in and how often?*

Daily evaluation of students by staff will be conducted and progress recorded. Family meetings will be scheduled by teachers for students who do not demonstrate regular attendance so a plan of support can be established. With each report card students enrolled in the Dogwood program will receive an insert indicating the courses that a student has finished and those courses remaining for graduation to be achieved so parents and students will be aware of their child's progress towards graduation. Any students who are not meeting expectations for work completion in a term will receive an "I" caution report prepared by the teacher indicating areas of concern. These caution "I" reports will be mailed to parents with a plan of support suggested for improvement.

7. CHECKING: *How can you do it in a way that allows for immediate adjustment?*

Staff will participate in discussions about student work habits and behaviour each school day. Information will be recorded to track student progress. Teachers will participate in school based team meetings twice a month to discuss students of concern and actions needed for support. Students who are not meeting expectations will be invited to participate in a family meeting with their teacher and indigenous support worker so a plan of improvement can be created collaboratively.

School Principal Signature: _____