

November 2016

3-Year Education Plan & Annual Education Results Report (AERR)



RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL

WONDER LIVES HERE

Presenting Academic
Results and Parent
Survey results from
the 2015/16

The choices we offer are an important educational advantage for families. We appreciate that not all children learn in the same way throughout their educational journey and that parents' educational views vary.

In our Progressive, Montessori and Arrowsmith programs, students develop strong academic skills, social confidence, broad interests, and a sense of responsibility and respect for themselves and the broader community.

Our students discover a life long love of learning in a respectful and caring environment.

While we regularly rank among Alberta's top schools we are as different from other schools as our students are from one another. We are not an exclusive, one-size-fits-all school. We are focused on the individual needs of our students.

We are here - of course - to give our students what they need to succeed and become a contributing member of society but how we teach them is determined by who they are, how they learn and what

engages them. Our focus is the individual child and understanding how they navigate learning, absorb information, see the world, their environment, their peers, and themselves.



Inside:

- 2016 PAT Results for Gr. 6
- 2016 Accountability Pillar Results
- A glimpse into our programs

OUR LEARNERS



At River Valley, we ensure that students at all ages receive what they need to achieve excellence and success.

Balancing the importance of academic achievement with the essential emotional and social growth for children is of primary importance.

Accountability Statement

The Annual Education Results Report for the 2015/16 school year and the Education Plan for the three years commencing September 1, 2016 for River Valley School Society were prepared under the direction of the Board in accordance with its responsibilities under the *Private Schools Regulation* and the *Education Grants Regulation*.

This document was developed in the context of the provincial government's business and fiscal plans. The Board has used the results reported in the document, to the best of its abilities, to develop the Education Plan and is committed to implementing the strategies contained within the Education Plan to improve student learning and results.

The Board approved this combined Annual Education Results Report for the 2016/2017 school year and the three-year Education Plan for 2016 – 2019 **December 13, 2016.**

Created and Prepared by:
Signed by:
Erin Corbett
Head of School

Jon Wrathall
Board Chair



River Valley School

Vision

To curate opportunities for learning and discovery that are as dynamic as the world around us.

Mission

To be an exceptional educator that embraces the unique talents of every child. Our adaptive model of educational delivery supports different learning styles to ensure that every student is capable of achieving their personal best.

Values

Independence, Creativity & Citizenship

At River Valley School, we value social and character development as much as academic development.

RVS VALUES

Within our three core values are behaviours that we embed into our curriculum & daily life at RVS. They are the cornerstones of our school.

- ✦ Respect of ourselves, others and the world in which we live and play
- ✦ Confidence in our abilities, opportunities and accomplishments
- ✦ Leadership in ourselves, our classrooms, school and community
- ✦ Trust in our relationships and the future
- ✦ Global Citizenship in our thoughts, words, actions and deeds
- ✦ Independence in our thinking and behaviour
- ✦ Creativity in our work, play and plans for the future
- ✦ Peace in our intent and interactions



RVS: A PROFILE



A little bit more about us

River Valley School is a not for profit charitable society, operated by a strong community of educators, students and parents and governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. We operate two sites; RVS Early Learning Centre and RVS Elementary Campus.

River Valley School offers three choices for educational delivery. We provide an inquiry based Progressive program for full & half day 3 year old "Tots" to Grade Six, a fully CCMA accredited Montessori program for CASA (3-5 year olds) and Lower & Upper Elementary, Grades 1-6. In addition, we are the only school in Alberta to operate the Arrowsmith Program for

Progressive
Montessori
Arrowsmith

learning challenges. More information about these programs can be found at www.rivervalleyschool.ca/programs.

To meet the needs of our families, we own and operate our own busing service and provide before & after school care for our students, including holiday day camps through our Little & Big Kids Club program.

At RVS, we provide exceptional education and interactions aligned with our organizational values. These values are the cornerstones of our organization and serve to ensure that the programs we develop & the leadership we provide is consistently in the best interest of all. We lead by example and foster character formation through experience, not explanation.

ACCREDITED	TECHNOLOGY	CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CAISA Candidate School (since 2015) - Full CAISA Accreditation set for October 2017. - CCMA Canadian Council of Montessori Administrators (since 2007) - Members of AISCA (Alberta Independent Schools & Colleges of Alberta) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SMART and/or Apple tech in all classes - 1:1 iPads for all students Gr 4-6 - Seesaw - Claymation & movie making - Coding & Robotics 	<p>Our first capital campaign is underway to purchase land for growth and a united campus for our Early and Elementary learners.</p>

2016-2017

RVS Observations

Please refer to pages 7-10 for PAT Data & pages 6-15 for complete Pillar Survey results

What we're seeing

As a school we continue to experience growth! Our enrolment continues to increase and we post balanced financials each year that ensure sustainability and opportunities for growth. CASA, Preschool, Kindergarten and most Progressive classes are at capacity and we are wait listing for 2017/18 for our Early Learning Campus. This growth reflects our success as a leading inclusive Independent Elementary option in Calgary.

We attract exceptional teachers with varied backgrounds and their enthusiasm and passion for education and their students is unparalleled. Please go to our [website](#) or learn more about our RVS team by [clicking here](#).

Elementary school teaching presents a unique challenge in that it asks our educators to teach a vast cross section of multiple disciplines. To support our educators life long learning journey and our students and their needs, we have instituted Instructional Leadership at RVS in the areas of mathematics, writing and reading, curriculum modification and program plan writing. These individuals work alongside teachers to partner, collaborate, evaluate or plan to meet the unique needs of your child.

Areas that present as issues in achievement communication

There are always issues when interpreting data especially when there are small reporting numbers. River Valley School has smaller class sizes so the number of students writing the exams at grade 6 have averaged between 12-32 over the last 5 years. We are also an inclusive school that does not do admissions assessment. When even a few students with learning challenges write the exams the results can be significantly impacted statistically. While we know that our results will vary year to year based on the profile of our learners, we are proud to report that we have consistently been ranked in the top 25 schools in Alberta for the last 5 years and most recently, ranked 8th for academic achievement.

The small numbers of respondents on the Accountability Pillar Survey can also impact upward and downward trends. To counter this, we initiated a 360-degree school survey in 2012 to reinforce or provide more clarification on, Accountability Pillar measures.



PAT Detail

5 year trend - RVS (“Authority”) & Province

		Results (%)									
		A - Acceptable E - Excellence									
		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
		A	E	A	E	A	E	A	E	A	E
English Language Arts 6	Authority	100.0	71.4	100.0	40.0	100.0	54.5	100.0	40.7	94.1	23.5
	Province	91.0	19.6	90.9	18.0	90.6	19.5	91.3	21.5	91.5	22.6
Mathematics 6	Authority	100.0	42.9	100.0	50.0	100.0	68.2	100.0	44.4	88.2	29.4
	Province	81.9	18.2	79.8	18.0	80.7	17.0	80.4	15.3	79.0	15.2
Science 6	Authority	100.0	71.4	100.0	70.0	100.0	86.4	100.0	46.2	100.0	43.8
	Province	85.8	31.5	85.4	29.0	84.2	28.2	84.8	28.8	86.1	30.8
Social Studies 6	Authority	100.0	71.4	100.0	40.0	100.0	72.7	100.0	38.5	87.5	31.3
	Province	81.0	22.4	80.7	21.6	78.9	19.2	78.0	21.0	79.4	25.3

These results reflect the **students that wrote the PATs in 2016**. The following pages include students whose parents exempted them from exams, and therefore our averages are lower. **River Valley School had 16/18 students write exams last year**, so each student's result represents significant statistical value.

Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) were discontinued at the end of the 2014 school year in Alberta for Grade 3 students. 2015/16 was intended to be the last year Grade Six students would write PATs, but this has been extended.

Grade 3 Students at RVS wrote the new Student Learning Assessments (SLA) pilot in the fall of 2014 & 2015 as a pilot school. Alberta Education extended the pilot another year, and River Valley was declined participation as a private school.

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Accountability Pillar Survey Results for RVS

2016 ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR SURVEY OVERALL RESULTS

Measure Category	Measure Category Evaluation	Measure	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Safe and Caring Schools	Excellent	Safe and Caring	96.3	93.5	94.5	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Student Learning Opportunities	N/A	Program of Studies	94.9	97.1	95.7	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
		Education Quality	95.6	96.7	96.3	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Student Learning Achievement (Grades K-9)	Excellent	PAT: Acceptable	84.7	91.4	96.3	Very High	Declined	Good
		PAT: Excellence	29.2	38.8	52.7	Very High	Declined	Good
Preparation for Lifelong Learning, World of Work, Citizenship	N/A	Work Preparation	92.0	88.9	90.2	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
		Citizenship	92.6	91.7	93.2	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Parental Involvement	Excellent	Parental Involvement	89.6	91.9	93.4	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Continuous Improvement	Excellent	School Improvement	87.3	83.3	82.8	Very High	Maintained	Excellent

Notes:

1. Results have been adjusted to reflect the change from previous data source systems to Provincial Approach to Student Information (PASI).
2. Due to the change from previous data source systems to Provincial Approach to Student Information (PASI), historical Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate results are not available.
3. Aggregated PAT results are based upon a weighted average of percent meeting standards (Acceptable, Excellence). The weights are the number of students enrolled in each course. Courses included: English Language Arts (Grades 6, 9, 9 KAE), Français (Grades 6, 9), French Language Arts (Grades 6, 9), Mathematics (6, 9, 9 KAE), Science (Grades 6, 9, 9 KAE), Social Studies (Grades 6, 9, 9 KAE).
4. Aggregated Diploma results are a weighted average of percent meeting standards (Acceptable, Excellence) on Diploma Examinations. The weights are the number of students writing the Diploma Examination for each course. Courses included: English Language Arts 30-1, English Language Arts 30-2, French Language Arts 30-1, Français 30-1, Chemistry 30, Physics 30, Biology 30, Science 30, Social Studies 30-1, Social Studies 30-2.
5. Overall evaluations can only be calculated if both improvement and achievement evaluations are available.
6. Participation in Provincial Achievement Tests was impacted by the flooding in June 2013 (Grade 9 only) and by the fires in May to June 2016. Caution should be used when interpreting trends over time for the province and those school authorities affected by these events.
7. Participation in Diploma Examinations was impacted by the flooding in June 2013 and by the fires in May to June 2016. Caution should be used when interpreting trends over time for the province and those school authorities affected by these events.
8. Data values have been suppressed where the number of respondents/students is fewer than 6. Suppression is marked with an asterisk (*).

Spring 2016

Accountability Pillar Survey Results for RVS

OUTCOME #1: ALBERTA'S STUDENTS ARE SUCCESSFUL.

Performance Measure	Results (in percentages)					Evaluation		
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Overall percentage of students in Grades 6 and 9 who achieved the acceptable standard on Provincial Achievement Tests (overall cohort results).	100.0	97.6	100.0	91.4	84.7	Very High	Declined	Good
Overall percentage of students in Grades 6 and 9 who achieved the standard of excellence on Provincial Achievement Tests (overall cohort results).	64.3	48.8	70.5	38.8	29.2	Very High	Declined	Good

Comment on Results

These results also include a zero score for any child whose parent exempts them from the exam. Please refer to Page 6 to see the results that reflect students writing both at RVS and across the Province.

Our Provincial achievement results can swing depending on the number of students with learning disabilities that write. In 2015, we had 3 students in our Arrowsmith Program (a cognitive skills program for students with Learning Disabilities) write the Provincial Achievement Tests and again this past year. Each of these students were proud to complete the exams.

As an inclusive school we have students with a variety of learning needs, gifts and challenges. We ensure small class sizes and specialized staff to ensure that each child receives what they need to achieve *their* level of excellence.

Strategies

Maintain data analysis groups in Grade 3 & 6 to address areas for growth and improvement opportunities.

Maintain *Number Talks* in Grade 4-6 classrooms to aid in the development of mathematical thinking and problem solving. Continue in Grades 1-3.

Continue *Empowering Writers* Grades 2-6 and continue *Animated Literacy & Literacy Place* in Tots-Grade 1 to focus our Language Arts instruction.

Support educators with appropriate professional development opportunities.

Provide release time for collaborative planning between teachers and Instructional Leaders.

Ensure timetables provide uninterrupted work cycles for teachers and their students in all programs.

Encourage cross curricular project based learning with our specialists in the fine arts.

Spring 2016

Accountability Pillar Survey Results for RVS

OUTCOME #1: ALBERTA'S STUDENTS ARE SUCCESSFUL. (CONTINUED)

Performance Measure	Results (in percentages)					Evaluation		
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Percentage of teachers, parents and students who are satisfied that students model the characteristics of active citizenship.	93.3	91.0	94.3	93.6	91.7	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Percentage of teachers and parents who agree that students are taught attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful at work when they finish school.	82.5	90.2	90.4	91.2	88.9	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Percentage of teacher and parent satisfaction that students demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for lifelong learning.	65.1	58.6	66.5	60.9	61.0	n/a	n/a	n/a

Comment on Results

Our goal is to meet children at their level of readiness and provide them with the tools to ensure that the child is challenged, supported and inspired by the world around them.

Strategies

Continue modular approach to drama & art programs to provide more uninterrupted time for creation and cross curricular initiatives.

Maintain Student Government for Grades 1-6 to provide further opportunity for enrichment, leadership & to provide a venue for student voice to exist in the continuous improvement model.

Ensure access to staff in the specialized areas of Speech Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Social Skill development and learning interventions allowing RVS to proactively meet the developmental needs of our students.

Integrate an on line student portfolio program that assists with goal setting, planning and tracking for the individual and the educators.

Spring 2016

Accountability Pillar Survey Results for RVS

OUTCOME #3: ALBERTA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM IS INCLUSIVE

Performance Measure	Results (%)					Evaluation		
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Percentage of teacher, parent and student agreement that: students are safe at school, are learning the importance of caring for others, are learning respect for others and are treated fairly in school.	94.5	93.8	96.2	93.5	96.3	Very High	Maintained	Excellent

Strategies

Connect with our Community Resource Officer through Calgary Police Service 3-5 times/year.

Establish a [Good Neighbour Pledge](#) to address the needs of our local community.

Provide time for collaborative teams to build shared knowledge and understanding about essential learning & focus on issues and questions that impact student learning and achievement.

Acquiring information from common assessments in order to (1) inform teachers individual and collective practice, and (2) respond to students who need additional time and support.

Finalize and implement new Strategic Plan for 2016-2021.

Spring 2016

Accountability Pillar Survey Results for RVS

OUTCOME #4: ALBERTA HAS EXCELLENT TEACHERS, SCHOOL AND SCHOOL AUTHORITY LEADERS.

Performance Measure	Results (%)					Evaluation		
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Percentage of teachers, parents and students satisfied with the opportunity for students to receive a broad program of studies including fine arts, career, technology, and health and physical education.	90.5	93.8	96.2	97.1	94.9	Very High	Maintained	Excellent

Comment on Results

River Valley School values the benefits of cross curricular opportunities to learn. With a robust offering of specialties, students are engaged in a variety of experiential, artistic, physical and cultural experiences.

Strategies

Continue our local gardens at each campus in to beautify the area of Bowness that we inhabit.

Continue our Me to We Leadership team and our status as a Me to We School.

Align student goals with school values of Leadership & Citizenship and invite children into the process.

Support student generated outreach projects in classrooms and throughout the school community.

Spring 2016

Accountability Pillar Survey Results for RVS

OUTCOME #5: THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IS WELL GOVERNED AND MANAGED

Performance Measure	Results (%)					Evaluation		
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2015	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Percentage of teachers, parents and students indicating that their school and schools in their jurisdiction have improved or stayed the same the last three years.	89.6	82.8	82.2	83.3	87.3	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Percentage of teachers and parents satisfied with parental involvement in decisions about their child's education.	94.0	92.0	96.4	91.9	89.6	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Percentage of teachers, parents and students satisfied with the overall quality of basic education.	96.2	95.8	96.4	96.7	95.6	Very High	Maintained	Excellent

Comment on Results

RVS employs a number of staff to ensure that each child's needs are met. IPP creation and oversight rests with our Inclusion Coordinator, Gifted and Supportive Strategies are implemented through our Resource Department, Speech Language & Occupational Therapy all collaborate with the child's teacher to ensure that the best programming is being received.

RVS works to regulate our communications to our parent community through the use of social media and a monthly newsletter & monthly email update. In addition, teachers provide weekly updates to parents each Friday to provide a snapshot of the week that has passed and the week ahead. In addition, there are technologies being used to connect parents with what their children are doing in the classroom in real time.

Strategies

Continue collaborative work with Parent Network and RVS Board of Directors

Implement Instructional Leadership roles in core curricular areas and specialized planning for students

Encourage authentic parent participation through opportunities like Friday Specials, facility improvements, environmental stewardship & special events



River Valley School Society Board of Directors

Jon Wrathall, Board Chair
Janay Ferguson, Vice Chair &
Chair of Strategic Planning
Babara Fabris, Treasurer
Don Eckford, Secretary
Allison Brown, Director
Carole Hunter, Director

Chester Krala, Director
Bruce McCallum, Director &
Chair of Facilities
Brett Undershute, Director &
Chair of Fundraising
Darren Yaworsky, Director



Summary of Financial Results

Pursuant to section 32 of the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act, no disclosures were received during the 2015-16 school year. This information is also disclosed annually in our audited financial statements.

River Valley School 2015/16		
Revenue Summary	Amount (\$)	Contextual Information
Alberta Education	1,482,867	
Tuition	3,980,148	
Other Revenue	1,040,607	represents fundraising, and ancillary programs
Transportation	92,684	
TOTAL REVENUE	6,596,306	
Expense Summary	Amount (\$)	Contextual Information
Instruction	4,030,024	
Administration	1,449,968	
O&M	1,167,859	
Transportation	101,817	
TOTAL EXPENSE	6,749,668	
TOTAL REVENUE LESS EXPENSE	-(153,362)	This deficit is not a cash position, but rather the result of amortized expenses of leasehold improvements. The organization has a cash surplus before amortization.

Budget Summary 2016/17

River Valley School 2016/17

Revenue Summary	Amount (\$)	Contextual Information
Alberta Education	1,583,263	
Tuition	4,065,662	The school had a tuition increase this year.
Other Revenue	1,055,174	
Transportation	110,000	
TOTAL REVENUE	6,814,099	
Expense Summary	Amount (\$)	Contextual Information
Instruction	4,368,515	
Administration	1,272,686	
O&M	1,272,686	
Transportation	111,000	
TOTAL EXPENSE	6,994,850	
TOTAL REVENUE LESS EXPENSE	(180,751)	This deficit is not a cash position, but rather the result of amortized expenses of leasehold improvements. The organization has a cash surplus before amortization.

Parental Involvement

There are many ways for our families to get involved at their child's school. Some examples this year have included:

- Parent Network (annual community building events)
- Classroom volunteer opportunities (Friday Specials, Field Trips, Special Projects)
- Leading the annual Costume Gala Fundraiser: *Back to the 80's (2016)*, *Wizard of Oz (2015)*, *Seussville (2014)*, *Neverland (2013)*, *Wonderland (2012)*
- Board of Directors (governance board for the River Valley School Society)
- Lunch program
- Parent Admissions Network



STRATEGIC PLANNING AT RVS

Since the spring of 2013 when River Valley School secured the previous site of RB Bennett school in Bowness as our Early Learning Campus, the Board and staff have been working hard to develop a new 5 year Strategic Plan.

A planning committee was struck that consisted of members of the Board and the Head of School. Data was used from 4 years of Pillar Surveys, 360 degree Parent Surveys, staff feedback, focus groups of parents, staff & students as well as retreats by the Board and Staff to focus the plan to reflect our Imagined Future. At the end of November 2015 the Strategic Plan was finalized and approved.

In order to nurture further growth and improvement plans, we continue to fundraise through special events, our Capital Campaign and Annual Giving Campaign. We are grateful to all of the support we have received to help us further our goals to make River Valley School the best place to learn and grow for our students.

