

2024-
2028



RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL
WONDER LIVES HERE

EDUCATION PLAN ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK





River Valley School Campus, 2022

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge our Treaty 7 friends, where the Blackfoot meet on Elbow's bend. Soon came the Tsuut'ina (soot-tin-ah) from the Beaver Clan, and the Îyârhe (Iskya) Stoney Nakoda who live in the mountain lands. Last, but not least, the Métis people from Region 3. We are all treaty people here in Calgary.



2024-2028 EDUCATION PLAN ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK FOR RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL

The Accountability Statement for the Education Plan for River Valley School commencing September 1, 2024 was prepared under the direction of the Board of Governors in accordance with the responsibilities under the Private Schools Regulation and the Ministerial Grants Regulation.

This plan was developed in the context of the provincial government's business and fiscal plans. The Board has used its performance results to develop the plan and is committed to implementing the strategies contained within the plan to improve student learning and results.

Rich Lee

River Valley School, Board Chair
board@rivervalleyschool.ca

Carolyn Breland

River Valley School, Head of School
cbreland@rivervalleyschool.ca

The Board approved the 2024/2025 Education Plan on May 31, 2024.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Wonder lives in bolstering the natural curiosities of childhood. At River Valley School, we celebrate and nurture this wonder through inquiry-based programming centered on big ideas and engaging questions.

Our tagline, “wonder lives here,” is evident throughout our campus, shining in the hearts and minds of our inquisitive students and dedicated staff. As a community, we learn and grow together, respecting diverse values, opinions, and beliefs. Students, teachers, and administrators collaborate to create a safe and joyful environment where learners feel empowered to appreciate one another, make thoughtful decisions, and take age-appropriate risks, leading to deeper understanding and broadened inquiry.

Our alumni have achieved success in top schools, businesses, and institutions across Canada and around the globe. They carry forward the foundational experiences of their early education, prepared for their next steps. We are proud to provide the building blocks for their long-term success and well-being.

With over twenty years of experience, River Valley School is entering a momentous chapter. We are completing the first year of our new strategic plan and education assurance framework for 2024-2028. This comprehensive plan was developed with input from all stakeholders, including students, staff, parents, and alumni, who participated in focus groups to identify our five strategic priorities:

1. Ensuring Financial Resilience
2. Modernizing and Optimizing our Campus
3. Nurturing Success Beyond Elementary
4. Strengthening our Brand
5. Being the Educational Employer of Choice in Calgary

Objectives, actions, and key performance indicators were established to ensure annual progress and achieve our goals by 2028. We are proud of the progress made thus far and look forward to continuing our plan’s implementation. Our senior leadership team and staff, in collaboration with our Board of Governors and its Strategic Planning Committee, are committed to making our dreams a reality.

Kind regards,

Carolyn Breland,
River Valley School, Head of School



VISION

We spark a love of learning in every child through the discovery of their individual best

MISSION

We ignite the natural wonder of childhood by cultivating personal connections and rich opportunities for learning.

VALUE STATEMENT

We value social and character development as much as academic achievement.

Board of Governors

River Valley School operates as a not-for-profit educational institution. It is governed by a parent Board of Governors with a strong community of educators, students and parents. The independent Board of Governors was formed in 2003 and is governed by Private School Regulations under the Alberta School Act, the Societies Act and the River Valley School By-Laws.

Rich Lee

Board Chair

Jen Kelly

Vice Chair

Samantha Koliass-Gunn

Treasurer

Jason Schultz

Secretary

Scott Crews

Cyril Elbers

Ravinder Minhas

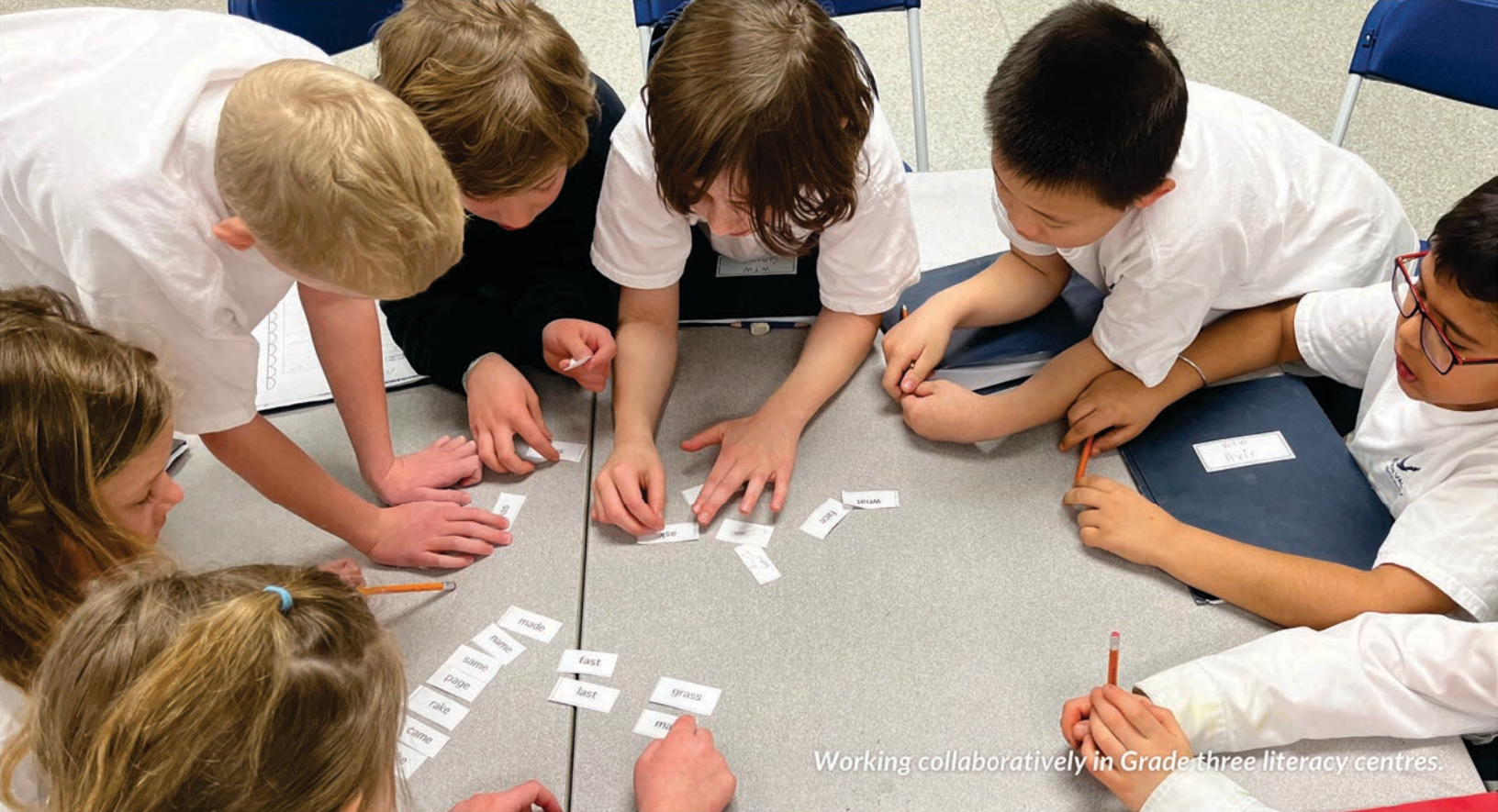
Peter Pilarski

Adam Phillips

Ranny Shibley

Isaac Wing

Tatum Woywitka



Working collaboratively in Grade three literacy centres.

OUR LEARNERS

In our programs, students develop strong academic skills, social confidence, broad interests, and a sense of responsibility and respect for themselves and the world around them. We ensure each child can flourish. 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 to give our students what they need to succeed and become a contributing member of society. How we teach them is determined by who they are, how they learn and what engages them.



Pre-JK Student crafting and learning about lady bugs.



Kindergarten students having fun on the playground with friends.



OUR PROGRAMS

We are a growing school of approximately 300 students with a beautiful campus in Bowness, Calgary. With two educators in every classroom, we operate with a low pupil-teacher ratio, maximizing instructional time and the personalization of learning for students Pre-Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6.

With our before & after school programs, River Valley School offers a safe, caring environment for our students from 7 AM to 6 PM Monday through Friday year-round. We also offer busing services to our families that provide transportation to and from communities in the SW, central and NW quadrants of the city.

EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM

**PRE-JK (3-YEAR-OLDS)
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN (4-YEAR-OLDS)**

Our early learning students participate in hands-on, inquiry and play-based learning guided by the Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum Framework for Alberta.

Learners explore core academic areas such as numeracy, literacy and humanities, and are introduced to specialist areas such as French, music, library, physical and outdoor education, art, and drama. It is the perfect balance of academics, play, creativity, and exploration.

ELEMENTARY PROGRAM

**KINDERGARTEN (5-YEAR-OLDS)
TO GRADE 6**

Our elementary students are immersed in the Alberta Education Curriculum in core subject areas including math, English language arts and literature, social studies, science and health. Student achievement and engagement is carried out through varied project-based learning opportunities, exploration, collaboration, and differentiation in our instruction.

In addition to core subjects, students enjoy programming in music, French, art, drama, physical and outdoor education, library, and S.T.E.A.M.

LEARNING SERVICES

Our teachers and educational aides each bring to the classroom a fresh curiosity about each child and seek the best ways of guiding him or her to their greatest success. Individuality is celebrated.

Students are offered programs to match their learning styles. Personalization of the learning experience ensures each child is provided with what they need to achieve greatness. Our commitment is to inspire each child to find their way, be adaptive, help those around them, and enjoy the journey.

Our learning support team provides pull-out and push-in programs for students to work individually or in small groups in specific areas such as reading and math intervention. We employ a speech and language pathologist and an occupational therapist to work with our coded students as well as others who benefit from SLP and OT services (including social skills). Students in Grades 2-6 who display strengths in English language arts and Math are also given opportunities to participate in pull-out enrichment within small collaborative groups.

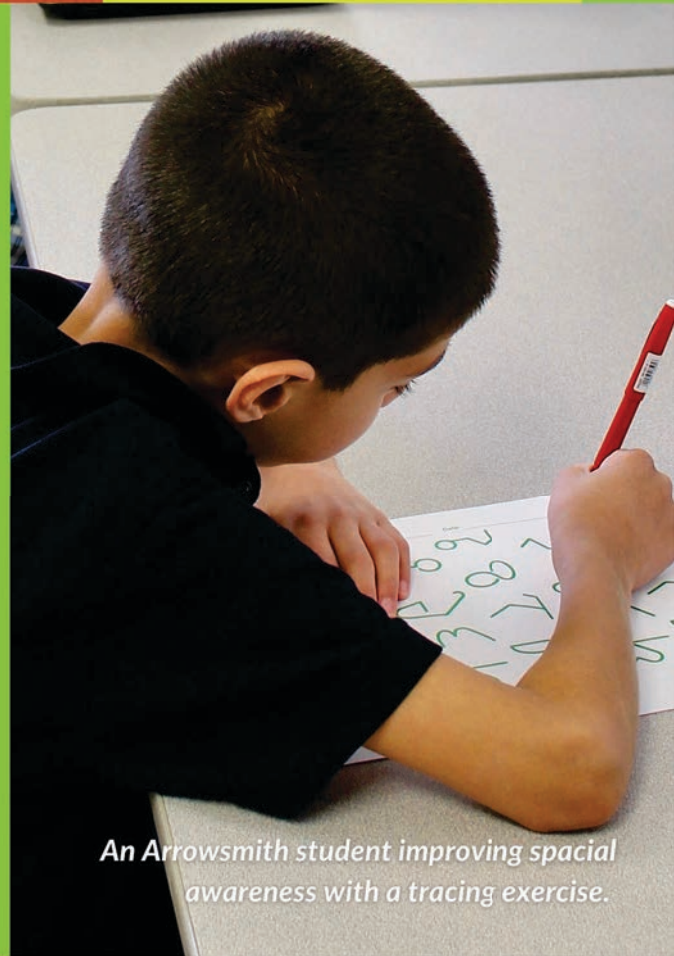
Teachers are given opportunities to learn new strategies to differentiate for their students as ongoing professional development opportunities occur throughout the year.

ARROWSMITH PROGRAM

At RVS, we offer an optional part-time Arrowsmith program specifically designed for Grade 2-6 students with identified learning challenges.

In Grades 4-6, RVS students engage in daily Arrowsmith 'Brain Power' sessions aimed at strengthening the cognitive functions essential for learning.

Our Arrowsmith-certified teachers leverage the science of neuroplasticity to retrain the brain, providing students with the tools they need to succeed both in the classroom and in life. River Valley School is proud to be the only school in Alberta offering the Arrowsmith Program.



An Arrowsmith student improving spatial awareness with a tracing exercise.

OUTCOME 1: ENSURING FINANCIAL STABILITY

Wonder lives in a school with a healthy and sustainable financial model that balances the needs of current and future organizational objectives.

	Consistency with Mission, Vision and Values	Student Growth and Achievement	Learning Supports	Teaching and Leading	Governance	Local & Societal Context
School Priorities						
Wonder lives in a school with a healthy and sustainable financial model that balances the needs of current and future organizational objectives.	We ignite the natural wonder of childhood by cultivating personal connections and rich opportunities for learning.	Students will achieve better outcomes in their learning as a result of being able to allocate funds to educational resources to support success in learning.	Students will have access to a robust learning support program (OT, SLP, remedial and enrichment) that will provide resources and instructional strategies that give students the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual support needed to learn.	Teachers will be given more professional development opportunities to expand their knowledge base, network with other educators, expand on their skill set and build up their "teacher toolkits."	Governors will steward and safeguard the school for the next generation by focussing on responsible financial spending and borrowing, fundraising, and planning for the long term success of the school.	The school will continue to thrive and grow with a focus on improving student, family and neighborhood well-being.
		The school will maintain and grow revenue streams in order to continue to provide quality education for our students.		The school will maintain, reach or exceed its enrollment and fundraising goals and keep expenses in check.		
Matching Alberta Priorities						
Alberta's students have access to a variety of learning opportunities to enhance competitiveness in the modern economy.		The school will provide education programming to support the success of all learners.	Students will benefit from remediation, enrichment, differentiation, and reinforcement through learning supports offered.	The school will maintain and grow revenue streams to support optimal learning for our students.	Governors will allocate and manage fiscal resources in the interest of ensuring student success.	The school will provide career education that enables students to explore and experience various occupations.
Alberta's K-12 education system and workforce are well-managed.		Students will learn in an environment that is safe and caring.	Students will have access to facilities and resources that meet their unique needs.	The school will offer creative spaces to foster optimum learning amongst school leaders, teachers and students.	Governors will continue to create efficiencies within the education system by streamlining financial and governance practices.	The school will enhance relationship building in their local community through school based supports.

STRATEGIES

- Identify and manage all potential risks of disruption to operations
- Enhance and maintain buildings and grounds
- Grow the culture of philanthropy
- Strengthen financial systems (process, people, and technology)
- Develop a business interruption risk mitigation plan

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- Continued servicing of debt and optimized credit facilities
- Established a competitive tuition pricing strategy aligned with the Calgary peer school market
- Orchestrated successful fundraising activities to enhance facilities and expand programming
- Developed a comprehensive business interruption risk mitigation plan

REFLECTIONS FROM 2023/24

- Accurately represented the financial future of RVS
- Completed one major project of continuous facilities improvement
- Continued servicing of debt and credit facility optimization
- Hired an all hazards planning/risk mitigation consultant to develop plan



OUTCOME 2: MODERNIZING AND OPTIMIZING OUR CAMPUS

Wonder lives in a school with an adaptive, innovative, and inspiring learning environment that bolsters curiosity and provides the greatest opportunities for learner success and wellbeing.

	Consistency with Mission, Vision and Values	Student Growth and Achievement	Learning Supports	Teaching and Leading	Governance	Local & Societal Context
School Priorities						
Wonder lives in a school with an adaptive, innovative, and inspiring learning environment that bolsters curiosity and provides the greatest opportunities for learner success and wellbeing.	We spark a love of learning in every child through the discover of their individual best.	Through repairs, maintenance, and renovations of our facility, students will thrive in an environment that fosters improved academic outcomes and empowers students to reach their full potential.	Students will be provided an environment that maintains a healthy and engaging setting. More space will be made available for contracted learning support individuals.	Students will continue to be in a joyful and inspiring environment, surrounded by teachers and staff who care deeply about them, while enjoying a space that supports the success of student learning.	Governors will support the engagement of a professional architect to develop the long range campus plan of the school to enhance student learning through inspiring facilities and outdoor spaces.	The school will provide use of their facilities to the local community for public gathering occurrences and recreational opportunities.
	We ignite the natural wonder of childhood by cultivating personal connections and rich opportunities for learning.	The school will provide a facility with space for improved programming where students will broaden their curiosities and dive deeper into their learning.	The school will provide facilities that are accessible and reflective of rich opportunities for learning which focus on flexibility of space, access to technology and interactive learning.	Teachers will benefit from increased student engagement and motivation, stronger relationships, enhanced collaboration and an increased sense of ownership over student learning.	Governors will oversee the planning and development of a facility that supports the vision, mission and values of the school.	
	We value social and character development as much as academic achievement.					
Matching Alberta Priorities						
Alberta's students are successful.		Students will be supported by teachers who believe in the value of strong relationships and provide rich experiences for learning.	The school will implement capital strategies that address classroom complexities through specialized learning supports and improved access to qualified professionals and educational assistants.	The school will keep in mind the importance of a safe, caring and healthy learning environment as plans for modernization continue to be developed and acted upon.	Governors will implement school capital strategies to address areas of greatest student need.	The school will be communicative, considerate and responsive to their neighbours throughout the renovation stages.

STRATEGIES

- Develop a multi-phased campus master plan
- Raise funds for facilities improvements through an annual giving plan and a phased comprehensive capital campaign

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- Developed landscape plans for the upgrading of our outdoor play spaces
- Planned three significant facilities projects per year
- Engaged students, parents, staff and board members in long range campus plan development
- Met school's fundraising targets for the year

REFLECTIONS FROM 2023/24

- Engaged 25% of our staff to capture a list of campus priorities
- Engaged 100% of our Board and 100% of our students through design thinking projects in Pre-JK to Grade 6 to capture their list of campus priorities
- Developed a multi-phased campus master plan to be revisited on a timely basis
- Exceeded gala target fundraising goal for 2023/24 and increased annual fundraising overall



Junior Kindergartens learning about continents

OUTCOME 3: NURTURING SUCCESS BEYOND ELEMENTARY

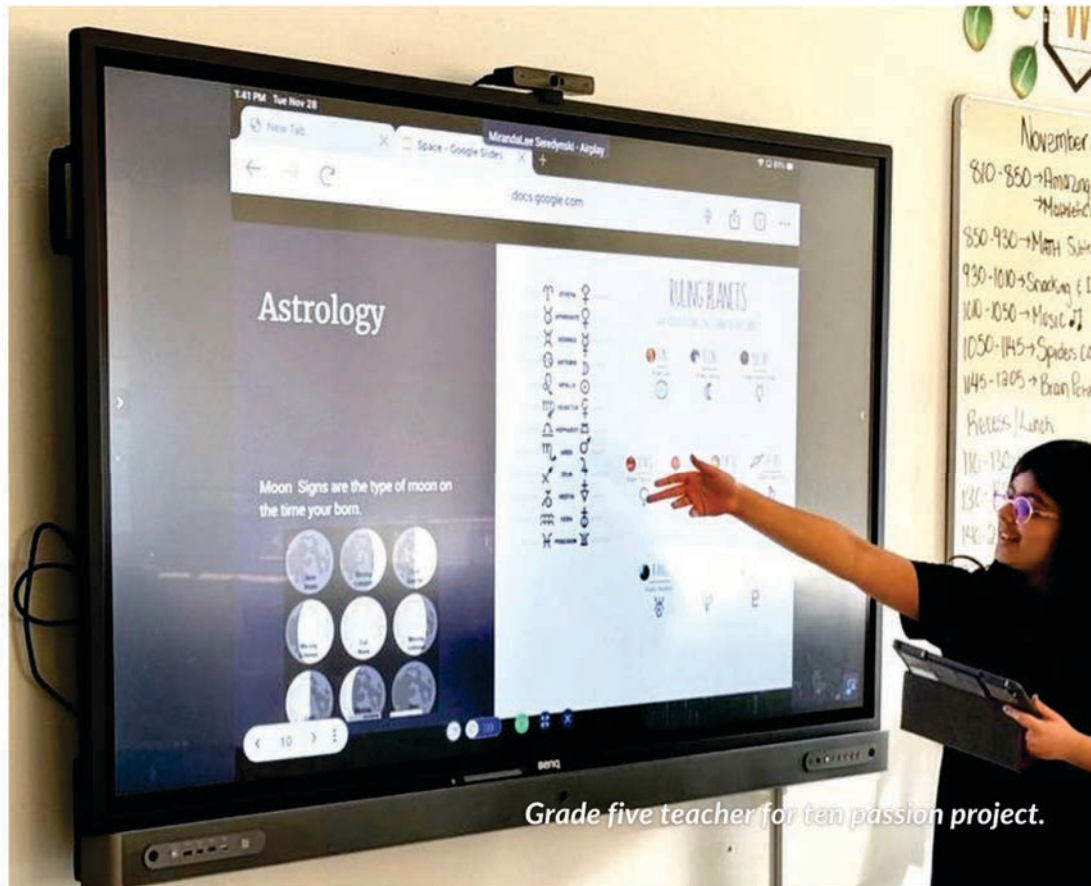
Wonder lives in a school that empowers students to be who they are and provides rich opportunities to achieve their personal best, so that they may be successful wherever their journey takes them.

	Consistency with Mission, Vision and Values	Student Growth and Achievement	Learning Supports	Teaching and Leading	Governance	Local & Societal Context
School Priorities						
Wonder lives in a school that empowers students to be who they are and provides rich opportunities to achieve their personal best, so that they may be successful wherever their journey takes them.	We spark a love of learning in every child through the discovery of their individual best.	Students will utilize a growth mindset in order to be persistent, self-motivated, and better problem solvers, demonstrating life skills needed beyond elementary.	Students will advocate for themselves and be empowered to find solutions to their problems.	Teachers will build academic skills and competencies that promote lifelong learning.	Governors will ensure organizational planning to deliver programs that align with the school's vision, mission and values.	The school will retain strong relationships with other peer schools to identify best fit schools for a variety of learner profiles.
	We value social and character development as much as academic achievement.	The school will define academic skills and competencies required for lifelong learning.	Teachers will encourage self advocacy in order for students to take ownership in their learning such as asking for accommodations and/or modifications that will have the biggest impact on their learning.	The school will support building teacher capacity by creating a safe and supportive environment where teachers can experiment, take risks, share ideas, and learn from each other to support this outcome.	Governors will support students, families and staff in the creation and ongoing implementation of programming that nurtures community and individual well-being.	The school will foster community partnerships (Outreach Program) to foster real-world connections and demonstrate the importance of community involvement.
		Students will actively engage in cross-curricular learning activities that support the implementation of Truth and Reconciliation, such as writing and sharing personalized land acknowledgements, honouring Orange Shirt Day, exploring First Nations art and storytelling, and celebrating the land we learn on through outdoor education.		Teachers will be provided with resources such as Turtle Island Voices and Infusing Indigenous Knowledge that align with new curriculum to intentionally support implementation of Truth and Reconciliation.		The school will continue to foster relationships with elders in the community to support the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations.

	Consistency with Mission, Vision and Values	Student Growth and Achievement	Learning Supports	Teaching and Leading	Governance	Local & Societal Context
Matching Alberta Priorities						
Alberta's students are successful.		The school will continue to offer curriculum that provides students with literacy, numeracy, citizenship and practical skills.	Students will participate in provincial assessments including early years literacy and numeracy screening to assess progress, identify learning challenges and monitor student success.	Teachers will be provided with the results of all provincial assessments and analyze strengths and areas for growth to support instructional planning at all grade levels.	Governors will allocate and manage fiscal resources in the interest of ensuring student success.	Leadership will collaborate with teachers to find or create activities that involve working with community experts to engage students in authentic projects and experiences to develop career awareness.
Alberta's students have access to a variety of learning opportunities to enhance competitiveness in the modern economy.		Students will be supported to explore educational programming from feeder schools to contribute to their success beyond elementary.	Teachers will focus on building resilience skills through modeling, problem-solving, and communication to support students in the managing of stressors and challenges more effectively in the future.	The school will create a formal assessment process to evaluate and monitor development of academic skills and competencies.	Governors will use evidence to plan for continuous improvement, while utilizing and sharing their own professional expertise.	The school will collaborate with the wider community to enrich the education of students and broaden the opportunities that are available to the students.



Making dream spinners in Grade two.



Grade five teacher for ten passion project.

STRATEGIES

- Build academic skills and competencies that promote lifelong learning
- Analyze the results of provincial achievement tests for Grade 6 and the Alberta Education Assurance (AEA) survey to locally develop or select measures that support the transition to best-fit schools.
- Facilitate optimal transition to best fit schools for every student



Grade five and one buddies reading on the playground.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- Teachers utilized a consistent assessment process beginning in September 2023
- Developed scope and sequence of academic skills and competencies
- Established plans to further support individual student needs
- Established and maintained a point of contact in mission-similar peer schools

REFLECTIONS FROM 2023/24

- Developed and implemented a scope and sequence matrix of academic skills and competencies in K - Grade 6
- Built a scope and sequence matrix into teachers' long range plans for Pre-JK to Grade 6
- Board approved to increase service hours of occupational therapist and speech language pathologist

OUTCOME 4: STRENGTHENING OUR BRAND

Wonder lives in a school that empowers students to be who they are and provides rich opportunities to achieve their personal best, so that they may be successful wherever their journey takes them.

	Consistency with Mission, Vision and Values	Student Growth and Achievement	Learning Supports	Teaching and Leading	Governance	Local & Societal Context
School Priorities						
Wonder lives in a school that prides itself on being a leader in early childhood and elementary education and utilizes every opportunity to showcase its unique story to the greater community in a meaningful way.	We ignite the natural wonder of childhood by cultivating personal connections and rich opportunities for learning.	Students will warmly welcome prospective parents and students on school tours and when appropriate showcase their learning.	The school will elevate our position within external associations and partnerships.	The school will clearly communicate brand identity to all key stakeholders.	Governors will serve as strong advocates for the school. They act as ambassadors of the school's vision, mission and values, and promote the school within their own personal and professional networks.	The school will host public events at the school that align with the school's vision, mission, and values.
Matching Alberta Priorities						
Alberta's K-12 education system and workforce are well-managed.		The school will make visible on our website our annual Alberta Education Assurance Measure Results.	The school will continue to provide early intervention resources for ECS classes such as OT and SLP support.	The school will recruit teachers who are experienced and strong in early childhood and elementary education.	Governors will promote choice in education to enhance student learning.	The school will highlight its vision, mission, and values, and its unique strengths and accomplishments to students, parents, and the greater community through communication portholes.
			The school will provide best practice resources that contribute to the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth of the students and allow for equal opportunity in achieving success at school.			

STRATEGIES

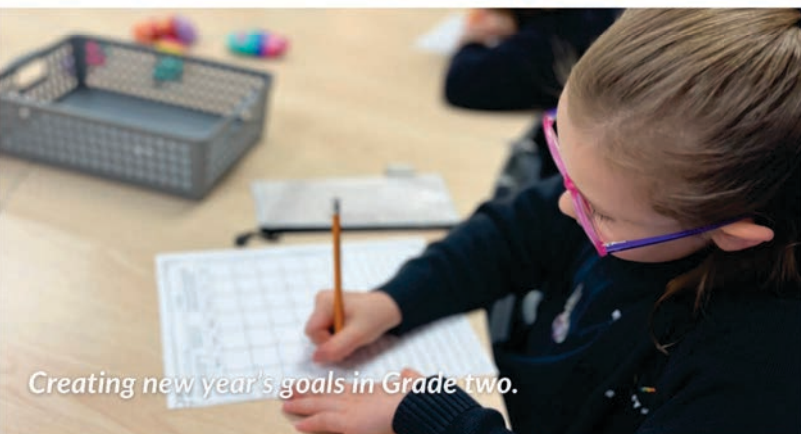
- Define and articulate the brand identity of River Valley School
- Increase external awareness and recognition of the school and its programs to ensure school sustainability
- Refresh website with updated brand messaging

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- Achieved full school enrolment (300+) with waiting lists at almost every grade level
- Increased number of new inquiries and applications to the school
- Developed stakeholder surveys to demonstrate understanding of mission, vision, and value statement
- Established school's position in community through participation in external community events

REFLECTIONS FROM 2023/24

- Increased number of new inquiries to the school and increased school enrolment
- Confirmed full school enrolment for 2024/25
- Submitted CAIS (Canadian Accredited Independent Schools) application in December 2023 and became a CAIS Candidate School in May 2024
- Participated with one local targeted community association per year
- Tracked referrals with inquiry and applications and developed a referral recognition program (Ongoing)
- Senior leadership attended networking events and speaking engagements (CAIS Academic Conference/AISCA workshops/sessions/Our Kids Expo)



Creating new year's goals in Grade two.



Grade six photography project.

OUTCOME 5: BEING THE EDUCATIONAL EMPLOYER OF CHOICE IN CALGARY

Wonder lives in a school that provides a dynamic and desirable environment and culture that facilitates the development, success and well-being of its teachers and staff.

	Consistency with Mission, Vision and Values	Student Growth and Achievement	Learning Supports	Teaching and Leading	Governance	Local & Societal Context
School Priorities						
Wonder lives in a school that provides a dynamic and desirable environment and culture that facilitates the development, success and well-being of its teachers and staff.	We spark a love of learning in every child through the discovery of their individual best.	The school will promote professional development through well developed programs to support student learning.	The school will identify, develop and retain the best fit staff.	The school will maintain optimal classroom attributes (student/ teacher ratio, prep time, ample resources).	Governors will support organizational practices aimed at the long term growth and well-being of our community members.	The school will offer professional and personal support through access to: admin team, external professional supports, benefits package.
	We ignite the natural wonder of childhood by cultivating personal connections and rich opportunities for learning.					
	We value social and character development as much as academic achievement.					
Matching Alberta Priorities						
Alberta's K-12 education system and workforce are well-managed.		The school will employ dedicated educators who are positive, enthusiastic and team players.	The school will address classroom complexities through specialized learning supports and improved access to qualified professionals and educational assistants.	The school will offer a comprehensive and competitive compensation and benefits package for all staff.	Governors will work with school leaders on recruitment and retention strategies for teachers and other school staff in underserved areas.	The school will provide a safe, caring and healthy learning environment.



Coding using Spheros in Grade three.



Practising numbers in French.



Kids Helping Kids Maker Market.

STRATEGIES

- Foster a supportive and caring work environment
- Identify, develop and retain the best fit staff
- Offer a comprehensive and competitive compensation and benefits package for all staff

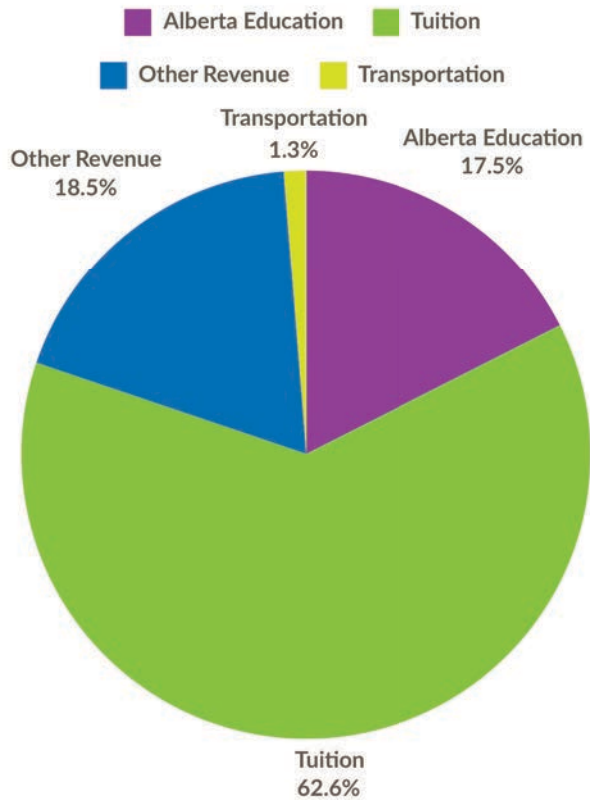
MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- Increased staff participation in staff well-being/social activities
- Compensated staff according to market standards
- Created staff driven Professional Development (PD) planning (collective and individual)
- Created and maintained vision and mission appropriate teaching scenarios for all classrooms

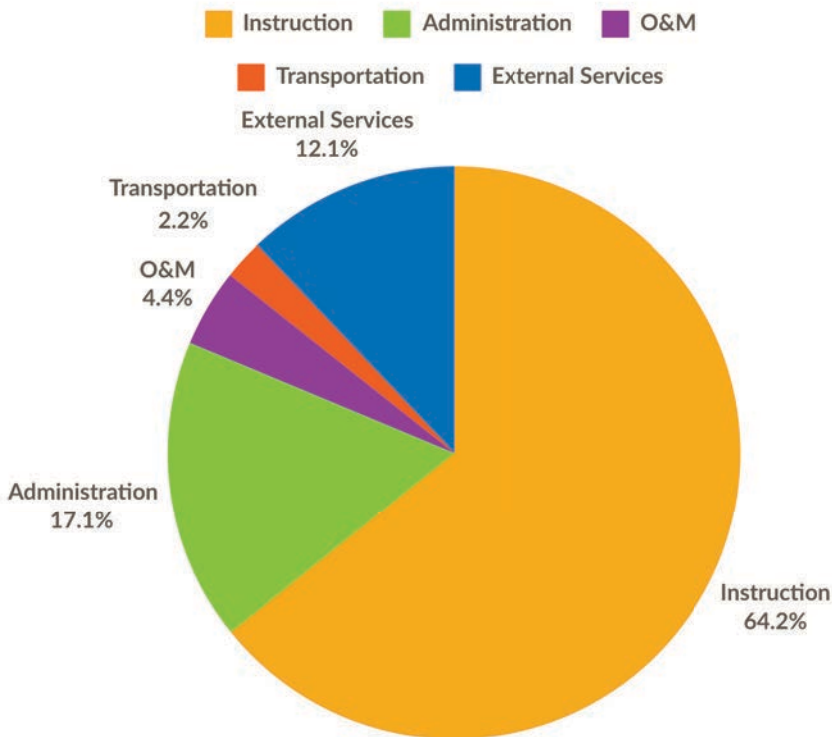
REFLECTIONS FROM 2023/24

- Increased staff participation in staff-focussed well-being/social activities by 20%
- Created staff PD committee who successfully planned this year's PD activities
- Continued school's best practice of 1:10 teacher/student ratio
- Maintained minimum of 20% of teachers' week allocated in prep time and minimum of 40 minutes per week allocated in structured collaborative time
- Created staff education opportunities on health and wellness benefits

BUDGET SUMMARY 2024/2025



Revenue Summary	
Alberta Education	\$1,561,826
Tuition	\$5,576,681
Other Revenue	\$1,649,917
Transportation	\$113,625
Total Revenue	\$8,902,049



Expense Summary	
Instruction	\$4,591,640
Administration	\$1,926,677
O&M	\$550,914
Transportation	\$150,046
External Services	\$938,447
Total Expense	\$8,157,724

Total Surplus: \$744,325



RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL

WONDER LIVES HERE

Contact

River Valley School
3127 Bowwood Drive NW
Calgary, AB. T3B 2E7

403.246.2275

www.rivervalleyschool.ca

info@rivervalleyschool.ca

