



School: Henderson Elementary

Principal: Dean Thorsell

School Growth Plan

Purpose and Vision:

School Growth Plans are school specific strategic plans. They are:

- collaboratively developed;
- focused on student learning goals;
- aligned with the District Strategic Plan
- evidence-informed using a cycle of improvement;
- specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound.

Content:

The following content will be used to create School Growth Plan documents and/or website pages for each school and department. Please also email three pictures to the Director of Communications: an image to go with *Our Story*, an image to go with *Our Learners*, and an image to go with *Our Story is Beyond*.

Our Story

Henderson Elementary is the *Little School with a Big Heart*. With 119 students enrolled for the 2024 school year we feel it is important to get to know each student and their unique strengths and stretches. By focusing on a growth mindset, and the belief that every child is unique, we create an atmosphere of care, and foster a positive learning environment.

Henderson Elementary is honoured to be located near the traditional village tisk^wət over-looking the Salish Sea. The tisk^wət village was used as hunting and fishing grounds for thousands of years and as such, we believe we are continuing a tradition of learning in this beautiful place. We draw primarily from neighbourhood families which gives us a distinctive feel of connection and belonging.

Henderson Elementary may be a small school, however, with our focus on developing social-emotional skills we know that our students make an impact on their school, family, and community.

Our Learners

In addition to developing social-emotional skills and deepening our appreciation for the land and land keepers in our area, staff at Henderson Elementary place a strong focus on improving the literary skills of our learners. We have resourced programs throughout our primary grades to ensure that students receive a strong foundation; and we are beginning to see some very positive results. The DIBELS results from the 2023-24 year saw a full grade increase for nearly all our students. We expect to continue to see this growth as we plan to again focus on literacy as our core academic goal for the upcoming year.

Goal 1

District Priority 1: Cultivating an Ethic of Learning

Ensure early learners and students have the best possible learning experience (student success).

Henderson Elementary will work on improving all students' reading achievement level by the end of the year as measured by DIBEL's reading assessment.

Action

1. All students will have a reading assessment done at the beginning, middle, and end of the year using the DIBELS reading assessment. Teachers will utilize additional assessments such as Benchmarks, Jerry Johns etc. as required for individual students. Following each assessment period, the school learning team will review the results with the District Director of Instruction. Following that meeting the school learning team will meet with the classroom teacher to determine the next step for each student.
2. Staff will engage in classroom-based developmental, accelerated, and interventive reading programs. Teachers and intervention staff will assess students regularly to determine progress towards their individual goals.
3. Staff will use formative assessment tools to know where students are at and can tailor their lessons to meet the needs of all the students in their class.
4. Henderson will foster student writing by giving opportunities for students to "publish" their writing to a larger audience.

Evidence

1. There will be a 20% decrease in students labelled as vulnerable in the DIBELS reading assessments by June. All students will see an improvement in their DIBELS assessment from September to January to June.
2. A portion of each staff meeting will be reserved for reviewing classroom-based literacy. These programs could include things like UFLI, Heggerty, Literacy Stations, Raz kids, Choice reading, Decodable Books, Reader's Workshop, etc.
3. All teachers have literacy frameworks that include formative assessment as part of their toolkit.
4. All classrooms have at least one method of "publishing" their writing by June these could include: "hot off the press" bins in classrooms or the library, author's chair or author's corner, creating a school/class newsletter, or a school/class blog where students can post their work to an online audience.

Goal 2

District Priority 3: Cultivating Connection

Prioritize mental health, community connections, and social-emotional learning.

The staff at Henderson will promote connectedness with the school and local community

Action

1. Henderson Staff will take part in the STARR program as a school, on daily announcements, at assemblies, in our daily routines, and classroom instruction.
2. Henderson will promote connectedness with our community through School/PAC activities where the Community will be invited in for an event at the school. These activities will look like: a BBQ in September (Meet the teachers) and June (end of school), a family dinner in February?, family movie nights.
3. Henderson staff will recreate house teams and house team events to create a culture of connection amongst the whole school where mixed age group teams come together to create, compete, and connect with one another.

Evidence

1. The STARR program is woven into the culture of Henderson Elementary in the many ways listed above throughout the year. A short survey will be done in the first and second half of the year on SEL competencies with some classes and we will compare the results to see if the STARR program has helped improve school culture.
2. At the end of the year families will be given an opportunity to reflect in a survey regarding the activities that took place during the year. This will help us plan for future activities.
3. By the end of September, all students will be divided onto 4 house teams and at least one event will be planned to occur before November to bring house teams together, allow students to connect with one another, and work together to achieve a goal.
By the end of the year, each house team will have a logo and have it painted onto a board to be placed on the gym wall.
By the end of the year, house teams will have participated in at least 3 events throughout the year that have fostered connection within each house team.

Goal 3

District Priority 5: Cultivating Integrity/Responsibility

(truth and reconciliation, climate change, organizational health and sustainability)

Improve Indigenous student success and/or a sense of belonging and presence for Indigenous learners

Action

1. Henderson staff will continue to foster a deeper relationship with the Indigenous education department and work with our Indigenous success teachers, and the čεpθ to create learning opportunities for students. Staff will be working to increase their use of ayajuthem in their classroom as part of their professional learning throughout the year. Additional opportunities that will be explored are:

- An Indigenous themed mural to be completed by all homerooms – in conjunction with the čepθ. This year we will be highlighting a χəwgəs (bear). We will try to connect with a local indigenous artist to outline the χəwgəs for the class to paint.
- Introduce opportunities for students to carve - possibly connected with a knowledge keeper who could share stories with students as they carve.
- Purchase resources and materials to create Indigenous Ed kits for classrooms
- Create a bench for students on the grounds with indigenous carvings/stories

Evidence

1. We will measure success through anecdotal and observational reviews of student engagement. We will also use data obtained by FSA, MDI, Student Survey, and report cards. Mural will be completed by June 2025.
2. Staff will complete two reflections on the rubric from the InEd conference in September. One reflection in the first half of the year, and another at the end of the year to determine areas of growth and areas to continue to grow.

Our Story is Beyond

In addition to our Academic and Social-Emotional goals for this upcoming year we at Henderson Elementary will also be engaging frequently with the High School to find as many opportunities as possible to bring Brooks students into our classrooms. This may be through buddy reading, passion project presentations, sports days, and exploring growth within the performing arts. We will also be implementing a Student Leadership program that provides students from Grades 6 and 7 with an opportunity to be an active member of the school community and continue to work with staff to exemplify what it means to be the *Little School with a Big Heart*.