



Calgary Arts Academy

Education Plan

2021-2024

May 31, 2021

The Art of Learning



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Message from the Board

As a public charter school, Calgary Arts Academy delivers the Alberta Curriculum through Arts Immersion. Students become self-confident learners who are curious, engaged, collaborative, critical thinkers, and problem solvers. These competencies are necessary to succeed and flourish given the ambiguities of the fourth industrial revolution. Calgary Arts Academy continues to enhance student outcomes illustrated by student achievement.

Calgary Arts Academy Society Board of Directors support the Choice in Education Act and commend Alberta Education.

Moving forward, areas of focus are:

- 1.Provision of Infrastructure to support student growth to 100 students at each grade level, providing sufficient resources for Kindergarten to Year 12 Arts Immersion programming.
- 2.Strengthening and expanding our key partnerships with the Calgary Stampede and the Calgary Public Library.
- 3.Actively creating meaningful partnerships with the Calgary arts community.
- 4.Post-secondary engagement with The Alberta University of the Arts and the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology for high school programming.
- 5.To support research and sharing of findings, success, and reasons for success in collaboration with The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools.
- 6.To advocate for the arts and arts education in contemporary society.

Core to our work remains the maintenance of our strong culture, our inclusive school community, strong governance, and financial accountability.

Thank you.



Ken McNeill
Vice-Chair
Calgary Arts Academy Society

Accountability Statement

The Education Plan for Calgary Arts Academy commencing August 16th, 2021 was prepared under the direction of the Board/Board of Directors in accordance with the responsibilities under the *Education Act* and the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*. 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.

The Board approved the Education Plan for 2021 to 2024 on May 18th, 2021.

Timelines and Communication

This report is posted to www.caaschool.com / Accountability / Education Plan 2021-2024.

Zone Director notified on May 31, 2021.



Continuous Improvement

Results from the Annual Education Results Report (AERR) have formed this plan. Calgary Arts Academy's Education Plan is a reflection of its commitment to fulfilling its charter, to provide a collaborative, democratic learning environment, empowering each individual to become self-directed, life-long learners who value community-focused and citizen-based action facilitated through effective communication, collaboration, critical and creative thinking.

Alberta Education's requirements for reporting assesses performance broadly and locally. Calgary Arts Academy's charter school goals and outcomes have integrated the broader outcomes that outline overall priorities at Calgary Arts Academy.

Stakeholder engagement and feedback is essential to the process of continuous improvement and drives our education plan. Allocation of financial resources to support the plan and implementation of researched-based and practice informed strategies follows. Reflecting on data throughout the teaching and learning process supports effective program delivery and student achievement. Measuring, analyzing and reporting results offers valuable opportunities for reflection, re-envisioning, and revising. Communicating with and engaging stakeholders brings us back to planning for improvement. This Education Plan is evidence of continuous improvement and assurance.

Our Education Plan sets out what needs to be done, while our AERR provides the results obtained from implementing this plan. This is a rolling education plan, meaning the 3-year timeframe will 'roll' forward with a new year added for each one completed. This plan will be updated annually and will reflect adjustments in priorities, outcomes, measures and strategies for implementation. This plan aligns our four charter school goals, locally developed outcomes and aligns with the five assurance domains provided by Alberta Education.



Stakeholder Engagement

School Council: Calgary Arts Academy families connect with the school leadership team through monthly School Council meetings, where dialogue on school priorities, planning and challenges occur. The School Council Chair has the opportunity to attend the Calgary Arts Academy Society Board meetings. As such, they represent our stakeholders.

Students: Students are engaged in discussions and surveys regarding their thoughts, ideas, and interests.

Parents: Parents are engaged in discussions, meetings, formal and informal conversations and surveys.

Teachers: Teachers are engaged in planning discussions, meetings, formal and informal conversations and surveys.

Resident Artists: Calgary Arts Academy Artists engage with students, teachers, parents, alumni and professional artists and organizations in the community to support the continual growth of arts programming.

Advocacy Committee: This Board committee supports and guides school engagements with a variety of community stakeholders.

Community Partnerships: Calgary Arts Academy builds and maintains strong partnerships that benefit programming and students through the Community Arts Partnership Coordinator.

Calgary Arts Academy Annual Survey: All parents, staff and students have the opportunity to complete local school surveys. This information has been used to modify and determine new school goals.

On-line Forums: As part of our school re-entry plan, the leadership team used online forums (Zoom) to communicate with parents. Given the added challenges the global pandemic presented, online forums kept stakeholders informed and engaged.

Partner Research Schools: Calgary Arts Academy Administration participates in the Leading and Learning Initiative hosted by the University of Calgary.

Provincial Assurance Domain: Local Societal Context

Within Alberta, there are 13 active public charter schools. This [VIDEO](#) provides a brief overview of what the role and purpose of Public Charter Schools is in the province of Alberta. Alberta's charter schools are publicly funded schools, with no tuition fees, that provide education in a different or enhanced way to improve student learning.

Calgary Arts Academy is operating in one elementary campus (K-3) located at 2036 - 20 Avenue S.W., and one middle school campus (4-9) located at 640 - 14 Avenue S.E. in Calgary, Alberta. We have been approved to offer high school and are currently housing our first Year 10 class and will be moving forward with Year 11 in the 2021-2022 school year at our Education Centre Campus. Our students come from all four quadrants in Calgary and surrounding areas.

Calgary Arts Academy serves students and parents who value education delivered through Arts Immersion, a unique planning and delivery model that begins with five art forms (music, drama, visual art, dance and literary arts) and infuses core curriculum. In order to accomplish this, Calgary Arts Academy hires teachers who are artists in their own right and, in addition, now has 5 full-time artists who work collaboratively with teachers to plan and deliver the Alberta Curriculum.

In addition, Calgary Arts Academy hires short-term contract artists as required.

Calgary Arts Academy is performance based. All performances are original and based on the program of studies. All students participate.

Grade	Count	Grade	Count
Kindergarten	43	Year 4	46
Year 1	52	Year 5	50
Year 2	53	Year 6	47
Year 3	44	Year 7	45
		Year 8	54
		Year 9	37
		Year 10	13
Total KH	170.5 FTE	Total EC	292 FTE
		Total	462 FTE
		Year 1 to 9	441 FTE

Provincial Assurance Domain: Student Growth and Achievement

Calgary Arts Academy students demonstrate citizenship, engage intellectually and grow continuously as learners.

Outcomes

- Students demonstrate superior language and communication skills through Arts Immersion learning
- Students demonstrate superior numeracy skills through Arts Immersion learning
- Teachers, parents and students are satisfied that students model the characteristics of active citizenship
- Students are taught attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful at work when they finish school

Provincial Performance Measures

- Overall percentage of students in Grades 6 and 9 who achieved the Acceptable and Excellence standard on Provincial Achievement Tests
- Percentage of teachers, parents and students who are satisfied that students model the characteristics of active citizenship
- 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
- Percentage of teacher and parent satisfaction that students demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for lifelong learning

Local Performance Measures

- Percentage of students in Year 4-9 that report participation in enriched learning activities as part of the learning contracts in Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and Science
- Percentage of learning facilitators who feel more confident and have a better understanding of scope and sequence in math teaching and learning
- Percentage of students in Year 4-9 achieving Mastery and Independence Levels on report cards or learning contracts

Strategies

- Focus on literacy and numeracy through cross-disciplinary Arts Immersion instruction
- Year K-5 focus on balanced literacy instruction
- Continue professional development using the JUMP math program, Math Minds and math related PD
- Focus on literacy and numeracy learning progressions across divisions
- Focus on differentiation and small group instruction
- Engage students and parents regarding what active citizenship / spirited citizenship looks like at Calgary Arts Academy

Alberta Education Assurance Goal: Excellence in teaching and leading.

Calgary Arts Academy teachers and leaders make decisions resulting in quality teaching, leading and optimum learning for all.

Outcomes

- Teachers provide quality instruction based on the Teaching Quality Standard
- Teachers focus on the provision of quality Cross-Curricular Arts Immersion teaching and learning
- Improved teaching and learning opportunities through enhanced technology
- School administrators provide quality leadership and support
- School administrators will continue to provide opportunities for quality professional development

Provincial Performance Measures

- Percentage of parents, teaching facilitators and students satisfied with the overall quality of education
- Percentage of teaching facilitators and students satisfied with teachers professional development

Local Performance Measures

- Percentage of teachers reporting that they participate in and facilitate Cross Curricular Arts Immersion teaching and learning at least 80% of the learning time
- Percentage of students and teachers reporting that students have completed meaningful technological projects related to the core subjects they study
- Percentage of teachers who agree they have the opportunity to participate in discussions and decision making that furthers teaching and learning at CAA
- Percentage of teachers satisfied with professional development opportunities
- Supervision and evaluation process for staff based on Alberta Education's Quality Standards

Strategies

- Focus on Arts Immersion, Cross-Curricular examination of curriculum
- School Administration to approve all learning contracts for rich, engaging Cross-Curricular, Arts Immersion learning activities
- Implementing the online portfolio tool (FreshGrade) for students, parents and staff to promote effective assessment and communication
- Provide optional locally designed courses that meet students interests
- Ensure explicit connection of learning to the curriculum Focus on the SAMR model to ensure we are using technology in meaningful ways.
- Intentional hiring and team structures reflect the benefits of teaching and learning in our purpose built facility
- Develop professional online learning community within the school

Provincial Assurance Domain: Learning Supports

Calgary Arts Academy provides a learning environment where local and societal context is recognized, diversity is embraced, a sense of belonging is emphasized and all students are

Outcomes

- Students, families and staff have knowledge and can live according to Circle of Courage values
- Students, families and staff feel that they belong to the school community
- All students participate in Mindfulness (weekly)
- Students, families and staff have the opportunity to develop a deep foundational knowledge of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit experiences
- Students are identified and supported through our early math and reading intervention program

Provincial Performance Measures

- Percentage of students, parents, and teachers who agree that students feel like they belong and are supported to be successful in their learning
- Percentage of students and parents who agree that students are engaged in their learning
- Overall 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

Local Performance Measures

- Percentage of students, teachers and parents that report they were actively engaged in opportunities to acquire and apply foundational knowledge of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit experiences
- Percentage of students who participate in Mindfulness (weekly)

Strategies

- Use of the Circle of Courage as a fundamental pillar to our school
- Hiring school counsellor, early math and reading intervention assistants
- Weekly staff development discussions on positive discipline
- Improve communication through sharing information in newsletters and on our website, including information on our pillars
- Engagement with Treaty 7 Leaders to discuss and understand student needs and wants
- Maintain Downie Wenjack Legacy Schools designation to build cultural understanding and create a path to further reconciliation
- Use of varied cultural and racial presentations and community resources
- Continue to recognize Orange Shirt Day
- Continue annual celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day K-9 on June 21st
- Continue to participate in Pink Shirt Day

Provincial Assurance Domain: Governance

Policy leaders demonstrate stewardship of system resources with an emphasis on student success, generative community engagement, transparency and accountability.

Outcomes

- School Council and parents are engaged around the planning and reporting cycle
- Teachers are engaged to inform the improvement of teaching and learning
- Partnerships result in mutually beneficial projects, decisions and agreement
- Communication with Alberta government is productive and constructive
- Resources are allocated and managed in the interests of ensuring student success

Provincial Performance Measures

- 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
- Overall teacher and parent satisfaction with parental involvement in decisions about their child's education
- School authorities submit the budget in the AERR each November

Local Performance Measures

- The percentage of parents involved in initiatives in support of the school
- Number of community organizations and individuals actively involved in support of the academic program
- Anecdotal evidence that communication with Alberta government is productive and constructive

Strategies

- Provide opportunity for parent engagement through School Council, meetings and surveys
- Learning Contracts ensure communication and ownership of the Program of Studies
- Intentional hiring and team structures reflect the benefits of teaching and learning in our purpose built facility
- The Board approves a budget aligned with priorities with all statutory, regulatory and disclosure requirements
- Principal presents student achievement measures to the Board at the AGM each November



Budget and Facilities

Calgary Arts Academy's [Budget for 2021/2022](#) can be accessed on our website or by contacting the Secretary Treasurer or Superintendent through the school office at (403) 532-3020.

The [2021 Capital Plan](#) and [2020-2027 Capital Plan](#) can also be found on our website or by contacting the Secretary Treasurer or Superintendent through the school office at (403) 532-3020.

Implementation Plan

Moving forward, results from our Annual Education Results Report in the fall will inform the planning cycle in the spring. This will ensure cohesion between results obtained and our future education plans. Although a great deal of planning, time and effort went into the COVID-19 re-entry plan and safety precautions in 2021, engagement strategies continued and provided the valuable input from our stakeholders that was needed.

