

Pacific Coast School

Vision: Su Sit'aatk – “New Beginnings”

Mission/Belief: To personalize learning so each student is engaged, feels cared for and finds success.



Context: Pacific Coast School provides an alternative learning environment for students in Prince Rupert. The school is located downtown in the Ocean Centre Mall. Students are working on courses from Grades 9 through 12. The school also provides an Adult Graduation Program for students over 18 years of age. Each student has a personalized Learning Plan (LP) which reflects their learning needs and may include both online courses and face to face classes. Learning Plans include goals and objectives as well as transition and exit plans for each student. Teachers engage in differentiated instruction that is responsive to the diverse learning needs and preferences of individual learners.

Each student brings unique gifts and talents to the school which are recognized and celebrated by staff and other students. Students are encouraged to consider their gifts when determining course selection and post- secondary education upon the completion of high school. The school, by nature, has a fluctuating school population and students can work at their own pace

The school boasts a program called TREC² which recognizes the importance of teamwork, respect, environment, community and culture. Students can work towards learning outcomes in an active format that also encourages their social and emotional growth. We are on Ts'msyen Territory and so the language and culture of the Ts'msyen people is acknowledged and connections are made in as many subject areas as possible. Our District Aboriginal Principal supports the school by providing a Sm'algyax teacher once a week to support our humanities teacher with English First Peoples 11 and 12 and B.C. First Nations Studies 12 . Our school receives an Aboriginal Resource Worker two days a week.

Many students at Pacific Coast School have not found success in a traditional school model and are vulnerable. Many of our students come from families struggling with poverty issues and about 90% of our students are of Aboriginal descent. The school works closely with the different agencies that support our students to ensure they are being cared for. We believe that our students can learn when their basic needs and concerns are addressed.

Goal(s):

To create a relevant and engaging learning environment that encourages students to attend school and participate in their own learning and to ensure students feel like they are safe and they belong at Pacific Coast School.

Objectives:

- 1) To implement a Flexible timetable for academic subjects for the first three blocks of the day.
- 2) To create a blended learning environment by offering a combination of Moodle online courses and numerous hands-on learning projects for our students.
- 3) To make as many connections as possible to community organizations to make learning relevant for our students.

Structures and Strategies:

ASEN Inquiry Questions

Will our "new flexible "timetable allow for patience and time for all learners at Pacific Coast School and thus increase the number of course completions and graduation rates compared to previous years?

Structures:

Weekly goal setting block of time on Monday mornings- students choose their plan for the week
 Flexible timetable- first three blocks – 9:30 to 1:15 are academic and afternoon blocks ADST(electives)
 Co-teaching
 Collaboration Wednesdays
 Online courses-UDL- Moodle

Face to face teacher classroom instruction

Fieldtrips and off site work experience

Group work

Physical Space eg tables in lounge and a cozy corner for quiet reading and calm individual space to work



Plans for Staff Development:

Planning with the new curriculum in mind- attend district sessions regarding the core competencies and developing a self-assessment tool for grades 9-12

Staff attended Positive Behavioral Support workshop to learn about proactive ways to deal with negative behaviors

Attendance in district workshops eg: Carol Fullerton, Outdoor Education workshops, Trauma informed Practice.

Technology support and implementation for PCS teachers and students with on site staff member.

Community Involvement:

Regular monthly PAC meetings

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews are connected to a Potluck Luncheon twice a year.

Community speakers invited to attend as special guests during our morning Connection Time. Topics relate to our school goal and Planning 10-12 curriculum.

Courses offered to students in the community – Learn 2 Drive and Food Safe Level 1

Students enrolled in Work Experience 12 courses

Evidence:

We believe the following items or events provides evidence that we are finding some success with our goal and subsequent objectives:

- School attendance
- Course completions
- Graduation numbers
- TREC² attendance
- Learning Plan Meetings attendance
- Positive relationships and connections
- Youth Worker interactions and support
- Demonstration of Respect – Loomsk
- Community connections made throughout the year
- Exit plans including Post Secondary Education

Course Completion at Pacific Coast School				
Year	Enrollment September	Courses Completed	Graduates	# Students we saw enrolled at PCS
2009-2010*	42	40	5	
2010-2011*	66	52	2	
2011-2012	97	117	11	
2012-2013	97	168	11	143**
2013-2014	92	190	14	145**
2014-2015	81 (October 15 th) Current enrollment- 103	171	18	161**
2015-2016	91	226	22	181**
2016-2017	72	219	20	171**

*Old location

Note: **This is new data to reflect how many students are in and out of the school each year.



Reflection and Summary:

Pacific Coast School experienced several positive changes this year. Revising the timetable to allow students flexibility to work on their courses at their own pace increased the number of course completions mid year. Students setting their SMART goals each week allowed them to take a close look at their own progress throughout the year. Some students however needed more structure with a specific schedule to work on courses throughout the week. The addition of a youth worker supported students to increase attendance and belonging at the school.

Next Steps:

Next year there will be some significant changes for the school. Two staff members who have been at the school for four years will be leaving. There will be an adjustment for students and staff as they welcome two new staff members to learn the programs and day to day functioning of the school. The staff attended PBiS training in April and have come up with a plan of action for the new school year. The school will be implementing a no cell phone zone plan next year. We have had challenges with students using cell phones inappropriately during class time.

Things to Celebrate

- 1 The new flexible timetable was a success as students bought in to having choice and flexibility with how they were going to complete their courses during the course of the school year. We noticed more engagement and less complaining and resistance from students this year compared to previous years.
- 2 Youth Worker- the addition of a skilled youth worker this was a real asset to some of our struggling students. The youth worker would go the extra mile by taking students out for coffee or lunch to connect and support when there was a crisis.
- 3 This year we established a GSA group. The group began because of a visit from the “Call Out” guests which came to our school in November. The group meets weekly during the lunch hour. There are approximately 5 regular members who attend these meetings.
- 4 Boys Fitness club with funding from Youth Action Team. The school as able to apply for a grant to support a fitness trainer to come in for ten sessions to work with a group of boys and teach them important work out methods as well as making healthy food choices after a workout.
- 5 A community member spent two weekends with a group of twelve students to study and prepare to obtain a Learner’s Licence with the Learn 2 Drive course. Out of twelve students, six have been successful so far. The other participants plan to pass the exam in the near future.

Inquiry Questions:

Will our “new flexible “timetable allow for patience and time for all learners at Pacific Coast School and thus increase the number of course completions and graduation rates compared to previous years?

Will the flexible timetable continue next year? Were the results positive? Yes, the flexible timetable will continue next year. The results were positive. Deeper learning and engagement occurred.



