

# Menno Simons Christian School

School Improvement Plan Highlights  
2022/2023



Peacemakers, working  
together to become...



**Participants**  
**Enthusiastic**  
**Accepting**  
**Christ-like**  
**Encouraging**  
**Mentors**  
**Aspiring**  
**Kind**  
**Excellent**  
**Responsible**  
**Servants**

# Mission

Menno Simons Christian School strives to assist students to integrate Christian faith with their experience and with their living. Our school provides a sound academic curriculum taught and modeled by Christian professionals, in a setting where students are nurtured as they learn, question and form life values. Together with the family and the church, Menno Simons Christian School offers an education for life, preparing students for effective participation in the community through Christian discipleship, service and peacemaking.

## ***Theme Verse for 2022/23***

***“Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” - Joshua 1:9***



We love our chapel time together on Friday mornings. This year, each class helped us understand how we can be strong and know that God is there to support us and give us strength.

Kindergarten - God is my Provider

Grade 1 - I won't be afraid because God is with me everywhere

Grade 2 - God has a plan

Grade 3 - God is my Shepherd

Grade 4 - God is all powerful/can do all things

Grade 5 - God is our Protector

Grade 6 - God is our Light in the darkness

Grade 7 - God is my Father

Grade 8 - God gives me strength

Grade 9 - I can be strong & courageous because the Lord is my salvation

# School Goals – Goal #1

**Learning environments at Menno Simons work in collaboration with community and agency partners in order to develop both programming and physical infrastructure to support and enhance student learning.**

## **Why is this important?**

*Our community is at the core of everything we do. We value our connections with students, parents, society board, Palliser School Division, supporting churches, alumni, staff, and so many more as they each support us in different ways. As we move into this new time of togetherness, we would like to focus on sharing our story in a more effective manner.*

## **Key Relationships:**

- 1. student → student**
- 2. staff → student**
- 3. school → community**

## **Key Focus Areas:**

- Identity in Christ
- Cultural Identity
- Mental Health
- Physical Health/Nutrition

## **Staff PD Focus:**

- The story behind Menno Simons Christian School
- Creating Cultures of Thinking (Ron Ritchhart)
- Mental Health

# Goal #1: How did we do? How do we know?

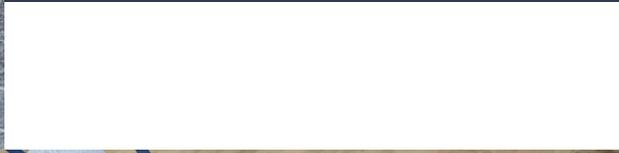
## School Events/Opportunities:

- JH Leadership opportunities and option class
- Camp Chestermere - community building for JH
- SALTS - Grade 9
- New Physical Education & Wellness curriculum with a focus on social emotional health
- Chapel, class devotions
- Cross-grade connections (buddies, school events such as Penny Carnival/Terry Fox)
- Peace Festival
- Making Connections worker and FSLC working alongside different grades and groups of students to help with concerns around friendships, anxiety, depression, school/life balance, perfectionism, self-esteem, etc.
- Service opportunities in each grade and school-wide
- Celebration of Truth & Reconciliation week, Black History month, Asian Heritage month
- Chapels that allowed students to speak in their first language
- High engagement in extracurricular opportunities such as athletic teams and in drama productions
- Utilizing restorative justice practices in the office and classroom to help students work through conflict together

## What we see:

- Happy, adjusted children.
- Students are engaged in their community and take an active role in building our culture
- Teachers in the building are teachers for ALL students, not just the students in their classrooms
- Students are learning to speak up and advocate for themselves
- Students have cross grade friendships
- We have representatives on our society board and guest speakers for our chapels from our supporting churches
- Community Builders within each grade actively planning/engaging families in community events
- ACTS Parents Who Pray meeting consistently throughout the year

# We love our buddies program!



# School Goals – Goal #2

**Students at Menno Simons will achieve prescribed provincial learning outcomes, demonstrating strengths in literacy and numeracy.**

## **Why is this important?**

*Menno Simons strives to provide high standards of academic and personal learning experiences. We understand that all students are unique and wonderfully made and that we all learn in different ways. Our staff focus on meeting each child where they are at and work alongside them to teach for understanding, develop a growth mindset, and encourage independence.*

## **Targeted Areas:**

- 1. K-9 literacy program**
- 2. ELL program**
- 3. 1-3 literacy/numeracy interventions**

## **PD Focus:**

- ELL strategies
- Mental Math strategies
- New curriculum

# Goal #2: How did we do? How do we know?

## School Events/Opportunities:

- Writers' Workshop and Readers' Workshop
- Mathletics and mental math strategies
- Lively Letters program was implemented in Division 1
- Updating the books and resources within each classroom
- Administrators and LST connecting consistently with admin and LST from other schools - discussing best practices and updated research

## What we see:

- Students feeling comfortable and confident in advocating for their learning needs
- Love for reading
- Students are able to communicate literacy strengths and goals
- ELL small group pullouts across the building
- There is a noticeable disruption in the flow from old curriculum to new curriculum. We will continue to assess and monitor to help fill in the gaps as we fully transition to the new curriculum.
- Decrease in our Fraser report standings. Fluctuation is normal for a small school. We do not restrict enrolment of students who require extra supports (IPPs) or who are EAL (English as an Additional Language). Our teachers have a good understanding of how our students learn and are able to challenge them where they are at.

## Required Alberta Education Assurance Measures - Overall Summary

Fall 2023

School: 9936 Menno Simons Christian School

Assurance Domain	Measure	Menno Simons Christian School			Alberta			Measure Evaluation		
		Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Student Growth and Achievement	<a href="#">Student Learning Engagement</a>	85.1	97.0	97.0	84.4	85.1	85.1	n/a	Declined	n/a
	<a href="#">Citizenship</a>	90.8	96.4	92.6	80.3	81.4	82.3	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
	<a href="#">3-year High School Completion</a>	n/a	n/a	n/a	80.7	83.2	82.3	n/a	n/a	n/a
	<a href="#">5-year High School Completion</a>	n/a	n/a	n/a	88.6	87.1	86.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
	<a href="#">PAT: Acceptable</a>	91.9	94.4	n/a	63.3	64.3	n/a	Very High	n/a	n/a
	<a href="#">PAT: Excellence</a>	27.3	36.0	n/a	16.0	17.7	n/a	Very High	n/a	n/a
	<a href="#">Diploma: Acceptable</a>	n/a	n/a	n/a	80.3	75.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	<a href="#">Diploma: Excellence</a>	n/a	n/a	n/a	21.2	18.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Teaching & Leading	<a href="#">Education Quality</a>	92.4	97.0	93.9	88.1	89.0	89.7	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Learning Supports	<a href="#">Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments (WCRSLE)</a>	93.9	100.0	100.0	84.7	86.1	86.1	n/a	Maintained	n/a
	<a href="#">Access to Supports and Services</a>	84.7	88.7	88.7	80.6	81.6	81.6	n/a	Maintained	n/a
Governance	<a href="#">Parental Involvement</a>	85.6	76.4	83.6	79.1	78.8	80.3	Very High	Maintained	Excellent

Student Learning Engagement has declined slightly from last year to this year according to the parent and student feedback. We will continue to dialogue with our students and families to keep making learning engaging at Menno!

Despite our Fraser rankings being lower than previous years, our PAT results continue to rate very high. As a school, we try our best to meet our students learning needs and challenge them within each class.

# Did you know...?

→ **The students and staff of Menno Simons plan to participate in a number of service opportunities this year!**

*Penpals with Carewest residents, Operation Christmas Child through Samaritan's Purse, Mustard Seed, Brown Bagging for Calgary Kids, Operation Backpack, Neighbourhood Snow Angels, and Friends of the Mennonite Centre in the Ukraine*

→ **Our JH students have the opportunity to participate on a number of athletic teams and activities?**

*Cross Country (C.I.S.A.A. 1J League Champions 21/22), Volleyball (2 League Champion Teams in C.I.S.A.A. Tier 1 for 21/22), Basketball, Badminton, and Track & Field.*



# Did you know...?



## → The vending machines in our building are actually used as a fundraiser?

*Funds from our vending machines are donated each year to Friends of the Mennonite Centre in the Ukraine. We love finding ways to create service opportunities out of things we use in our daily routine! The funds we raise during our Penny Carnival also go to support the Friends of the Mennonite Centre in the Ukraine.*

## → The Menno Society Board provides increased support in a number of ways that impact every student's learning experience

*This year, our board is supporting us by providing extra EA time, extra teacher time to bring in an Art specialist for Grades 4-9, updated books within each classroom, new science equipment across the school, and supporting the purchase of a new health curriculum for Grades K-5 that has a focus on social emotional learning. This is on top of their ongoing support to our building, staffing, supplies, Christian Studies, and chromebook support.*

# Did you know...?

→ **Menno has an incredible team of individuals and specialists who all work together to create the best learning environment for our students we can!**

*In 2022/23, we had 1 principal, 1 vice principal, 1 Learning Support teacher, 11 additional teachers, 4 Educational Assistants, Front Office Administrator, Librarian, Executive Director, 3 additional Society staff, Family School Liaison Counselor, and a Making Connections Worker.*

