



Elmdale School

Planning Priorities for 2020-2021

Mission: To Provide a Safe and Caring Learning Environment, Fostering Positive Relationships, Serving Students, Families, and Community

About Us

- 271 students, 17.25 FTE Teachers, 11 Educational Assistants, 2 Secretaries, 1 Library Clerk, and 3 custodians.
- We focus our teaching and learning around the 21st Century Skills: Character, Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking, and Creativity
- Through inclusive teaching practices all students are treated as capable learners who are literate across the curriculum
- We offer a variety of programs to help build character and citizenship in children by participating in programs that connect them with the community and build empathy
- We promote a safe and caring school environment through our proactive "Have You Filled a Bucket" Program
- We are invested in our Family/School partnership. We believe in the adage "It takes a village to raise a child", and it is our goal to partner with families to maximize the learning of our students.

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This year our goals may look a little different than usual. Our overall goals haven't changed (see our mission statement above), but the way in which we are reaching them will have to change as we are limited with COVID-related restrictions. Ultimately we want every child to feel safe at Elmdale School, to grow in their learning, and in their social-emotional well-being.

Planning Priority #1 – Social-Emotional Learning

All students will feel safe and welcome at Elmdale School

Strategies and Success Indicators

- Using the Behavior Program including Green, Amber & Red slips to celebrate good behavior and track and improve poor behavior. Princi-Pal awards and the Bucket Filler program will continue in grade 1-4. Building positive behavior goals helps reduce negative behaviors across the grades.
- Classroom Learning Environment – Within the current restrictions, we are continuing to find ways to use the physical classroom to engage students in their learning. This could be alternate seating, leveraging technology, alternate lighting, etc.

Planning Priority #2 – Literacy & Numeracy Skills

By May 2020, more students will be reading at grade level and approaching or at grade level in Mental Math Strategies.

Strategies and Success Indicators

- Inquiry-Based Learning – Students will have multiple opportunities to explore new inquiry learning opportunities in their classrooms and beyond.
- Early-Years Literacy – all students will participate in regular guided reading programming.
- Targeted recovery of learning – through early assessment and intervention, we will target the "holes" in the learning that happened through the shutdown of schools in spring 2020.

Planning Priority #3 – Learning Partnerships

By May 2020, we will see an increase in the use of learning partnerships including experts and family partners in the learning experiences.

Strategies and Success Indicators

- Family Partnerships – Families will be encouraged to participate in the Home Reading program & reading challenges throughout the year. SeeSaw will be used to connect families to the learning in school.
- Community Partnerships – We are focusing on building community partnerships by bringing community experts and community volunteers to share their expertise and experience with students in a way that makes the learning come alive. This will be done digitally this year.
- Serving the Community – Finding ways to engage students in their community in safe, effective ways, such as participate in Community Christmas & Southeast Helping Hands Food Drive.
- Building Relationships – Building relationships within the classrooms in creative ways since we cannot do some of our usual community building programs such as buddy reading. Zoom Assemblies will be used to build community within the school, across cohorts.

