

## Planning Priorities for 2021-2022

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

### About Us

- 237 students, 16.75 FTE Teachers, 8 Educational Assistants, 2 Secretaries, 1 Library Clerk, and 3 custodians.
- We focus our teaching and learning around the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 "Bucket Filler" 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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Our overall goals as a school follow a consistent theme year after year (see our mission statement above), but the way in which we are reaching them changes as specific needs and resources change. 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

- We use our Positive Behavior Program including Green Slips, Princi-Pal awards and the Bucket Filler program to celebrate and promote good behavior. Amber and Red Slips allow us to track and make plans to improve poor behavior. Building positive behavior goals helps reduce negative behaviors across the grades.
- Panorama Survey data will be used to track student sense of belonging and sense of safety at school. This will drive programming to ensure that all students feel safe and that they belong at Elmdale School.

### Planning Priority #2 – Literacy & Numeracy Skills

By May 2022, more students will be reading at grade level and approaching or at grade level in Mental Math Strategies. We saw a regression in these areas through COVID lockdown and restrictions starting in spring 2020. Our goal is to rebuild the lost learning that happened then.

#### 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, home reading programs, and literacy learning programs.
- Through targeted literacy intervention we are working at addressing the lost learning that happened as a result of COVID to bring every student up to grade level in reading.
- Targeted numeracy programs including the "Number Talks" resource, will be used to build the foundations of Mental Math for all students.

### Planning Priority #3 – Learning Partnerships

By May 2022, 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 participating in Community Christmas & Southeast Helping Hands Food Drive.
- Building Relationships – Building relationships within the school both in-person and virtually. Cohorted and Zoom Assemblies will be used to build community within the school, within and across cohorts.