

## Planning Priorities for 2023-2024

*The vision of Elmdale School is to provide a safe and caring learning environment, fostering positive relationships with all students and all families in our community.*

### About Us

265 students, 15.5 FTE Teachers, 13 Educational Assistants, 2 Secretaries, 1 Library Clerk, and 3 custodians.

We focus our teaching and learning around building strong foundations in education based on our three goals of Student Belonging, Literacy and Numeracy. We use tools such as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills: Character, Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking, and Creativity to engage students in the learning

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 use the Umbrella Project skills to promote a safe and caring school environment.

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.

**Principal:** Vince Hiebert  
[vhiebert@hsd.ca](mailto:vhiebert@hsd.ca)

160 Elmdale Street  
Steinbach, Manitoba  
R5G 0P3

Phone: (204) 326-3325  
Email: [elmdale@hsd.ca](mailto:elmdale@hsd.ca)

Our overall goals as a school follow a consistent theme year after year, 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 while growing in their learning and their social-emotional well-being.

### Planning Priority #1 – Student Belonging

That all students will feel safe and welcome at Elmdale School

#### Strategies and Success Indicators

- We use our Positive Behavior Program including Green Slips and Princi-Pal awards 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.
- We use the Umbrella Project to equip our students to have positive social and emotional coping skills which help them live confident, healthy, and meaningful lives in the face of life’s uncertainties and struggles.
- Panorama Survey data is used to track student sense of belonging and sense of safety at school. This drives programming to ensure that all students feel safe and belonging at Elmdale School.
- School culture and community building are an important part of school safety and belonging. School-wide assemblies, inter-grade activities such as reading buddies, as well as leadership opportunities for older students (bus captains, lunch monitors, etc) help students feel belonging and ownership in our school.

### Planning Priority #2 – Literacy

Each year our goal is that every student grows at a rate of at least one grade level in reading per school year. We saw a regression in the number of students reading at grade level over the past three years and our goal is to return to our pre-pandemic levels in Literacy.

#### Strategies and Success Indicators

- All students will participate in regular guided reading, home reading and literacy learning programs. Our Literacy Support Teacher will support teachers in teaching students who have additional reading concerns
- We do regular check-ins on literacy levels and adjust our programming according to the needs of our students
- All students will be assessed on their reading level a minimum of twice each school year
- Reading incentives during Summer and Christmas breaks to encourage students to keep reading even in the off-season.

### Planning Priority #3 – Numeracy

Similar to Literacy, in Numeracy our goal is to increase the number of students approaching or at grade level in Mental Math Strategies. Over the past several years students have come with lower school readiness skills in math, and we are working on rebuilding strong foundations so that they can be successful in math.

#### Strategies and Success Indicators

- Targeted numeracy programs including the “Number Talks” resource, will be used to build the foundations of Mental Math for all students
- Our school’s numeracy team works with teachers to find areas of growth and look for Professional Development opportunities to equip teachers with the tools they need to teach numeracy effectively to all students

