

Thorhild Central School Education Plan 2023-2026



Principal's Message

The majority of our students reside in the rural communities of Thorhild, Newbrook, and Radway and are transported to school each day by bus. A small percentage of the students reside within the Hamlet of Thorhild. TCS is located on the southwestern section of Aspen View Public Schools. TCS is proud of its family atmosphere and community connections. Our school continues to set high academic standards and we celebrate all of our students' tremendous achievements.

Foundational Statements

Vision Statement: We envision TCS as a connected diverse community that fosters learning, wellness, joy, and celebration. TCS is a positive place where everyone has a voice and realizes their potential.

Mission Statement: At Thorhild Central School, we value learning for all and are dedicated to creating a community built on mutual respect and open communication. We foster collaboration and teamwork, are guided by empathy and compassion, and encourage each other to live our core values, which include integrity, honesty, trust, creativity, and innovation.



Planning and Priorities

The Thorhild Central School Education Plan is based on three key priorities:

- **Student Success and Completion**
- **Wellness**
- **Engagement**

Our Context

TCS offers single graded classes for all elementary and junior high courses. We offer a Great Beginnings Preschool program as well as all grade levels from K - 12. We house the community “Seeds to Sprouts” daycare in our building which also offers before and after school care. In addition, TCS has worked collaboratively with parents, community and outside agencies to expand opportunities for students. We are very proud of being able to offer various complementary programs in Junior and Senior High. TCS Registered Apprenticeship Programs include internships and work experience placements with the local business community. CTS programs include Woodworking & Fabrication, Music, Cosmetology, Foods and Drama. TCS has a group of fantastic coaches who organize a full complement of athletics including volleyball, basketball, badminton and archery. We have access to student support services that include our Family School Liaison from Thorhild County as well as a School Counselor. For more specialized supports, students can access Speech Language Pathologists and Occupational Therapists.



Reflection on Results

Elementary assessments: Literacy assessment results indicate that almost a third of our students are below grade level expectations in literacy skills. Numeracy assessment results indicate that students in higher elementary and junior high grade levels are more at risk for not successfully achieving grade level outcomes.

PAT results: At the Grade 6 level, our students had very good results in all subjects. Math 6, Science 6, and Social Studies 6 were all above the province's acceptable standard. At the Grade 9 level, ELA and Science were close to the province's acceptable standard. For Math 9 and Social Studies 9, the acceptable standard was lower than the province's acceptable standard.

Diploma results: Our school diploma exam results show a significant gap to the school-awarded mark similar to the province's results.

Regarding the TCS Parent survey results on Citizenship, it shows a -14.4% difference from the Provincial results. TCS students had limited opportunities to demonstrate the characteristics of active citizenship such as community clean-up, visiting the seniors' lodge, and cross-graded learning activities due to pandemic restrictions. Further investigation may be warranted as to how this may have negatively impacted survey results via the 10 parents' who responded. Encouragingly, our students' survey results on citizenship exceeded the provincial result, informing us that students still felt they had opportunities to demonstrate citizenship skills.



PRIORITY ONE: Student Success and Completion

Students are successful from the time they enter school until high school completion, and beyond.

Related Alberta Assurance Domains: Student Growth and Achievement & Teaching and Leading

Outcomes, Strategies and Measures for 2023-24:

Outcome	Students are able to read fluently for meaning and enjoyment and express clear and interesting ideas through writing.
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All teachers in K-6 have agreed upon non-negotiable pillars of comprehensive literacy instruction that are evident at all grade levels Structured literacy approach that provides explicit instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, word study, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension strategies Creation of writing rubrics and scope and sequence in elementary grades
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alberta Education Assessments (LenS & CC3) for K to 3 RRST for K & 1 Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment and Reading Behaviours Checklists (Gr. 3-6) HLAT (Gr 1-5, 7, 8) Provincial Achievement Test Results for ELA & Social Studies (Gr 6 & 9) Diploma Exam ELA and Social Studies 30 level results

Outcome	Students use math facts and procedural fluency to solve problems
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued staff professional development on new curriculum in mathematics for K-6 Implementation of new resources for all mathematics grade levels Part A practice (non-calculator) with all grade levels
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early numeracy screening and progress monitoring for at-risk students Grades 6 & 9 Mathematics Provincial Achievement Results Grade 12 Mathematics Diploma Results Grades 12 Mathematics Diploma Participation Rates



Outcome	Students complete a high school program and are connected to future career and post-secondary pathways
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support our High School Success Coach • Continue to use MyBlueprint as a tool for exploring and planning for future career and post-secondary pathways • Continue to partner with CAREERS Next Generation for support in off-campus placements and Green Certificate Program • Continue to develop and use locally developed courses to enhance high school program offerings
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student survey responses on competencies in High School Success • High School completion rates • Numbers of students participating in off-campus and alternative programming such as Work Experience, Registered Apprenticeship Programs, Green Certificate, Locally Developed Courses and Dual Credit Programming • Alberta Education Assurance Survey results



PRIORITY TWO: Wellness

Learning and working environments are inclusive, safe, welcoming and healthy.

Related Alberta Assurance Domains: Teaching and Learning & Learning Supports

Outcomes, Strategies and Measures for 2023-24:

Outcome	Students and staff feel safe
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzing survey results to improve school programs Continue accessing supports as needed (i.e. FCSS, School Counselor) Crisis drills are reviewed and practiced with all students and staff including the “Seeds to Sprouts” daycare All school volunteers are required to provide Criminal Record and Vulnerable Sector Checks as well as Child Intervention Checks Exterior doors remain locked during the school day and visitors report to the General Office upon arrival All staff have access to Public Works safety courses TCS staff participated in Thorhild County’s Emergency Management Workshop in November 2022
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AB Education Assurance Survey results TCS Parent and Student Survey

Outcome	Students and staff have access to appropriate supports
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students continue to have access to counseling supports Inclusive Education Lead continues to support all staff in developing Individualized Program Plans (IPP) and implementing strategies for diverse needs All staff can access needed supports through Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan (ASEBP)
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assurance Measure Survey on Access to Supports and Services



PRIORITY THREE: Engagement

Students are interested and engaged in their learning, feel connected to their school, and have opportunities to pursue their passions.

Related Alberta Assurance Domains: Student Growth and Achievement, Learning Supports, Governance & Local and Societal Context

Outcomes, Strategies and Measures for 2023-2024:

Outcome	Positive community and parent relations contribute towards student success and completion
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued work with Careers the Next Generation Partnering with the local business community to provide opportunities for students Together Enriching Academic Minds (TEAM) Fundraising Society
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assurance Measure Survey on Parent Involvement TCS Survey for Parents and Students Parent participation in school events such as attendance at special events, School Council, Parent/Teacher Interviews

Outcome	Staff and students have a sense of belonging
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to student citizenship and leadership programming Students have access to a variety of extra-curricular programs and complementary courses
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assurance Measure Survey results on Citizenship School-based student survey data Student attendance rates at special events during the school day (i.e. Guest speakers)



Strategic Priority: First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success

Outcome	All staff and students experience learning that builds an understanding of Indigenous knowledge and perspectives.
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students have the opportunity to learn about Indigenous cultural practices and traditions • TCS Lead Team continues to collaborate on a school year-long plan, build its capacity and connects with Elders and Knowledge Keepers to bring cultural teachings into the school • Offer Indigenous land-based learning experiences • All staff incorporate Indigenous teachings in their coursework
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCS Parent and Student Survey • AB Education Assurance Survey results • Review the TCS Year Plan

Stakeholder Engagement

Decision-making and assurance are based on a commitment to ongoing engagement, efficiencies and communication	
Opportunities for Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly School Council and TEAM meetings are held • Volunteer opportunities (co-curricular & extracurricular) available throughout the school year • Parent/Teacher Interviews • Meet the Staff Night • Continue to invite community groups to school events (i.e. Terry Fox Run, Convocation, Flag-raising Ceremony) • Continue to use social media to communicate school happenings and celebrate learning
What We Heard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and student wellness is a concern and so there will be a need to continue with a focus on this priority • Disruption to learning due to the pandemic continues to be an issue and so intervention programming will continue to be a need • Families want more opportunities to become involved in their children's education so TCS will continue to welcome school volunteers

