

New Sarepta Community High School

2023 - 2024



Photos



Tom's Walk



One Act Drama Awards



Mental Health Day



International Students



Senior Volleyball



Legislature Excursion

New Sarepta Community High School Education Assurance Plan 2023/24

School Profile

NSCHS is a small secondary school located in the village of New Sarepta, about 30 KM South East of the offices of Black Gold School Division (BGSD) which are located in Nisku, AB.

- o The school serves approximately 207 students in grades 7 to 12.
- o Grade 7 – 54 students
- o Grade 8 – 35 students
- o Grade 9 – 37 students
- o Grade 10 – 34 students
- o Grade 11 – 33 students
- o Grade 12 – 33 students
- o 29 students self-identify as Indigenous (6 First Nations Status, 8 First Nations NonStatus, 9 Metis)
- o Currently we have 3 students in high school K&E programming and 7 students receiving K&E instruction at the junior high level.
- o We currently have 48 students who receive special accommodations.
 - o Of these 32 students are coded with either learning or medical disabilities and 6 of those are classified as severe.
 - o we have 2 students who are ESL
- o NSCHS has 13 full time certificated staff. We have a counsellor and a learning support teacher who share some duties as they also teach classes. We have one full-time principal and an assistant principal who teaches and is the division indigenous instruction lead.
- o NSCHS has 3 educational assistants (one that is part time), 2 front office staff, 2 custodians, and 1 part-time school librarian.

- o Our school library is open to the students during school hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The school library is also the town's public library, which is open to the community on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings, and during the day each Saturday.
- o There were only a few facility upgrades in the last year. Some new flooring has been added to three spaces.
- o NSCHS offers a full slate of academic programming in Math, English, Social Studies and Science classes. Biology is offered every year while Physics and Chemistry are cycled. We are continuing to offer Dual Credit programming to the high school students and an increase of up to 16 complementary courses for our junior high students. We are offering a high school computing science course this year!
- o In 2023/24, NSCHS continues to offer "Inreach" programming to our high school students. Inreach programming allows students to select, module-based courses from a wide-array of CTS and social sciences. These are very flexible learning opportunities. These courses are self-paced and allow students to complete courses that are of interest and applicable to future career goals. We continue to encourage students who may be interested in trades: Primary Resources, focusing on Alberta's energy sector and Foundations in Industry Workplace Safety which provides certification for up to 7 different trades sectors.

NSCHS offers a broad range of complimentary programming including:

- o Woods/Construction
- o Welding
- o Small Engines
- o Cosmetology
- o Foods
- o Drama
- o Music
- o Art
- o Computers/Coding
- o Leadership
- o PE
- o Recreational Sports/Arena Games
- o Robotics/Computers
- o Outdoor Education
- o Sports Performance

- o Off Campus programs (Work Experience, Green Certificate, and RAP)
- o Academic Support
- o Film and Media studies
- o Photography
- o Dual Credit Programming
- o Sixteen 40-minute, quarterly option blocks.

NSCHS offers a broad range of opportunities for athletics including:

- o Basketball
- o Volleyball
- o Badminton
- o Track
- o Tripleball
- o Cross Country
- o Golf

NSCHS Celebrations

We jointly held our first Tom's Walk event with New Sarepta Elementary School. High school classes were paired with elementary classes. It was great seeing our high school kids holding hands with the elementary students as they came back to the field. The bond between our schools is growing as we continue to find ways to send our students to help. Two senior high construction students designed and built a box to assist a young girl with toileting issues.

Three students received individual award recognition from the Leduc Drama Festival as did their plays. Our band programs were recognized for their excellence at two different festivals last year. We continue to have success in athletics. While our sports teams were in a development year, we had a number of students perform very well individually in track and field.

We are proud of the feedback that was gathered from all educational stakeholders (parents, students, staff). NSCHS continues to offer an incredible variety of learning opportunities and a wide array of universal and targeted supports for mental health and wellness. We remain proud of providing students the support and care that a "small-school" provides.

Career, Health and Wellness

- o Continuing Jr High Health program delivery - through presentations with various stakeholders. We were limited to virtual presentations from outside partners, but we still had presentations from MHCB, AHS, and Jack.org. In other years, and hopefully again soon, we have had presentations from the RCMP, Leduc County, etc.
- o In connection with jack.org, we held a mental health and wellness day in May that allowed us to bring in various speakers who focus on activities or ideas that allow all of us to stay positive during our challenges.
- o We are an active school and promote healthy living by inviting various guest speakers, including MHCB, who have expertise in promoting proper nutrition, healthy relationships, mental health, inclusivity, sexual health, active living, budgeting, first aid, substance abuse, stress management, drivers training, taking healthy risks and leadership.
- o To help students prepare for the future, all students used *myblueprint* to take personality, skill set and interest surveys that then match with specific careers which were researched. Further, we were able to have virtual presentations by Augustana and NAIT admission counsellors. In November, we also had presentations from many post-secondary institutions, including those from Lakeland, MacEwan, Norquest, U of A, Concordia, and King's University. Our Grade 11 and 12 students also focused on revisiting *myblueprint* to keep career planning and goal setting at the forefront of their thoughts.
- o We continue to offer Career Exploration counselling program for our students.
- o In the spring of 2023, we held Gr 7 and Gr 10 Orientation Nights to ease the transition of new students and families into “different” levels of programming.
- o Our Grade 9 students took part in the PARTY program being offered by the New Sarepta Fire Department.
- o The annual Terry Fox Run emphasized wellness, Canadiana, and the importance of philanthropy.
- o Students actively participated in “Pink Shirt Day” (anti-bullying & acts of kindness), “Orange Shirt Day” (focus on reconciliation).
- o We continue to offer food to students who were unable to bring breakfast or a lunch through help from the Leduc Food Bank and other kind donations. This enables students who came to school without breakfast, to energize their brains for better learning. A generous donation from the Breakfast Club of Canada has allowed us to buy lots of different foods for Wellness Wednesdays.
- o NSCHS offered our Hot Lunch program throughout the year which is greatly appreciated by students and staff.
- o NSCHS is incredibly lucky to have a thriving School Council. The parents on this Council provide great feedback and are a huge support to our school. They had another terrific year of fundraising, including two casino nights in Camrose

Complimentary Courses

- o NSCHS continues to have an incredibly supportive Band Parent Association that holds a Dessert Night and Silent Auction. All fundraisers were very successful and NSCHS is incredibly appreciative of the great community involvement.
- o Traditionally, our junior and senior high bands were part of numerous Christmas events: the NSCHS Christmas concert, Cloverlawn Community Centre Family Christmas Evening (senior band only) and the Planeview Place Senior Residence Christmas Performance (Senior band). Proudly, students once again performed live in the second half of the year.
- o Traditionally, in the first semester, the Sr. High Drama class put on a scary haunted house for the students at NSCHS and presented a powerful, dramatic performance at the Remembrance Day Ceremony. In the second semester, the class participates in the one act festival.

Enriched Learning Activities

- o NSCHS and NSE combined for a wonderful Remembrance Day Ceremony. This also served as our community ceremony.
- o Leadership theme days, Star Wars, Halloween, 12 Days of Christmas, etc.
- o NSCHS continued Wellness Wednesdays that include an opportunity to ponder and respond to fun, thought-provoking questions, as well as a monthly fun class activity, like pumpkin decorating or creating the biggest St. Patrick's day symbol.

Challenges

NSCHS continues to struggle to raise our results in mathematics. Teachers are very aware of the effect of the school shutdown during the pandemic and have worked hard to try to fill in gaps. While we recognize that our school's achievement was quite similar to that of the provincial average, we believe that we can do better.

We are seeing a growing concern with a small number of students who are sharing racist and homophobic ideas, either by removing emblems of inclusion or more directly through graffiti in the washrooms.

As a small school, we continue to struggle to offer all the complementary courses that larger schools can offer. We rotate a number of courses at the senior high level, so that students can experience more variety.

School Council Message**New Sarepta Community High School
School Council and Parent Advisory Association Report****September 18, 2023**

The NSCHS School Council and Parent Advisory Association meet on average once a month, only missing the months of January and June. The executive members made up the large number of attendance each meeting and we did have the occasional additional parent attend. A member of NSCHS staff, along with the principal, David Holbrow, attended every meeting as well to give us updates on school events, student activity and an overall view of the day-to-day life at NSCHS during the year.

We continued to encourage any parent involvement and participation by sending out messages to invite all parents to our meeting times prior to each meeting. We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

The Council has focused on areas such as fundraising, the staff wish list and supplies, and many other acts of service to support the school and its staff. The PAA supplied many of the school groups, such as band, drama, and multiple sports, with a Gatorade and granola bars during a tournament, band concert, drama competition. This is well received by the students as a thank you from the PAA for all their hard work.

This year the School Council used a portion of their Alberta School Councils Engagement Grant to put on two workshops: 1) School Council Purpose and 2) Effective Engagement in Your School Community. Both were attended by Board members and a few parents from the school.

Our chair, Sherry Krozser, attended the ASCA Annual Conference. It was very informative and well attended. All the breakout sessions were

very informative. It was suggested that next year we have two Board members register and attend.

Our School Trustee, Mrs. Eckert attends our meetings and was always happy to update us of BGSD happenings. She is always a strong supporter of keeping our council running and encouraged us to participate in the ASCA Annual Conference.

The Parent Advisory Association, which is our fundraising arm, had planned regular fundraisers to assist and meet our financial commitments to the school and our students.

We had very successful fundraisers that were mostly centered around consumable products and 50/50 raffle. It was also our year for our casino. This is a very big help to our school.

Our main goal is to use the funds where they can be of greatest benefit to the students and teachers at our school. We are currently looking into purchasing a sound system and live streaming equipment for the gymnasium.

We want to take the opportunity to thank the staff who work with us to makes NSCHS one of the best schools in the Black Gold School Division.

Thank you,

Sherry Krozser

Chair

NSCHS Parent Council & PAA – 2022/23

School Council Chair Signature:

School Assurance Plan shared final revision Date:

Fall 2023

School: 3220 New Sarepta Community High School

Assurance Domain	Measure	New Sarepta Community High Sch			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	Student Learning Engagement	79.5	77.2	77.2	84.4	85.1	85.1	n/a	Maintained	n/a
	Citizenship	71.9	73.6	76.4	80.3	81.4	82.3	Intermediate	Maintained	Acceptable
	3-year High School Completion	91.2	92.4	91.3	80.7	83.2	82.3	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
	5-year High School Completion	100	93.5	91.7	88.6	87.1	86.2	Very High	Improved	Excellent
	PAT: Acceptable	55	60.9	n/a	63.3	64.3	n/a	Very Low	n/a	n/a
	PAT: Excellence	8.6	6.5	n/a	16	17.7	n/a	Very Low	n/a	n/a
	Diploma: Acceptable	81	84.2	n/a	80.3	75.2	n/a	Intermediate	n/a	n/a
	Diploma: Excellence	21.4	22.8	n/a	21.2	18.2	n/a	High	n/a	n/a
Teaching & Leading	Education Quality	81.4	83.1	86.3	88.1	89	89.7	Low	Declined	Issue
Learning Supports	Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments (WCRSLE)	78.8	83	83	84.7	86.1	86.1	n/a	Maintained	n/a
	Access to Supports and Services	78.5	85.4	85.4	80.6	81.6	81.6	n/a	Declined	n/a
Governance	Parental Involvement	79	67	74.9	79.1	78.8	80.3	High	Maintained	Good

School Goal 1:

Visible Learning Focus: Intentionality of Learning - What are we learning? Why are we learning it? How will we know we are succeeding?

Alignment with Division Priorities ([*Success*](#))

Timeline: 2023-2024

Rationale: Before we can address other aspects of instruction and learning, building a culture of students who know the what, why and how of each subject will build confidence and focus.

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Timeline	Strategies	Supporting Data
October 4-5	Build foundation Knowledge and Awareness of Visible Learning concepts.	All administrators can identify the Ten Mind Frames along with researched evidenced high-yielding practices for student achievement.
Oct 5- Dec 19	Data collection on intentionality of learning	Will return to the next Visible Learning PD session with evidence related to the focus area.
Jan 8- June 28	Using the data collected, formulate an action plan on how to improve intentionality within the school.	Will re-administer the survey process to identify if strategies have made a positive impact.

School Goal 2: Build resilience amongst staff and students by encouraging kindness, caring and compassion within our school.

Alignment with Division Values / Strat Plan / Tech plan, etc.: Wellness

Timeline: 3-year plan (2022-2025)

Rationale: While survey results suggest we are providing a safe and caring environment, we recognize that there is room for improvement. We especially want to keep aware of student resiliency while adjusting to a post-pandemic environment:

- Continuing to nurture an environment that is **safe and caring**. We will place more deliberate attention upon modelling healthy and respectful relationships.
- Respecting all types of diversity. **Diversity** will be respected, celebrated and understood as a strength.
- Creating opportunities for students to share mental health concerns and develop necessary bonds to others (staff, students, community) to keep students safe.

Timeline	Strategies	Supporting Data
2022-23– (Year 1) 2023-24 – (Year 2) 2024-25 - (Year 3)	<p><u>1) Increasing focus on Conflict Resolution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Mental Health Capacity Building (MHCB) team will work with NSCHS students and staff to develop presentations for classroom use. ● An emphasis will be placed upon teaching bullying prevention and teaching the difference between conflict and bullying. 	Assurance Survey data - learning supports.

<p>Nurturing an environment that is safe and caring.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continued counseling supports around being passive, assertive and aggressive. This can be achieved through personal and group counseling. ● Wellness coaches will be offering Character education topics to our Division 3 students throughout the school year. ● Guest speakers compliment the division 3 Health and division 4 CALM curricula where suitable. <p><u>2) Increasing Feelings of Community-Minded Citizenship</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moving from a “me” mind-set to a more compassionate “we” approach. Our goal is to build empathy and more of a shared understanding. We need to nurture a sense of “school family”. ● NSCHS is the first school in Black Gold to join the Jack.org organization that works to destigmatize mental health issues and promote positive steps towards better mental health. ● We will continue to promote participation in the Junior High Student Leadership club. ● Encouraging students to have greater participation in school spirit activities. ● The Jack.org group has taken on peer-mentorship. <p><u>3) Increasing Importance of Safety and Reporting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Mental Health Capacity Building (MHCB) team</u> will work with NSCHS students and staff to develop presentations for classroom use. ● <u>Use “Go-To” training</u> for students to report concerns appropriately – Mrs. Osness and Mrs. Gartner. ● <u>Presentations</u> (ex. ATV, Train Safety, Weed Out the Risk) ● <u>Create opportunities</u> for students to reflect and share their thoughts and feelings through Google Surveys. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellness Wednesdays promote fun discussions on random topics and once per month, bring students together for fun challenges and activities. 	
<p>2022-23 (year 1) 2023-24 (year 2)</p> <p>All types of diversity will be respected, celebrated and understood as a strength.</p>	<p>1) <u>Promoting Diversity within the Classroom</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging teachers to immediately address offensive statements in a way that is appropriate and respectful. Encouraging teachers and students to use inclusive language. Guest speakers and performers to address importance of inclusivity and diversity. Educating students to use appropriate terminology and language in an inclusive way. Be mindful of designing lesson plans that are multicultural and diverse. Be mindful of our classroom displays and publications to reflect the importance of diversity. Choosing junior high options that embed diversity and multiculturalism within the classroom. <p>2) <u>Promoting Diversity within the School</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting events that increase multicultural awareness. Creating displays that reflect greater diversity and promote awareness. Inviting speakers, elders and other representatives of diverse groups that will raise student appreciation and diversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High graduation rates Welcoming, Safe and Caring Types of office referrals

School Goal 2:
School Goal 2 Reflection

Review, Reflection and Progress Update:

School Goal 3: Improved Parent Engagement Through Communication.

Alignment with Division Goals / Strat Plan / tech plan, etc.: Engagement and Partnerships

Timeline: 3 year plan (2022-2025)

Rationale: Post-pandemic, communication with our school parents and our community is even more important. They, too, have been isolated from involvement in the school. Our 2021-2022 Assurance Survey results reflect a strong need to find ways to meaningfully connect.

Timeline	Strategies	Supporting Data
SCHOOL MESSAGING 2022-23 2023-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Weekly updates with events happening at the school. ● Work on sharing school celebrations with families. ● Encourage more social media updates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parent responses, parent surveys ● Assurance Survey Results

2024-25		
TEACHER COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage staff members to make phone calls on issues of discipline. Engage parents as partners in the process. ● Encourage staff to communicate with parents a couple of times per week with positive messages about students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assurance Survey Results ● Teachers' anecdotal reviews
ENCOURAGING PARENTAL and COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create and share a list of ways that parents can get involved in the school building. ● Bring parents into the building for meetings whenever possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assurance Survey Results.
School Goal 3 Reflection		