

Annual School Development Report September 2016 – June 2017

Appalachia High School

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Our objective as a school is to aid in the intellectual, social, emotional, and moral development of each and every student. The staff at Appalachia High School is here to support the students in their academic success, as well as co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. There are many opportunities available for our students and we all strive to assist them in developing their particular talents and skills. Students and staff are working together to create a positive learning environment whereby students see the value of lifelong learning.



A Message From
TONY STACK
CEO / DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (Interim)



The school development report for the 2016-17 school year outlines your school's successes in areas such as student achievement and professional development.

School development plans align with and support the Strategic Plan of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District, and also give guidance to individual staff growth and development plans. Producing this report is not done to simply satisfy an administrative requirement, but rather it is an important exercise that captures what has been achieved in order to frame the next steps that schools must take to continually ensure the safety, security, and success of our students so that they may have all the tools needed to realize their full potential.

Our schools are full of passionate educators and staff who give of themselves every day to see a child realize their potential. Our teachers, support staff, administrators, school councils, parents, guardians, and students are truly invaluable as we set collective goals to take us into the future. Each and every member of our school communities has a role in creating an accomplished education system and please know we appreciate your support, feedback, and continued efforts as evidenced in this report.

Principal's Message

As another school year draws to a close, I am very proud to be part of the community called Appalachia High School. While it has been a challenging year at times, we have come together to meet those challenges and to continue to strive for the future. Our school has been guided by the effective implementation of our School Development Plan. This plan ends this June and in September we will be starting the process to develop a new plan to guide us for the next three years. We cater to the needs of the diverse learner from Grade 9 to Level 3. Our approach is based on a combination of research and extensive experience of what makes learning enjoyable and effective for this unique group of learners. At the heart of our plan is a focus on student achievement and learning and we continue to use that as a guiding light. Over the last two years, we have made great strides in implementing technology into the curriculum and the classroom. All stakeholders (parents, students and staff) report a general contentment with the learning opportunities and wealth of varied activities presented for students here at our school. It is the collective teamwork of the entire school community that makes this school a great place to come to and to learn.

On behalf the school, I would like to thank those teachers who have been on term contracts this year for their dedication to the students and wish them the best of luck in their next teaching assignment.

Jeffrey Blundon

School Council Chair's Message

Chair: Valentina Nolan

Appalachia High School Council enjoyed a good year. Meetings began in October and ran through the school year as usual. A new Teacher Representative was welcomed as well as two new student representatives. The annual school fundraisers were discussed and approved. Topics discussed during the year included new School Board formation and its impact, the effects of declining enrollment, course availability, Powerschool program, school development plan for the current and upcoming year, graduation planning and recruiting more volunteers for School Council. There were no representatives available to attend the Annual General Meeting but hopefully that will change in the coming year.

The Breakfast Program experienced much success and ran five days a week. The menu was updated and students were given some choices in breakfast options. Prior to the end of the school year, a cooked breakfast was given to all students on two occasions.

Volunteer Appreciation, the Christmas Dinner for students and Staff Appreciation Week were greatly supported by School Council and went very well.

Overview of School

Appalachia High School is committed to quality teaching and learning that ensures student achievement and meets the needs of diverse learners in a collaborative and respectful culture.

Appalachia High School is part of the western region of the NLESD and currently has an enrolment of 120 students from Grade 9 – Level 3. We serve the communities of Flat Bay, St. George’s, Barachois Brook, Mattis Point, Stephenville Crossing and Black Duck Siding on Newfoundland and Labrador’s west coast. Our school currently has a total of 10 teaching units which include a teaching Principal and Vice-Principal and 1.50 Instructional Resource Teacher units. We have a fully qualified Physical Education teacher and Guidance Counselor which we share with the adjoining elementary school. Our school receives regular district services from an Educational Psychologist and a Speech Language Pathologist. Appalachia has a full time secretary and two utility workers (full and part-time). Chartwells Catering provides a cafeteria service to Appalachia High and the adjoining elementary school.

Our school is committed to student achievement. There are regularly scheduled student support services, school development and staff meetings

Student Council, CYN and Yearbook Committee have all been successful this year. This year MADD Canada presented a very important message to all students about the consequences of poor decision making. Our prom and safe prom were well organized and attended. The school recognizes a wide range of students at the end of the year for academics, sports, leadership and other activities. This school appreciates the monetary donations from the community to support our awards. Appalachia was awarded a Bronze Star

certificate this year for its sports involvement by School Sports Newfoundland & Labrador. Appalachia High students represented the school well in sports and drama competitions.

Students have been using their art work on the school walls to add positive messages to the school culture. The school has been provided with enough Smartboards & Teamboards to have one in every classroom. Synrevoice, an automated calling system, has also greatly enhanced our ability to effectively communicate with parents. Powerschool has been enhanced with parental ability to view marks and attendance.

The Tutoring for Tuition program was successful as the tutors worked with students at Appalachia. Students were repeatedly made aware of the advantages of the online CDLI tutoring program for select courses from Gr. 9 to Level 3. The school's student handbook has been finalized and posted to the school's webpage for reference. This process involved school council, student council, teachers and administration. It is a living document that will be adjusted as the need arises.

Appalachia High is very much a community school. We rely heavily on volunteers (parents and staff) and community support to run many of the programs that benefit our students. These include: Breakfast and Snack Program, Recycling, Milk Day Promotions, Week without Violence, Remembrance Day activities, Janeway Day, Drama, Sports, Prom and Safe Prom. Our breakfast program is running five days a week and it is very much appreciated by the student body. Our School Council is an active participant in school life. School Council meetings are organized with a strong commitment to doing all things in the best interest of students.

We continue to partner with Our Lady of Mercy Elementary to share the services and resources available between the two schools.

School Development

Teachers work together to implement the three goals outlined below using the strategies outlined for the objective and appropriate action plans.

Students are continuously monitored by the Student Delivery Team to ensure they are receiving the correct programming as they progress through the school system and programming changes are made as needed. Students are also made aware of the many career opportunities available. Students continue to highly rank this school as a safe place to be with minimal bullying and an open inclusive environment.

Special trips were made by the Principal to each Gr. 8 class at the feeder schools to talk about the high school and to answer any questions. A successful Gr. 8 student visit to the high school also occurred.

All students received a presentation by MADD Canada. School policies infractions were dealt with appropriately. Students are reminded of the school's policies and the school has a handbook that is updated as needed.

The Guidance Counsellor worked with all students to educate them about educational opportunities, but especially with the Level 3 students. Career presentations occurred in the Career Development course and during lunch. All Gr. 9 students received a presentation from the Principal on the high school program. The Student Delivery Team meet regularly to discuss and track student progress. Guidance and support are provided as needed.

The school hosts a Cap & Gown ceremony in December, a prom in May and an awards ceremony in June to acknowledge student success.

Goal 1. To improve student achievement through increased enhanced practices that focus on learner need		
Objective 1.1: Increase collaboration with feeder schools to facilitate a successful transition.	Objective 1.2: Increase the use of DI strategies in the classroom to meet the needs of all learners.	Objective 1.3: Increase student awareness of educational opportunities and promote appropriate course choices to enhance motivation.
<p>Evaluation 1.1</p> <p>PD day with feeder schools occurred during the 2013-14 school year. Only Gr. 9 provincial assessment results have been discussed yearly. There has been serious discussion regarding provincial assessment results in 3 & 6 but not on a yearly basis. Skills needed for success in high school have been discussed but not written down.</p>	<p>Evaluation 1.2</p> <p>Collaboration between classroom teachers and IRT has been very strong. Staff meetings have been used to share instructional collaboration</p>	<p>Evaluation 1.3</p> <p>We have made great strides in ensuring students are correctly placed once they enter high school. Post-secondary options have been presented yearly. Tracking student credit progress to ensure graduation is taken care of by the Principal. Achievement data is analyzed after every reporting period by the SDT and plans are created.</p>

Goal 2. To create a safe and caring school environment where all members of the school community feel safe.		
Objective 2.1 Develop and implement effective policies and procedures concerning substance abuse.	Objective 2.2 Ensure all students feel that they are important and respected in our school.	Objective 2.3 Research and explore the possibility of implementing PBS at the school.
Evaluation 2.1 RCMP has increased its presence this year but not on a regular basis. MADD Canada presented to the entire school. The district's substance abuse policy is followed.	Evaluation 2.2 Students are thanked and acknowledged via morning/afternoon PA messages. A yearly awards ceremony is held in Dec. & June.	Evaluation 2.3 PBS model finalized. Banners outlining expectations posted in the hallways and explained to students. Presentation to staff on LGBTQ.

Goal 3. To create a school culture where all stakeholders are invested in the education of students.		
Objective 3.1 Promote more parental involvement in the school.	Objective 3.2 Develop an environment of student connectedness to Appalachia High as an educational environment.	Objective 3.3 Teachers will collectively foster an atmosphere conducive to higher learning expectations.
Evaluation 3.1 Increased parental involvement in school activities, especially the breakfast program, have been challenging this year. Parents had to come to the school to pick up their child's first term report card and this was very successful.	Evaluation 3.2 Sports and drama performances allowed students to showcase their talents. A school Facebook page has been established and is monitored by the Vice-Principal.	Evaluation 3.3 A school-wide expectation policy, mission statement & moto were developed and published in the student handbook.

Operational Issues Report 2016-17

Year	Issue	Action	Evaluation
2016-17			
Report	Teacher computers are nearing the end of their lifespan.	Replace teacher computers over the next two years.	Purchase of replacement computers has begun.

School Development Plan for Current Year 2017-18

GOAL # 1: To improve student achievement through increased enhanced practices that focus on learner need				
OBJECTIVE # : Increase collaboration with feeder schools to facilitate a successful transition				
STRATEGY # : Early fall meetings with both feeder schools to discuss students who have transitioned to the high school				
INDICATOR OF SUCCESS: Meetings held before the middle of October				
Actions	Individual Responsible	Target Dates		Status (completed, ongoing)
		Start	Finish	
Arrange meeting times	Principal / Guidance	Sept. 2017	Dec. 2017	
Attend meetings	Math/Science/English teachers	Sept. 2017	Dec. 2017	

GOAL # 2 : To create a safe & caring school environment where all members of the school community feel safe				
OBJECTIVE 2.4 : Ensure that students feel respected by their peers				
STRATEGY 2.4: Implement PBS-Homeroom based incentive				
INDICATOR OF SUCCESS: Students show respect to each other – survey results				
Actions	Individual Responsible	Target Dates		Status <i>(completed, ongoing)</i>
		Start	Finish	
PBS-Dollars earned for homerooms for showing respect to their peers	Teachers / Guidance	Nov. 2017	April 2018	

Support Plan

Financial (Budget)	Professional Development	Communication	Time Allocation
\$200 - \$300			

GOAL # 3 : To create a school culture where all stakeholders are invested in the education of students				
OBJECTIVE 3.2.4: Update all school rules and policies				
STRATEGY 3.2.4 : School will update all school rules and polices and post to students				
INDICATOR OF SUCCESS: Information presented to students				
Actions	Individual Responsible	Target Dates		Status <i>(completed, ongoing)</i>
		Start	Finish	
Update/revise/clarify expectations	Staff	Oct. 2017	June 2018	
Make expectations accessible	Staff	Oct. 2017	June 2018	

Through the implementation of PBS and the involvement of student council, our plan is to focus on student behaviors that impede learning. If students know the expectations of the staff and student body and the consequences of inappropriate behavior, they may be less willing to engage in that behavior. It will not just be teachers correcting behavior but their own peers. If we can reduce certain behaviors, students should be better able to focus on their academics at school.

School Development Plan 2017-2018

Goal 1: To improve student achievement through increased enhanced practices that focus on learner need		
Objective 1.1: Increase collaboration with feeder schools to facilitate a successful transition	Objective 1.2: Increase the use of DI strategies in the classroom to meet the needs of all learners	Objective 1.3: Increase student awareness of educational opportunities and promote appropriate course choices to enhance motivation
Strategies: 1.1.1 Yearly meeting with administration to discuss CRT results 1.1.2 Subject teachers meet to identify skills needed for the high school program 1.1.3 Propose PD day for K-12 teachers in same subject areas to identify skills	Strategies: 1.2.1 Increased collaboration between classroom and IRTs 1.2.2 PD day (DI specialist) Hands-on, Smartboard /Teamboard lesson plan creation and template activities 1.2.3 Peer and administration support for classroom observation 1.2.4 Use of staff meetings for instructional collaboration	Strategies: 1.3.1 Ensure students enter high school in the appropriate academic program.(Especially in Math, Science, and English.) 1.3.2 Provide students with the exposure to post-secondary requirements through various methods. 1.3.3 Implement a tracking system for students. (Credits for graduation) 1.3.4 Improve student results in Science, Math, and English as a result of each department analyzing data and creating specific plans
Indicators of Success: 1.1.1 Yearly meeting 1.1.2 Minutes of meetings 1.1.3 Proposal and communication of proposal to other schools	Indicators of Success: 1.2.1 Frequency of collaborative meetings. 1.2.2 PD offered 1.2.3 Teachers engaged in classroom observations 1.2.4 Instructional collaboration at staff meetings.	Indicators of Success: 1.3.1 80% minimum pass rate in each academic stream 1.3.2 Students are aware of post-secondary requirements 1.3.3 Effective tracking system is established with a 100% graduation rate 1.3.4 Increased student results in external and internal data by 5% over three years

Goal 2: To create a safe and caring school environment where all members of the school community feel safe.		
Objective 2.1: Develop and implement effective policies and procedures concerning substance abuse.	Objective 2.2: Ensure all students feel that they are important and respected in our school.	Objective 2.3: Research and explore the possibility of implementing PBS at the school.
Strategies: 2.1.1 Increase support/involvement from RCMP. 2.1.2 Have community agencies provide presentations on substance abuse 2.1.3 Enforce the school board policy regarding substance abuse.	Strategies: 2.2.1 To acknowledge good deed and accomplishments of students. 2.2.2 To complete and implement anti-bullying action plan. 2.2.3 To acknowledge all students at awards ceremony	Strategies: 2.3.1 To become knowledgeable about PBS. 2.3.2 Present PBS information at staff meeting 2.3.3 Seek guidance from other sources (school board, high schools)
Indicators of Success: 2.1.1 Increased visitations by RCMP. 2.1.2 Number of presentations by community agencies. 2.1.3 Decrease of substance related issues.	Indicators of Success: 2.2.1 Frequency and display of acknowledgements. 2.2.2 Action bullying plan is implemented. 2.2.3 Recognition of student success	Indicators of Success: 2.3.1 Research is completed 2.3.2 Staff awareness of PBS 2.3.3 Support provided
Goal 3: To create a school culture where all stakeholders are invested in the education of students		
Objective 3.1: Promote more parental involvement in the school	Objective 3.2 Develop an environment of student connectedness to Appalachia High as an educational environment	Objective 3.3: Teachers will collectively foster an atmosphere conducive to higher learning expectations
Strategies: 3.1.1 Encourage parents to take a more active role in school activities (breakfast program, school fundraisers, chaperones & extracurricular). 3.1.2 Invite parents to attend student showcase of work (showcase of success). 3.1.3 Explore new methods of increasing parental turnout at curriculum & parent-teacher nights.	Strategies: 3.2.1 Develop a student showcase which allows students to celebrate their successes. 3.2.2 Explore new and relevant extracurricular options for our student body. 3.2.3 Initiate a student-based school weblog (online newsletter) linked to school webpage.	Strategies; 3.3.1 Develop a school-wide expectation policy which will include student involvement. 3.3.2 Implement the expectation policy. 3.3.3 Develop a school-wide mission statement & motto.

Indicators of Success: 3.1.1 Increased parent involvement in school activities 3.1.2 Organize, promote and implement showcase event 3.1.3 Increased parent attendance at curriculum and parent-teacher night	Indicators of Success: 3.2.1 Development of student showcase 3.2.2 New extracurricular groups/clubs 3.2.3 Weblog	Indicators of Success: 3.3.1 Development of a school wide expectation policy. 3.3.2 Implementation of policy 3.3.3 Development of school wide mission statement and motto
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Non-Shared Data

Course	# Students	% Passed
ART & DESIGN 2200	21	95.2
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ENTREPRENEURSHIP 3209	9	100
ENTREPRENEURSHIP 3269	1	100
FRENCH 2200	11	100
FRENCH 3200	14	92.9
SKILLED TRADES 1201	11	100
SKILLED TRADES 1261	1	100
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY 3203	22	95.5
HEALTHY LIVING 1200	2	100
PHYSICAL EDUCATION 2100	13	100
PHYSICAL EDUCATION 2101	13	100
PHYSICAL EDUCATION 2160	1	100
PHYSICAL EDUCATION 2161	1	100
PHYSICAL EDUCATION 3100	17	100
PHYSICAL EDUCATION 3101	17	94.1

WORLD RELIGIONS 3101	13	100
WORLD RELIGION 3106	13	100
WORLD RELIGIONS 3161	1	100
WORLD RELIGIONS 3166	1	100
CANADIAN GEOGRAPHY 1202	21	100
CANADIAN GEOGRAPHY 1262	1	100
WORLD GEOGRAPHY 3200	3	100
CAREER DEVELOPMENT 2201	22	100
MATHEMATICS 1201	16	75.0
MATHEMATICS 1202	7	100
MATHEMATICS 1262	2	100
MATHEMATICS 2200	16	100
MATHEMATICS 2201	12	91.7
MATHEMATICS 3202	11	90.9
MATHEMATICS 3262	1	100
SCIENCE 1206	14	100
SCIENCE 2200	8	100
BIOLOGY 2201	18	94.4
CHEMISTRY 2202	25	100
PHYSICS 2204	10	100
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE 3205	16	100
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE 3265	1	100
ENGLISH 1201	14	100
ENGLISH 1202	9	100
ENGLISH 2201	30	93.3
ENGLISH 2202	3	100
WRITING 2203	20	95.0
DRAMA 2206	20	100
ENGLISH 3202	9	100
ENGLISH 3262	1	100
HUMAN DYNAMICS	21	100
LITERACY 1204	3	100
DESIGN & FABRICATION 1202	14	100

What do these results tell us?

The vast majority of our students are succeeding in their high school courses. The school's intervention plans are working well for a very high majority of our students.