

**Devon Christian School**

**EDUCATION PLAN**

**Our Vision**

Devon Christian School Society seeks to provide a Christian learning environment with educational standards of excellence for the community of Devon.

**2021 - 2024**

**Our Mission**

Devon Christian School equips students for a life of loving and serving God and others through a commitment to spiritual, academic, and personal excellence.

 **Learning Loving Serving**

**MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN**

It is a privilege to serve God and our community on the Devon Christian School Board. This past year has been filled with many challenges, but we have also seen many answers to prayer. I think I can speak for the whole Board, in that we are constantly humbled and awestruck, as we allow and see God reveal His desires for Devon Christian School.

The Board is committed to maintaining the policies and procedures of Devon Christian School. We are incredibly grateful for all the staff who pour their heart and soul into ensuring we have outstanding programs for every student in our care. Parents, grandparents, and supporters have a profound influence on our school through volunteer work, financial support, and prayer.

We are extremely thankful to the Alberta government for their commitment to supporting choice in education in our province and permitting us to teach the Alberta Program of Studies from a Christian perspective.

The Devon Christian School Board and Staff covet your prayers. James 5:16b says, “The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.” I believe that prayer is the most important single ingredient for Devon Christian School to be blessed and to be a blessing!

In His Service,

Armyn Pederson

**ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT**

The Education Plan for Devon Christian School Society commencing May 31, 2021, was prepared under the direction of the Board in accordance with the responsibilities under the Education Act and the Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act. This plan was developed in the context of the provincial government’s business and fiscal plans. The Board has used its performance results to develop the plan and is committed to implementing the strategies contained within the plan to improve student learning and results. The Board approved the Education Plan for 2021-2024 on June 10, 2021.

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Board Chairman Date Signed

*(Original copy signed and on file at the school.)*

**FOUNDATION STATEMENTS**

**Mission Statement:**

Devon Christian School equips students for a life of loving and serving God and others through a commitment to spiritual, academic, and personal excellence.

**Purpose Statement:**

* To provide an environment that strengthens the spiritual development of the student.
* To provide a learning environment where students attain to their highest level of academic excellence.
* To provide a context where students can grow in maturity in their relationships with one another.
* To encourage and strengthen Christian values in the home.

**Educational Philosophy and Programming:**

Devon Christian School is a Pre-Kindergarten-Grade 9 Christian School committed to a Biblical standard of spiritual and academic excellence. We believe that every child is made in the image of God and has unique talents and needs. Devon Christian School provides a program which enables each child to grow spiritually, academically, socially, and physically so that he or she is equipped for service to God. We are committed to a Biblical standard of excellence for the glory of God in all that we do. We believe that anything worth learning should be learned well and the role of the teacher is to ensure that learning occurs for every student. We have focused our curriculum on a select group of core and complementary subjects which we strive to teach with excellence.

**PROFILE**

Devon Christian School opened in the fall of 1991 with Grades 1-7. An expansion in the fall of 1992 incorporated kindergarten and grade 8. Grade 9 was added in 1993 and Pre-Kindergarten was added in 2008. Classroom facilities which also house washrooms are situated in portables behind the Alliance Church, and we have use of a regulation size gymnasium, a sanctuary, and kitchen facilities.

Devon Christian School is a non-denominational school whose mission is to provide a Biblically based education in a positive environment that encourages spiritual commitment, academic potential, and individual growth, thus ministering to the whole child. Devon Christian School provides education to approximately 100 students from Preschool through to and including Grade 9. Devon Christian School is located on the Southwest Corner of Highway 60 and Miquelon Avenue. We are always welcoming new families to join us at Devon Christian School!!

**TRENDS AND ISSUES**

**Governance Issues and Trends:**

Alberta Education funding fluctuates for private schools and inequality remains an issue. Our dependence upon fundraising to operate the instructional program significantly influences the operation and maintenance of facility. The Board must continue to develop a global vision and plan in conjunction with the administration of the school. The School Board needs to monitor, discuss, and follow proposed changes to the School Act ensuring that Devon Christian School provides the required curriculum set out by Alberta Education is from a Christian perspective.

**Staff Issues and Trends:**

Staffing costs continue to constitute a large percentage of most schools operating budgets. This leaves very little room to support additional classroom supports such as technology, curriculum resources, and external consultants.

**Enrollment Issues and Trends:**

To a large extent the operation of a school division is dependent upon the enrollment of students in the system. We receive approximately 70% of the base instructional funds per student for curriculum and instruction that public schools receive for each enrolled student. We do not receive grants for capital expenditures or benefits for staff. This funding provides us with the majority of income in our annual budget. Since adding pre-kindergarten to our school in 2008 we have experience increased enrollment in kindergarten to grade 4; however, our grade 5-9 classes remain relatively small due to families desiring more options in the older grades.

**Facilities Issues and Trends:**

Most of our facility issues focus on maintaining our aging portables which is mostly completed by volunteers from our Devon Christian School families and supporters. Our school portables have been located on the Devon Alliance Church property for 30 years and we also rent the gym, kitchen, and sanctuary facilities from the church. They have been accommodating, but we continue to explore options where we can be self-sufficient in our own building and on our own property.

**Program Issues and Trends:**

We are incredibly pleased with the overall performance of our students considering the challenges that our students faced when COVID-19 forced all students to engage in remote learning for the final term of the 2019-2020 school year. No students completed Provincial Achievements Tests or year-end examinations in the 2019-2020 school year. We are always looking for opportunities to increase our technical resources, including the possibility of a portable computer lab. As of right now, elementary students have limited access to the computer lab. The cost of technology could place heavy demands on our school; however, we are blessed to be a part of the Computers for School program.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

1. In the summer of 2020 the board and principal, in consultation with parents and supporters, developed a handbook outlining the Covid-19 policies and procedures and a re-entry plan to in-school learning.
2. We are extremely grateful that we have been able to focus on in-school learning for the most part. The students and staff have been working very hard under some challenging circumstances. We are so proud of all our student’s resiliency during these unprecedented times. Student attendance remained strong, and they adjusted well to in-school learning and at-home learning when necessary. They are troopers!!
3. We were thankful to be involved in our local community and communities around the world with our monthly outreaches. Some of our outreaches this year were as follows:
* Raising funds for the Terry Fox Foundation
* Writing postcards to veterans
* Collecting Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and items for the food bank
* Engaging in random acts of kindness
* Sharing gifts and talents by video with the residents of the Devon Hospital
* Participating in the Pitch-In Devon Community Clean-Up
* Spreading cheer in Devon by making and delivering encouragement cards
1. We were able to continue offering after school clubs with some adjustments to fit the Covid-19 policies and procedures. Some clubs offered this year were: Craft Club, Building Club, Energizing Your Heart Club, and Olympics Club
2. Our students and their families purchased over 160 books during the Virtual Scholastic Book Fair.
3. Students had the opportunity to join Team Jump where they engaged in various skipping activities and developed routines. The students were very enthusiastic and absolutely loved their Team Jump t-shirts!!

**EDUCATION PLAN CONTEXT**

Devon Christian School is a Preschool - Grade 9 Christian School committed to a Biblical standard of spiritual and academic excellence. We believe that every child is made in the image of God and has unique talents and needs. Devon Christian School provides a program which enables each child to grow spiritually, academically, socially, and physically so that he or she is equipped for service to God. We are committed to a Biblical standard of excellence for the glory of God in all that we do. The Board is comprised of parents of students, society members, and stakeholders. They provide governance, leadership, and accountability for the careful stewardship of the school's resources and ensure the success of students. Leadership and staff use data to inform decisions and classroom practice. The intentional strategies in this Education Plan reflect the Annual Education Results Report (AERR) and classroom-based data, testing, and surveys.

**ENGAGEMENT**

Devon Christian School engages parents through ongoing and frequent communication through email, phone calls, meetings, and student agendas. Our website, Facebook, and Instagram are managed regularly to let the parents know upcoming events, how they can participate, and praise and prayer requests to keep them actively involved. The key stakeholders include Alberta Education, parents, and society members who support the mission of Devon Christian School. Parents, students, staff, supporters, and society members participate in an annual meeting where the attendees have the opportunity to learn more about our school and have a healthy exchange of ideas. Surveys are regularly sent out to our stakeholders to provide input and satisfaction levels. Internally, the Principal and Board have meaningful dialogue with staff members through face-to-face communication and surveys.

**STRATEGIES**

The following key strategies reflect the priorities identified in the 2019-2020 Annual Education Results Report and Alberta Educations 2021-2024 Business Plan. Ongoing engagement with parents, students, staff, supporters, and society members will be key to identifying successful strategies and determining successful outcomes.

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| **DEVON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRIORITY #1** |
| **School Priorities** | Priority one is to develop and maintain a rigorous academic program in order to promote academic excellence and prepare our students for higher learning. |
| **Assurance Framework Domain** | Student Growth and Achievement |
| **Outcomes** | * Maintain and foster academic excellence
* Cultivate effective study and academic performance strategies
* Improve exam writing skills
 |
| **Context** | * Devon Christian School is a Preschool - Grade 9 Christian School committed to a Biblical standard of spiritual and academic excellence. We believe that every child is made in the image of God and has unique talents and needs. Devon Christian School provides a program which enables each child to grow spiritually, academically, socially, and physically so that he or she is equipped for service to God. We are committed to a Biblical standard of excellence for the glory of God in all that we do. *(Excerpt from Parent Handbook)*
 |
| **Strategies** | * Continue to ensure all teachers are reviewing concepts regularly with their students
* Teach effective study skills and strategies
* Develop various methods of assessment for assisting students in areas where they are having challenges
* Use websites and resources provided by Alberta Education and other sources to prepare for exams
* Survey students, parents, and staff to gain knowledge on the study habits of our students
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| **Measures** | * Student performance results on tests and reports cards
* In-house school surveys
* Provincial survey measures of Citizenship and Academic Engagement
* Provincial Achievement Test results
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| **DEVON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRIORITY #2** |
| **School Priorities** | Priority two is to maintain a collaborative school environment that is that faith-filled, safe, caring, and respectful. |
| **Assurance Framework Domain** | Teaching and Leading |
| **Outcomes** | * Maintain a safe and caring school environment where students, parents, and staff can collaborate for one common purpose - successful students
* Enhance staff professional development opportunities
* Devon Christian School equips students for a life of loving and serving God and others through a commitment to spiritual, academic, and personal excellence. *(Mission Statement)*
 |
| **Context** | * Devon Christian School is deeply committed to operating a safe, caring, inclusive, respectful, and welcoming environment. We provide a faith-filled education that reflects in its programs, policies, procedures, and Biblical beliefs. All policies and procedures of the school are developed and administered with gentleness, respect for all people as image bearers of God the creator, care for the wholeness and well-being of the people involved, and in pursuit of unity within the Christian community as the body of Christ. We are all created in the image and likeness of God. As such, all human beings are inherently sacred and must be treated with dignity and respect. All efforts to support the inclusive, safe, and caring learning and working environment of the school must be in accordance with our statement of faith. A nurturing inclusive community is one in which each person is welcomed, accepted, and supported as a child of God. *(Excerpt from Policy Manual)*
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| **Measures** | * In-house school surveys
* Anecdotal feedback from students, parents, and staff
* Provincial survey measures of Quality Education and Safe and Caring
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| **DEVON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRIORITY #3** |
| **School Priorities** | Provide a nurturing environment where all students are encouraged and given opportunities to flourish and reach their God-given potential. |
| **Assurance Framework Domain** | Learning Supports |
| **Outcomes** | * Our school community participates in ensuring a welcome, safe, and caring atmosphere
* Designate sufﬁcient resources to provide appropriate supports to students
* Developed policies and processes to support students’ wellness
* Access additional funding to address individual student needs
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| **Context** | * While every child is unique and precious in God's sight, they do not all have the same abilities and needs. It is imperative for the successful accomplishment of the school's mission that these differences be recognized and addressed. Devon Christian School desires to provide the best education possible for as many children as possible. *(Excerpt from Policy Manual)*
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| **Strategies** | * Create classroom environments that allow students to experience a sense of belonging where they can receive supports to meet their individual needs
* Develop protocols for allocating staff and resources
* Includes parents and students in planning education programs through the use of individualized program plans
* Collaborate with community and professional agencies
* Access initiatives, supports, and services aimed at bridging gaps and students with special needs
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| **Measures** | * Anecdotal reports on staffing, programs, services, strategies, and resources to support students with learning needs
* Additional funding received to support the needs of individual students
* Provincial survey measuring Safe and Caring, Student Inclusion, and Access to Supports and Services
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| **School Priority #4** |
| **School Priorities** | Provide opportunities for our students and staff to model citizenship by showing God’s love and serving others in our local community and communities around the world. |
| **Assurance Framework Domain** | Local and Societal Context |
| **Outcomes** | * Students and staff model active citizenship
* Well-rounded students who love and serve the people in their local community and communities around the world
 |
| **Context** | * We believe that students should not only be equipped to serve God, but that they should be given opportunities to do so while they are young. In addition to the many opportunities for service within the school, we try to involve our students in outreach ministries where they can live out their faith. Through our Chapel program students are encouraged to consider ways that they can serve within their local community and world-wide communities. *(Excerpt from Parent Handbook)*
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| **Strategies** | * Develop the students understanding of needs in society and opportunities for them to assist in acting out methods of citizenship to help in these areas
* Involve parents in the activities in which we engage our students where we are teaching responsibility, positive attitudes, perseverance under pressure, and determination to see an activity completed
* Provide opportunities for community outreaches for the students, such as singing for patients at our local hospital, collecting donations for World Vision, picking up garbage throughout the community, collecting Christmas items for Operation Christmas Child, collecting items for the local food bank and local youth centres, sending out thank you cards to those that serve in our community.
* Use Biblical truths to broaden the students’ minds about people around them and their needs and the roles that our students should follow to be good citizens
* Participate in a Career Day where students can learn about various careers and developing a strong work ethic
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| **Measures** | * Student, parent, and staff survey results
* Feedback from students, parents, staff, and community
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**BUDGET 2021-2022**

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| **REVENUES** |   |   |   |   |
| **Alberta Education (excluding Home Education)** | $506,326  |
| **Alberta Education - Home Education** | $0  |
|  | **Total Alberta Education Revenues** | **$506,326**  |
| **Other Government of Alberta**  |   | $0  |
| **Federal Government and/or First Nations** | $0  |
| **Other Alberta school authorities** | $0  |
| **Instruction fees / Tuition fees** |   | $10,980  |
| **Non-instructional (O&M, Transportation, Admin fees)** | $40,375  |
| **Other sales and services** |   | $43,000  |
| **Interest on investments** |   |   | $5,978  |
| **Gifts and donations** |   |   | $78,899  |
| **Gross school generated funds** |   | $15,900  |
| **Amortization of capital allocations** (where applicable) | $6,133  |
| **Other** (specify): |   | $0  |
|  | **TOTAL REVENUES** | **$707,591**  | **$707,591**  |
|  |   |   |   |   |   |
| **EXPENSES** |   |   |   |  |
| **Certificated salaries (excluding Home Education)** | $353,184  |
| **Certificated benefits (excluding Home Education)** | $24,637  |
| **Non-certificated salaries and wages (excluding Home Education)** | $104,168  |
| **Non-certificated Benefits (excluding Home Education)** | $7,662  |
| **Services, Contracts & Supplies - other than Consulting / Management fees, and Leases (excluding Home Ed.)** | $94,740  |
|  **Consulting / Management Fees** | $0  |
|  |   | **Leases – Building** | $18,000  |
|  |   | **Leases – Other** | $0  |
| **Severe Disabilities / DSEPS** | $65,860  |
| **Program Unit**  | $0  |
|  |   |
| ***Home Education*** |  |  |  |  |   |
|   | **Certificated salaries**  |   | $0  |
|   | **Certificated benefits**  |   | $0  |
|   | **Non-certificated salaries and wages**  | $0  |
|   | **Non-certificated Benefits**  | $0  |
|   | **Payment to parents of a home education student for the purchase of instructional materials**  | $0  |
|   | **Contracts** | $0  |
|   | **Services and Supplies** | $0  |
|   |  |   |
| **Gross school generated funds** |   | $15,900  |
| **Capital and debt services** |   |   |
|   | Amortization of capital assets |   |
|   |   | From restricted funds | $6,133  |
|   |   | from unrestricted funds | $10,989  |
|   | **Total amortization of capital assets** | **$17,122**  |
|   | Interest on capital debt |   | $0  |
|   | Other interest charges |   | $0  |
|   | Losses (gains) on disposal of capital assets | $0  |
| **Other** (specify): | English As a Second Language | $4,620  |
|  | **TOTAL EXPENSES** | **$705,893**  | **$705,893**  |
|  |   |   |   |   |   |
| **SURPLUS(DEFICIT) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES** | **$1,697**  |