



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.

2023 - 2026

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,
Jesse Kornelsen

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

The Education Plan for Devon Christian School Society commencing August 31, 2022, was prepared under the direction of the Board of Directors in accordance with the responsibilities under the Private Schools Regulation and the Ministerial Grants Regulation. 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 2023-2026 Education Plan on May 31, 2023.



Board Chairman

May 31, 2023

Date Signed

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 90 students from Pre-kindergarten 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 sizable 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 significant 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.

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 on their class work and the Provincial Achievement Tests. 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.

EDUCATION PLAN CONTEXT

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. 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

Parents send their children to Devon Christian School because they cherish the mission, vision, and core values of the school. Parent feedback is appreciated by the staff and board of the school. Devon Christian School engages parents through ongoing and frequent communication through email, phone calls, meetings, and student agendas. Parents have access to their child's academic achievement through the SchoolCloud website. 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. Several school wide events bring school families into the school to experience students' learning and performances. Parents volunteer in many areas at our school. Some of these areas are as follows: supervising students on field trips, reading one-on-one with students, being a guest speaker in chapel, organizing library books, planning events, raising funds for various projects, and so much more. 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. Teachers meet regularly to discuss student achievement and support one another. Teacher input is solicited for professional development, course planning, and activities.

STRATEGIES

The following key strategies reflect the priorities identified in the 2021-2022 Annual Education Results Report and Alberta Education's 2023-2026 Business Plan. Ongoing engagement with parents, students, staff, supporters, and society members will be key to identifying successful strategies and determining successful outcomes.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The key strategies of the Education Plan will be implemented during the 2023-2024 school year. The 2022-2023 Assurance Survey results and achievement test results will inform the Education Plan.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain and foster academic excellence• Cultivate effective study and academic performance strategies• Improve exam writing skills
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. <i>(Excerpt from Parent Handbook)</i>
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review Provincial Achievement Test results and year end exams to increase insight into program strengths and areas needing improvement• 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• Teachers will collaborate with colleagues and attend workshops to prepare to teach the new curriculum
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student performance results on tests and reports cards (teacher awarded marks)• Provincial Achievement Test results• In-house school surveys• Provincial survey measures of Citizenship and Academic Engagement

Implementation Plan

- Purchase additional resources and provide professional development opportunities to support the new curriculum with a focus on elementary math and science. Estimated cost: \$5,000.00.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. (<i>Mission Statement</i>)
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. (<i>Excerpt from Policy Manual</i>)
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We provided a learning environment that is welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe with our character education program; as well as followed our school board policies that focused on school supervision, discipline, reporting procedures, safety drills, etc. Our school staff modeled Christ-like behaviors and consistently followed our character education program and policies that promoted a safe, caring, and loving environment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We adapted our learning environment as needed to meet individual learner needs and had high expectations for all students. • We developed a sense of belonging for all individuals by providing leadership opportunities and service outreach opportunities. • We collaborated with students, their families, and various education partners to support learning. • We supplied resources needed to support FNMI student achievement as needed. • We invested in infrastructure (technology and transportation services) to support learning and meets the needs of our students, their families, staff, and communities. • Provide students with monthly opportunities to serve others in their community and live out their faith (Examples: collect items for local food bank, pick up garbage in our community, visit the patients at the hospital and seniors centre)
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-house school surveys • Anecdotal feedback from students, parents, and staff • Provincial survey measures of Quality Education and Safe and Caring
Implementation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events for students and staff will be planned monthly to foster community involvement and service to others. The budget for this will be approximately \$1,000.00. • Collect a series of resources on Canada's history, with a focus on FNMI history and reconciliation. Estimated cost: \$500.00.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. <i>(Excerpt from Policy Manual)</i>
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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• Include FNMI professional development opportunities to increase knowledge of FNMI history
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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

Implementation Plan

- Staff will participate in a two-day course taught by the SILA Skills Group, entitled Transforming Classrooms, Building Emotional Resilience. Estimated Cost: \$2,100.00.

DEVON CHRISTIAN 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. <i>(Excerpt from Parent Handbook)</i>
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student, parent, and staff survey results• Feedback from students, parents, staff, and community

Implementation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan monthly events to foster community involvement and service to others. Estimated cost: \$500.00.• Recruit a local pastor to be guest speaker once a month in our chapels. Estimated cost: \$1,000.00.• Engage our stakeholders to participate in a Career Day in the spring of 2024. Estimated cost: \$500.00.
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BUDGET 2023-2024

	Budget 2023/2024	Projected 2022/2023	ACTUAL 2021/2022 (Note 1)
REVENUES			
Alberta Education (excluding Home Education)	\$667,285	\$506,326	\$508,261
Alberta Education - Home Education	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Alberta Education Revenues	\$667,285	\$506,326	\$508,261
Other Government of Alberta	\$0	\$0	\$4,989
Federal Government and/or First Nations	\$0	\$0	\$46,021
Other Alberta school authorities	\$0	\$0	\$0
Instruction fees / Tuition fees	\$69,125	\$32,380	\$26,887
Non-instructional fees (O&M, Transportation, Admin fees)	\$40,376	\$12,300	\$19,185
Other sales and services	\$43,000	\$43,000	\$0
Interest on investments	\$5,978	\$14,845	(\$22,697)
Gifts and donations	\$78,899	\$55,000	\$112,755
Gross school generated funds	\$15,900	\$15,900	\$22,714
Amortization of capital allocations (where applicable)	\$6,133	\$6,133	\$6,133
Other (specify):	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL REVENUES	\$926,696	\$926,696	\$724,248
EXPENSES			
Certificated salaries and Non-certificated salaries and wages (excluding Home Education)	\$521,448	\$445,688	\$488,511
Certificated benefits and Non-certificated benefits (excluding Home Education)	\$83,460	\$45,859	\$64,387
Services, Contracts & Supplies - other than Consulting / Management fees, and Leases (excluding Home Ed.)	\$215,668	\$122,150	\$140,071
Consulting / Management Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0
Leases - Building	\$30,000	\$18,000	\$18,297
Leases - Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
Severe Disabilities / DSEPS	\$36,000	\$16,465	\$0
Program Unit	\$0	\$0	\$0
Home Education			
Certificated salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0
Certificated benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0
Non-certificated salaries and wages	\$0	\$0	\$0
Non-certificated benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0
Payment to parents of a home education student for the purchase of instructional materials	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$0
Services and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0
Gross school generated funds	\$15,900	\$15,900	\$22,714
Capital and debt services			
Amortization of capital assets			
from restricted funds	\$6,133	\$6,133	\$6,133
from unrestricted funds	\$10,989	\$10,989	\$16,836
Total amortization of capital assets	\$17,122	\$17,122	\$22,969
Interest on capital debt	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other interest charges	\$0	\$0	\$0
Losses (gains) on disposal of capital assets	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (specify): ESL	\$6,000	\$1,260	\$0
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$925,598	\$682,445	\$756,949
SURPLUS(DEFICIT) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$1,098	\$3,440	(\$32,701)
	\$1,098		

The 2023-2026 Education Plan is posted on the Devon Christian School website under the Policies and Reports heading. The link is <https://www.devonchristianschool.ca/pages/policies-reports>.