

# School Growth Plan

School: **Grindrod Elementary**

Year: 2017-18

Principal: Jeff Abbott

## Part 1: Learning Goals

Learning Goals	Rationale	Information	Strategies Identified
<p><b>Goal #1: To improve the numeracy skills of students at all levels.</b></p>	<p>We recognize numeracy as a foundation skill for success in more advanced learning and careers. We recognize that students at Grindrod need to develop their numeracy understanding and skill in order to be well prepared for their future. We recognize that we need to find ways to challenge all learners at their level to ensure continuous progress.</p> <p>We recognize both through our own assessment and through feedback from the high school, that students are not competent enough with their basic math facts. This will be one of the focuses of our program.</p>	<p>This is a multi-year goal. We have had significant staff turnover in the past 3 years, but currently anticipate a stabilization of that turnover. We have been afforded a .2 numeracy support teacher position for this school year as part of a pilot project.</p>	<p>We do early assessment in September to identify needs and strengths.</p> <p>We have our numeracy support teacher working in each classroom on a rotational basis to help support teachers in the implementation of best practice math teaching.</p> <p>We will focus our math curriculum to what has been identified by our district as the most important math understandings and skills at each level of the curriculum.</p> <p>Our school is focussed on developing deep understandings and fluency with the essential math skills at age/ability appropriate levels</p> <p>We use mathletics, Problem of the Day, and hands on math using manipulatives to support and enhance numeracy instruction.</p> <p>In conjunction with ALF we send our top 5 math</p>

			<p>students to the high school twice a week to participate in the STEM program.</p> <p>We instruct students on Financial Literacy and provide real world opportunities to practice their skills (school garage sale, fieldtrip budgets)</p> <p>Members of the staff have participated in professional development training with Carol Fullerton</p> <p>We have several students working on individualized programs at the grade 8 and 9 levels, supported by a high school math teacher/volunteer.</p>
<p><b>Goal #2: To improve the writing skills of all learners.</b></p>	<p>Staff recognizes that student knowledge and skill with writing conventions needs improvement.</p> <p>Staff identified that students need to have more exposure to a variety of writing genres as they progress through their school year.</p> <p>Staff recognizes the importance of the writing process in the development of quality writing and the need to reinforce this process in an effort to improve writing at Grindrod.</p>	<p>This goal is a continuation of a goal set in the previous year.</p> <p>This year we continue to focus on form and conventions but have broadened our scope to include a wider range of writing genres in our curricular planning.</p> <p>To support students who are working below grade level in reading we have added a .2 Reading support teacher to our staff this year.</p>	<p>Early assessment using performance standards to identify student strengths and weaknesses.</p> <p>Response journals to fieldtrips Daily writing/reading ops Writing in various genres Participation in Remembrance Day poetry contest Family Letter Writing Day</p> <p>Programs supporting writing: Lucy Caulkins K-5 Adrian Gear-Writing Power</p> <p>Teachers will emphasize and reinforce the progression of skills</p>

		<p>We have also implemented the use of assistive technologies on the ipad or, in some cases, the students own device to assist with writing output for some students.</p> <p>CEAs also scribe for some students so that their writing ideas can be recorded.</p>	<p>needed to communicate in writing such as word choice, sentence structure, paragraphing and document development.</p> <p>Teachers will review and reinforce the writing process including editing and proofreading while writing drafts and publishing and presenting selected work.</p> <p>Teachers plan activities that introduce students to a variety of writing purposes and genres such as story writing, letter writing, poetry, essays.</p>
<p><b>Goal #3: To improve student engagement through a locally focussed hands on, outdoor education program.</b></p>	<p>Staff recognizes that learning is enhanced when students are excited and engaging in the learning experience. They believe that this is often best achieved when students are involved in hands on, experiential learning activities.</p> <p>Grindrod has a wealth of outdoor learning environments that can be utilized to enhance classroom studies.</p> <p>The staff sees the community as a rich resource of willing and knowledgeable individuals who have much to offer to the learning objectives of our school.</p>	<p>The staff has been developing a series of outdoor education and hands on learning experiences that can be sourced locally to support curriculum objects. These include places and people in our community who are accessible either free or at a reasonable cost.</p>	<p>Create a teaching garden to enhance outdoor learning opportunities. Develop a locally focussed series of fieldtrips that enhance class curriculum. Design student centered curriculum with a hands-on or outdoor education component.</p> <p>The staff will work to engage the experts in the community to share their knowledge and skills with the students in an effort to enhance the learning experience for students.</p> <p>Several staff has participated in in-service around project based learning, inquiry strategies and maker day experiences. These</p>

			<p>instructional strategies are being used in several classes.</p> <p>Our school has invested in skis, snowshoes, portable soccer nets and garden tools to support outdoor learning activities.</p>
--	--	--	---