

Dear Grades 1 – 6 Irvine School Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to explain shifts in the direction of education in Alberta and how these are being applied at Irvine School.

Here are some fast facts about provincial shifts:

What is “Inspiring Education?”

Inspiring Education began as a conversation between Albertans. It developed as a response to the growing needs of our students.

The Education Act, along with the Ministerial Order for Student Learning, forms the foundation of Alberta’s education system. The Order was signed by the Minister of Education on May 6, 2013 and has legislative force.

The goal of the Order is to describe the K–12 educational journey for all Alberta students to become the engaged thinkers and ethical citizens with an entrepreneurial spirit as envisioned through Inspiring Education.

What is curriculum?

Programs of study articulate what students from kindergarten to grade 12 (K–12) are expected to know and be able to do.

Assessments that are part of the curriculum are used to determine how students demonstrate their learning in various subjects and grades.

Learning and teaching resources are used to support students and teachers.

What is “Curriculum Redesign”?

Curriculum Redesign is the development of a future curriculum that is more responsive to different learning styles and that better prepares students for the challenges of the future.

How will the curriculum change?

- Alberta’s future curriculum will combine the basics of traditional educational practices with modern competencies, such as innovation, creativity and collaboration. The curriculum will include numeracy and literacy in all subject areas.
- The new curriculum will focus on more relevant subject learning outcomes for students, which will limit any overlap or duplication among subject areas. This will allow Alberta’s teachers to better support their students’ unique learning needs.
- The new curriculum will provide students with more opportunities to become engaged in their learning and focus deeply in each area of study.

When will Curriculum Redesign start?

Select programs of study are targeted for approval by the Minister by March 2016.

The dates for provincial implementation of programs of study have not yet been set and will be determined in consultation with school authorities and education partners.

Who is developing the curriculum?

- Alberta Education will continue to be responsible for the development of the new provincial curriculum.
- Partners participating in Curriculum Development Prototyping represent more than 30 publicly-funded school authorities across the province, including public, separate, private, charter, Francophone school authorities and First Nations schools.

How are these shifts impacting Irvine School?

Career Technology Foundations (CTF)

- Irvine School is piloting the CTF curriculum for Prairie Rose School Division No. 8 this school year. Our grade 7 – 9 students are taking CTF classes. CTF has replaced option classes and is intended to give our students opportunities to explore career areas and develop competencies that will make them successful in their future careers.

Assessment of Learner Outcomes

- Curriculum Redesign will ultimately result in changes to the outcomes that are included in report cards in the near future. Outcomes based report cards are intended to provide “more than a mark”. There are hundreds of outcomes that students need to learn. Teachers collect evidence of learning for these outcomes throughout the school year. These smaller outcomes are categorized under broad outcomes stated on the report card and a level of progress toward mastery of each broad outcome is identified. This reporting system is congruent with how curriculum is designed and the expectation for teachers to be accountable for directly assessing learner outcomes.
- Teachers have met to discuss how to change the current report card and parent/teacher interview process so that feedback is more meaningful for parents. Changes made include the following:
 - Report only one term at a time to make it easier to view the level of learning for each term.
 - Provide an insert of the units of study that have been covered for each term.
 - Use asterisks to identify levels of progress for each learner outcome
 - Individual Interviews will be scheduled for grades K, 1 & 2. Student lead conferences will be the format for older grades, unless otherwise requested.

Please follow the provided link to view a slideshow demonstrating how to interpret “Outcome Based Report Cards”.

Thank you for your feedback and ongoing support of Irvine School as we strive to continuously improve student learning and assessment.

Ms. Carlson

Principal, Irvine School