

2023-2024 School Learning Plan

SCHOOL STORY

Shaughnessy Elementary School, a heritage site built in 1919, provides education for 442 students in kindergarten through grade 7. The diverse student body represents many languages spoken within the Vancouver community, with 39% classified as English Language Learners (ELL). Students with special education designations are integrated into classrooms and receive assistance from resource teachers and support staff (SSAs). As a staff, we follow the district's Education Plan 2026, which emphasizes student achievement, well-being, inclusivity, and acknowledgement of Indigenous histories.

Students demonstrate excellent academic performance in school-based and provincial assessments – 73% meet or exceed numeracy expectations and 60% excel in literacy. Shaughnessy's dedicated staff oversee this achievement with a commitment to delivering a comprehensive education including enriched academic, sports, and fine arts programs. The fine arts curriculum nurtures the exploration and mastery of students' talents by incorporating drama, visual arts, and music. Shaughnessy's music programs offer opportunities in bucket drumming, singing, recorder, ukulele, concert band, lunchtime chamber choir and chamber orchestra.

Offering an array of extracurricular activities, we value engagement beyond the classroom. We encourage students to take a leadership role in safety patrol, library monitor, peer helper, classroom big buddies, as well as positions in clubs and sports teams, all of which foster personal growth and positive contributions to the school community. Through these opportunities, Shaughnessy students are building capacity to act respectfully, responsibly, and safely at school and within the broader community.

Thanks to the support and generosity of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and their fundraising endeavors, students benefit from enhanced programs including dance, gymnastics, visits from local performers and authors, and field trips. In addition, Shaughnessy PAC organizes a variety of school events such as the Family Dance, Movie Night, Family Picnic, and International Cuisine Day to bring the community together.

In our commitment to student success, we focus on literacy, numeracy, social-emotional learning, and our journey of reconciliation with First Nations. Through a collaborative approach, Shaughnessy Elementary School aims to instill in all students a love of learning with a resilient and adaptable mindset that will enable them to reach their full potential.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS?

Students at Shaughnessy Elementary are well-supported. Both the Early Development Index (EDI) and the Middle Years Development Index (MDI) indicate that our students receive significant support both at home and at school. Shaughnessy staff have prioritized Social Emotional Learning (SEL) this year, emphasizing the teaching of prosocial behaviors such as kindness, cooperation, sharing, empathy, and helping others. Students have access to numerous leadership opportunities, including participation in our peer helper, library monitor, traffic safety and big buddy programs. These initiatives foster a sense of belonging and responsibility, enhancing their overall well-being and school experience. Additionally, students participate in a wide variety of sports and fine arts curricular and extra-curricular programs. In the 2023-24 school year, over 150 students in grades 1 to 7 participated in cross country while 160 grades 4 to 7 students took part in track and field, and approximately 25 to 30 grade 7 students joined the volleyball, basketball, and badminton teams. This active involvement extends to creative pursuits as well, with all students receiving robust instruction in music, art and drama during regular school hours and our intermediate students participating in district-wide events like the Elementary Night of Bands and the Choral Festival annually.

In terms of literacy, many students demonstrate positive progress. Specifically, 53% are categorized as proficient or extending their skills, indicating a solid grasp of literacy concepts taught and practiced in class. Another 38% are in the developing stage, showing steady improvement, while 8% are classified as emerging, signifying the need for additional support. Furthermore, there has been noticeable improvement in students' literacy skills from term 1 to term 2, as evidenced by their report card assessments.

Shaughnessy students are diverse, representing a wide range of cultures, backgrounds, and academic needs. To address this diversity, teachers use Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and culturally responsive teaching to provide support for all students. With a significant number of students who are learning English (34%), our students receive both pull-out and push-in English Language Learning (ELL) and resource support. In addition, our students have access to counselling, mentoring, academic and gifted support provided by the school team.

Our learners are actively engaged in the journey of reconciliation. With our recently expanded library collection, students have access to an increasing array of indigenous literature and authors. Our staff's dedication to enriching classroom resources, incorporating diverse perspectives, and welcoming guest speakers, ensures that students are exposed to a comprehensive understanding of indigenous history and culture. This commitment to reconciliation underscores our overarching goal of nurturing an inclusive and equitable learning environment, which is vital to our dedication to every student's growth and understanding.

AS A SCHOOL COMMUNITY, WE ARE WORKING ON THE FOLLOWING TO:

Improve student achievement in literacy and numeracy, physical and mental well-being, and belonging

Within our school community, efforts are underway to enhance achievement in literacy through various strategies. These include employing a diverse range of instructional methods in both whole-group and small-group settings. Through reading and writing workshops, literature circles and other literacy-based and play-based activities, we focus on building skills in phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency to foster identity, play, joy, and wonder to engage and motivate students. Recognizing the diverse needs of our learners, we provide resource support, both within the classroom and through pull-out interventions, to assist those who require additional help.

Similarly, our school community is committed to advancing numeracy skills through targeted initiatives. We prioritize hands-on math programs that integrate real-life applications, ensuring students grasp fundamental concepts effectively. Numeracy talks and the consistent use of math vocabulary in classroom discussions further reinforce their understanding. Collaboration among students is encouraged to promote peer learning and a deeper comprehension of mathematical principles. Moreover, play-based learning activities are integrated into our approach to make math enjoyable and accessible for all learners.

Improve equity

Our school community is committed to enhancing equity through various initiatives. First and foremost, we aim to achieve this by fostering a diverse and inclusive curriculum. Additionally, we prioritize the cultivation of culturally responsive teachers who can effectively engage with students from various backgrounds.

Equitable access to resources is another crucial aspect of our efforts. We ensure that all students have fair opportunities for educational materials and support services. This includes providing assistance to English Language Learners, as well as fostering family and community engagement to create a supportive environment for all.

To combat bullying and promote inclusion, we have implemented anti-bullying initiatives and strive to create a culture of respect and acceptance. Furthermore, we believe in the importance of restorative justice practices, which focus on repairing harm and restoring relationships within our community.

Our commitment to equity is further demonstrated through the range of services available for students, such as counselling, mentoring, and academic support provided by our resource team. We prioritize creating a safe and inclusive space where all students feel valued and respected.

Lastly, we recognize the importance of continually collecting data and monitoring our progress to identify areas for improvement and ensure that our efforts toward equity remain effective and impactful.

Continue on our journey of reconciliation with First Nations, Metis, and Inuit

Furthermore, our school community is actively engaged in the journey of reconciliation. This involves expanding our library book collection and resources to include a more diverse range of perspectives and voices. By broadening access to literature that reflects Indigenous experiences and cultures, we aim to foster greater understanding and appreciation within our school community. This commitment to reconciliation underscores our dedication to creating an inclusive and equitable learning environment for all students.

HOW WILL WE KNOW WE'RE ON TRACK?

We will assess the effectiveness of our initiatives and practices using a combination of anecdotal data and results from our Learning Updates, Summary of Learning, and Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA). These results will help us gauge student progress in literacy and numeracy. Additionally, the Middle Years Development Index (MDI), the Early Years Development Index (EDI), and the Student Learning Survey (SLS) will provide insights into whether our students feel safe, welcomed, and have a sense of belonging within the school environment.