

2023-2024 School Learning Plan

SCHOOL STORY

Tyee is a dedicated Montessori school committed to creating an engaging, supportive, and emotionally safe learning environment. As a District Choice Program, we currently serve 192 students across eight divisions, using multi-aged classrooms for Primary 1/2/3 and Intermediate 4/5/6, while Kindergarten and Grade 7 have dedicated grades.

Students are encouraged to work independently, in small groups, and as contributors to the broader school community. The devoted teaching staff at Tyee ensures a vibrant learning environment grounded in Montessori principles, aligned with the Ministry of Education curriculum. Collaboration among educators supports students' continuous progress toward personal and academic goals. The learning philosophy emphasizes social and emotional learning, individual project-based learning, and the cultivation of critical and creative thinking skills.

At the heart of Tyee's philosophy is a commitment to programs focused on sustainability that encompass environmentally sustainable living, food cycles, and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. We emphasize hands-on experiences, including maintaining a school garden, engaging in outdoor learning opportunities, participating in community clean-ups, and exploring the salmon life cycle with a connection to Indigenous ways of learning. We integrate arts education and various outdoor experiential learning opportunities. Our philosophy includes a commitment to Peace Education and addressing social justice issues. We guide students to acquire knowledge, values, and skills that empower them to live harmoniously with themselves, others, and the environment. This commitment is reflective of the core tenets of Montessori philosophy and methodology.

Active parental involvement is a cornerstone of Tyee, with parents contributing to the Montessori program through community-building events, parent education, fundraising initiatives, and volunteering.

Tyee embraces multicultural and diverse perspectives, recognizing the value of a rich and inclusive learning environment. Tyee remains dedicated to providing a holistic and enriching educational experience for all students.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS?

Our students come from diverse backgrounds and have diverse abilities but share a common interest in our Montessori program. Our school population includes learners with varying needs, including Indigenous and English Language learners. Our learners are known for their curiosity, creativity, enthusiasm, and independence. With the freedom inherent in the Montessori curriculum, students learn to plan their own work cycles and are empowered to be critical thinkers and problem solvers who take ownership of their learning journey.

Our school staff is committed to fostering literacy skills from kindergarten to Grade 7. By closely aligning our teaching with the developmental stages of reading and writing, we aim to establish a solid literacy foundation. We prioritize enhancing our staff's understanding of reading traits and creating instructional goals at each stage of a student's reading journey. Tyee students demonstrate strength in their proficiency in literacy as seen in the Term 2 2024 CSL Reports with more than 75% of our students receiving a proficient or extending level of performance. This can also be seen in our 2023 Foundation Skills Assessment results as 100% of our Grade 4s who completed the assessment were on track or extending and 80% of our Grade 7 students were on track or extending.

Our recent Student Learning Survey conducted in February 2024 showed that 55% of Grade 4 students and 35% of Grade 7 students felt they were making strides in math. We aspire to see more students feeling empowered in their math abilities. We've noticed that some of our students struggle to stick with problem-solving tasks and often feel anxious about math. This is more noticeable as the students get older. Our 2023 Foundational Skills Assessment results showed that 80% of our Grade 4 students were on track with regards to numeracy proficiency compared to 60% of our students being on track in Grade 7.

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

Our focus for this year is on numeracy. Within our community of learners, we're fortunate to witness strengths that contribute to our numeracy goals. Through ongoing observations, discussions, and relationship-building, we have gained insights into our students' numeracy journeys. We see our students collaborate and explore mathematical concepts with kindness and independence. Generally, our students demonstrate an openness to new numerical ideas that fosters inclusivity and open-mindedness during numeracy experiences. We celebrate their curiosity and willingness to share numerical insights, recognizing these traits as essential to their growth in other areas of their numeracy development. We are thankful for our supportive school community, enriched by parental involvement and students' natural numerical curiosity. As we strive for improvements in numeracy, we recognize our biggest area for growth, which is cultivating critical thinking skills and fostering resilience in numeracy challenges.

We are working to ensure students grasp math concepts and develop solid foundational skills. Our approach includes interactive lessons and customized resources to support each learner, particularly those encountering difficulties with basic skills like number sense and computation. We aim to cultivate resilience and confidence, inspiring students to embrace challenges. We plan to integrate more open-ended discussions and number talks, enhancing critical thinking and numerical fluency. We are also working at expanding learning opportunities beyond traditional textbooks and encouraging diverse responses. We want to promote classroom environments that foster teamwork, exploration, and celebration of student success.

Improve equity

As part of our commitment to enhancing equity for all our learners, we ensure every student has access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to succeed. Staff are equipped with various strategies to foster inclusivity and meet diverse student needs. Through tailored instruction and fair access to materials, we aim to create an environment where every learner can flourish and achieve their best.

We value the involvement of our students' families and the broader community in our educational journey. By forming partnerships with families and collaborating we enrich learning experiences. through extra practice of skills to reinforce understanding and to connect to authentic experiences. We're committed to infusing culturally relevant content into our curriculum to honour the diverse backgrounds and experiences of our students.

Prioritizing social-emotional support is important for nurturing our students' holistic development. By fostering a caring and understanding environment, we empower students to navigate challenges and develop resilience with a growth mindset. Our district staff and school counselors work closely with teachers and students, offering guidance and support. Professional development opportunities help us recognize and address equity issues, fostering inclusive teaching practices among our staff.

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

For us, reconciliation means fostering understanding, respect, and empathy towards Indigenous peoples and their cultures. To advance reconciliation, we integrate Indigenous perspectives into our learning through teaching culturally responsive content and land-based learning activities. This year, our students and staff are expanding their knowledge of Indigenous plants and their cultural significance, actively contributing to the development of our Indigenous Garden. We extend this exploration by learning about our local community, identifying Indigenous plants and landmarks, and delving into topics such as farming, waterways, and development within the context of our history.

We collaborate with Indigenous communities and cultural organizations to provide authentic learning experiences. Our staff engage in ongoing cultural learning, participate in district Indigenous Focus Days and other professional development opportunities, ensuring respectful and authentic integration of Indigenous content across the curriculum.

Through reflection, dialogue, and reconciliation projects, we cultivate a supportive environment for students to participate in the ongoing journey of reconciliation. In addition to academic learning, we embrace cultural traditions such as learning Indigenous songs and participating in schoolwide drum

and rattle ceremonies throughout the year. These initiatives collectively reinforce our dedication to reconciliation and the establishment of an inclusive and culturally vibrant learning environment at Tyee.

HOW WILL WE KNOW WE'RE ON TRACK?

We will monitor the progress in developing students' knowledge, skills, and attitude to tackle all levels of math questions. Tyee staff will analyze various types of data to gauge progress. Over the school year, we will analyze class survey results to capture an understanding of our student's understanding and attitudes toward math. Teacher observation notes will also be used to document student interactions and engagement during math activities. Staff will use both formal and informal assessment data to track progress throughout the year. We are looking to use universal screeners across grade levels to have a common assessment tool amongst classes. Staff will continue to analyze schoolwide CSL data, FSA results, and the Student Learning Survey to gauge how our students are doing. We will aim to be consistent in the use of our math language and approaches. Staff will continue to populate our Tyee Teams math channel with math resources, participate in professional development, and collaborate to build our capacity for teaching to help us meet our goal.