



Four Year Plan

2019-2023 YEAR ONE: 2020



- Make It Real
- Make It Visible
- Make It For Everyone



MISSION



Buffalo Trail Public Schools is committed to maximizing student learning, in a safe and caring environment, supported by a highly effective team.



VISION



To be dynamic leaders in empowering students to be caring, responsible, and contributing global citizens with a passion for learning.



VALUES



Demonstrate integrity and transparency

Encourage innovation and collaboration

Embrace diversity and belonging

Provide opportunity and choice

Celebrate success and recognize excellence

Take ownership and exhibit accountability

Did You Know?



- Approximately 4000 students, from Kindergarten to Grade 12, attend Buffalo Trail Public Schools.
- Our division covers over 14,250 square kilometres in East-Central Alberta.
- We employ approximately 525 full and part-time teachers and support staff.
- We have 28 school sites (including eight Hutterite Colony Schools, one Outreach site, one distance learning site and 18 other schools serving students, in varying grade combinations, from ECS-Grade 12).
- Buffalo Trail Public Schools residents are served by nine trustees, each representing a ward in the division.
- In recent years, Buffalo Trail Public Schools has had one of the highest percentages of student high school graduation rates in the province.
- We are recognized for having one of the highest student transition to post-secondary rates in the province.
- We serve the learning needs of children in 28 communities across four different Municipal Districts and Counties.
- We operate bussing for four different school jurisdictions and five Private Early Childhood Service Operators.
- We have 99 bus routes that travel 13,973 km every day.
- The total distance travelled by our busses over the course of one year is equivalent to 64 times around the earth or seven round-trips to the moon.

Buffalo Trail Public Schools
is located in the province of Alberta, Canada.

2019 - 2023 Four Year Plan

Children have an innate love of learning. From an early age, they are curious and want to know the what, where, how and why of everything they encounter. At **Buffalo Trail Public Schools**, we build upon our students' inquisitive nature by encouraging them to develop and test their own ideas, seek new perspectives, gather and analyze information, and draw new insights to help them grow to be strong, critical thinkers. We know that when students learn how to learn - that is to acquire, create, connect and communicate knowledge in a variety of contexts - we are helping them build the confidence and habits of mind to become life-long learners and successful citizens. Our educators play a key role in this process. Building upon the foundational skills of literacy and numeracy, our educators help students learn how to ask the right questions and how to find, process and analyze information. Students are taught to develop ideas and construct meaning by clarifying and expanding their thinking. Under this balanced approach, students learn how to set goals, document their learning and reflect on their growth - three skill sets that prepare them for a successful future. As presented in our **2019-2023 Four Year Plan** - we are pleased to outline a continuation of this journey to our communities.

Our four-year education plan is organized around the five primary domains within education.

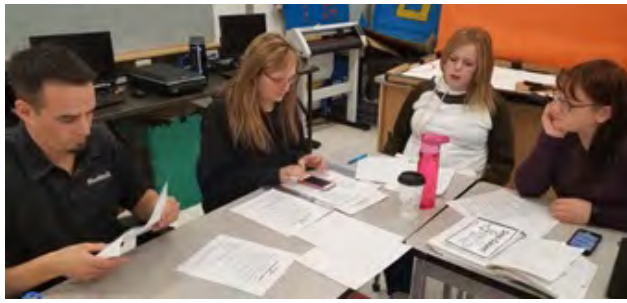
This report is a synopsis of information gathered from the jurisdiction and represents highlights into the work happening at our schools.

Student Growth and Achievement refers to the ongoing progress students make in their learning, relative to identified provincial learning outcomes and consistent with their needs, interests and aspirations. Public assurance occurs when the public has trust and confidence that students demonstrate citizenship, engage intellectually and grow continuously as learners.

Across BTPS, opportunities exist to support student growth and achievement, including:

- Impressive levels of high school completion rates with 85% within three years of entering grade 10.
- BTPS continues to have a very low drop out rate with less than 1.7% of students dropping out.
- 66% of BTPS students go on to post-secondary education after high school.
- BTPS continues to have high levels of academic success with 70% of students able to access the Rutherford Scholarship to support further post-secondary studies.
- Literacy and Numeracy concepts are enriched by various Reading, Writing and Math programs used across our division.
- OurSCHOOL Surveys indicate that our students report above provincial norms for intellectual engagement in academic courses.
- Through video-conferencing, 24 course sessions were offered to 215 students.
- Career path planning enable us to offer high school students off-campus and hands-on opportunities with experts in the trades, via the RAP program, the Work Experience program, the agricultural-related Green Certificate program and CTS courses through our partnerships with Lakeland College.



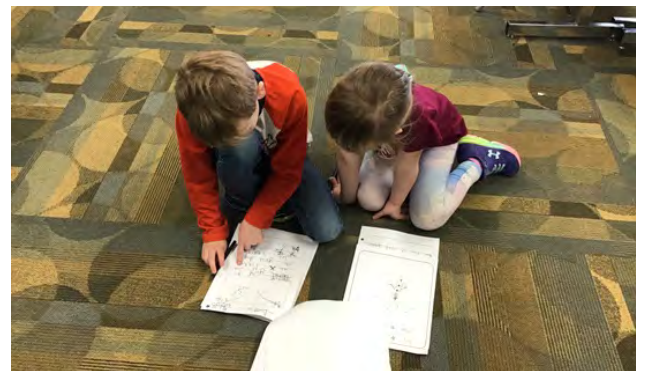


Teaching and Leading refers to teachers and leaders analyzing the learning context, attending local and societal considerations and applying the appropriate knowledge and abilities to make decisions resulting in quality teaching, leading and optimal learning for all. Public assurance occurs when the public has trust and confidence that certificated teachers and certificated leaders demonstrate their respective professional practice standard (*Teacher Quality Standard, Leadership Quality Standard and Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard*).

BTPS continues to focus its attention on supporting student learning through building staff capacity including:

- Professional Learning occurred during three jurisdiction level days and six professional learning days at the school level which were focused on local and unique professional development priorities.
- Our division hosted Tiffanee Brown who led learning on Concept-Based Learning; Justin Tarte focused on Building a Culture to support Optimal Learning Environments for ALL, and Shelley Moore shared her expertise on Inclusive Education.
- Three ATA learning days were held for teachers, supported by provincial and local ATA members.
- Teachers worked to develop skills with platforms such as Google Meet, Hapara and SeeSaw to deliver lessons and keep connected to our students both online and in the classroom.
- An Optimal Learning Coach (OLC) is found at each school to coach and develop teacher instructional capacity.

Learning Supports refers to the mobilization of resources, (including expertise, facilities, human and community services) required to demonstrate shared, system-wide responsibility for all students and the application of these resources to ensure quality teaching, leading, and optimal learning for all. Public assurance occurs when the public has trust and confidence that resources are managed effectively in establishing learning environments where local and societal context is recognized, diversity is embraced, a sense of belonging is emphasized and all learners are welcomed, cared for, respected, and safe.



Robust supports for student's academic success and well-being include:

- VIBE and WOW supports students, families and communities with their mental health and wellness needs through early intervention programming and services, and appreciation of student potential and success assisted by technology.
- Individual student programs are collaboratively developed and ongoing throughout a student's educational career.
- BTPS has an Early Learning Lead Teacher who oversees early childhood inclusive learning and intervention programming, services and Program Unit Fund (PUF).
- Collaborative conversations to create awareness and understanding around mental health continues as part of our BTPS Mental Health Strategy.
- The BTPS Inclusive Learning Support Team (ILST) primary goal is to build teacher/school staff instructional capacity in meeting the inclusive needs of all students.
- Occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, physical therapy, and psychological/behavioral support services are provided to our students.
- Nutrition programs supported 1450 students with over \$163,000 used to support student well-being.

Governance refers to the process by which policy leaders attend to local and societal context; determine strategic direction; evaluate policy implementation; and manage fiscal resources to ensure learning supports, quality teaching, leading, and optimal learning for all. Public assurance occurs when the public has trust and confidence that policy leaders demonstrate stewardship of system resources with an emphasis on student success, generative community engagement, transparency and accountability.

BTPS assures the governance of the system and this is evident through the variety of board actions including:

- As a founding member of the Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards, BTPS continues to play an active role in the executive of this important organization to ensure that our rural voice is heard at the provincial level.
- During the 2019-2020 school year the Board of Trustees had formal meetings with two of our three MLA's to share the successes and challenges experienced by our rural board.
- The Board of Trustees engaged over 250 stakeholders in helping to identify those that would assure them that the education system was serving the needs of their community. During the 2019-2020 school year, this final document was distributed to over 15,000 stakeholders to provide information about our plan and the areas of focus.
- Trustees attended over 75 School Council meetings throughout the school year to both share information and gather perspectives on our work as a school division. This information was taken back to the board table to help inform the decision-making process.
- The annual financial audit of the 2018-2019 school year was conducted by an independent accounting firm. BTPS formed an Audit Committee that included a member of the business community and a member of the adult learning community. All financial matters were found to be in good order and the auditor commended BTPS Board for their financial management.

Attending to Local and Societal Context refers to the engagement practice of schools and communities, with support from the broader system, in identifying and responding to the needs, interests, aspirations and diverse cultural, social and economic circumstances of all students. Public assurance occurs when the public has trust and confidence that the education system responds pro-actively to local and societal contexts.










BTPS is a jurisdiction with a variety of different communities and attending to local context is evident through:

- Capital projects, through community partnerships and support, occurred at Paradise Valley and Irma.
- School Councils are engaged and active in school wide events.
- Awareness of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit cultures, histories and restorative practices were made through diverse experiences inside and outside of the classroom including blanket exercise school events and use of talking circles.
- Our rural schools respond to the local needs and enrich the common learning experiences by utilizing the unique identity of each community through its people, places and opportunities. Each school benefits by and engages with learning through local experts, open houses, community partnerships, jurisdiction cultural events, and First Nations, Métis and Inuit Awareness.



2020 - 2021 BTPS School Year Calendar

August S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	September S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	October S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	November S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
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April S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	May S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	June S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	July S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Legend		Days of School	
 Holiday	 Convention / ATA PL Day	Students	Teachers
 First Student Day of Semester	 Celebration Day	Semester 1	89 98
 Teacher Directed	 School Learning Day	Semester 2	92 97
 BTPS Learning Day	 Central Office Closed	TOTAL	181 195
 Day-in-Lieu			

Student Non-Attendance Dates					
August 26	Teacher Directed	November 11	Remembrance Day	April 2	Good Friday
August 27	School Learning Day	November 12	Designated Day-in-Lieu (Staff Meeting)	April 5 - 9	Easter Break
August 28	BTPS Learning Day			May 7	School Learning Day
August 31	Teacher Directed	November 13	Designated Day-in-Lieu (Parent Teacher Interviews)	May 20	Designated Day-in-Lieu (Staff Meeting)
September 7	Labour Day				
October 9	Celebration Day	Dec 21 - Jan 1	Christmas Break	May 21	Designated Day-in-Lieu (Parent Teacher Interviews)
October 12	Thanksgiving Day	January 29	Teacher Directed		
October 23	School Learning Day & Support Staff PL	February 1	School Learning Day	May 24	Victoria Day
		February 11 & 12	ATA Teachers' Convention	June 30	Teacher Directed
November 9	School Learning Day	February 15	Family Day		
November 10	ATA Professional	March 5	BTPS Learning Day		
				** Central Office Closure will be July 19th - 30th, 2021	

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The first day for students is **September 1st, 2020**. **February 2nd, 2021** is the first day of Term 2. **June 29, 2021** is the last day of school for students.

Please be reminded that when inclement weather does not allow us to operate our buses, schools will be open, classes are occurring and student learning continues. As with any absence, students who miss material will be provided with an opportunity to receive instructional material through an alternate means or catch up on missed school work upon return to school.

Students are required to be in attendance until the last day of school as identified by the BTPS Board Approved Calendar. Final exams at the Grade 7 to 9 level will occur during the last five student days each semester. During non-examination times, tutorials, course review and alternate activities will occur. Final exams in non-diploma course at the Grade 10 to 12 level will occur during the last five student days each semester. During non-examination times, tutorials, course review and alternate activities will occur. Final exams in diploma courses will occur as described in

the Alberta Education Diploma exam schedule (www.education.alberta.ca) and submission of marks will occur the day prior to the diploma marks submission date. During non-examination times, tutorials, course review and alternate activities will occur.

The 2020-2021 school calendar provides for instructional time for students that exceeds the requirements set by Alberta Education for instructional hours at the Grade 1-9 levels of 950 hours and at the Grade 10-12 levels for 1000 hours. The total student days in this year's calendar equals 181 days.

Our Schools

Amisk School	780-856-3771
Autumn Leaf Colony School	780-842-2221
Clandonald School	780-853-2122
Creighton Colony School	780-763-2221
Dewberry School	780-847-3051
Dr. Folkins Community School (Chauvin)	780-858-3744
Edgerton Public School	780-755-3810
E. H. Walter School (Paradise Valley)	780-745-2277
Highland View Colony School	780-856-2367
Holt Colony School	780-754-2823
Hughenden Public School	780-856-3640
Innisfree Delnorte School	780-592-3963
Irma School	780-754-3746
J. R. Robson Jr. Sr. High School (Vermilion)	780-853-4177
Kitscoty Elementary School	780-846-2822
Kitscoty Jr. Sr. High School	780-846-2121
Mannville School	780-763-3615
Marwayne Jubilee School	780-847-3930
Percy Lake Colony School	780-593-2220
Provost Public School	780-753-6824
Ribstone Colony School	780-842-8027
Rosewood Colony School	780-842-7175
South Ferriby Colony School	780-847-2515
Students Online (Dewberry)	780-847-3639
Vermilion Elementary School	780-853-5444
Vermilion Outreach School	780-853-2111
Wainwright Elementary School	780-842-3361
Wainwright High School	780-842-4481

Board of Trustees

Lanie Parr - Chair	780-847-4211
Stephanie Spornitz - Vice Chair	780-842-9669
Barry Livingston	780-753-7752
Bruce Marriott	780-853-0048
Darcy Eddleston	780-745-2370
Jim King	780-853-7040
Marie Isaman	780-842-7334
Rose Gorniak	587-217-2159
Sheldon Archibald	780-754-2850

Senior Administration

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Bob Brown	Secretary-Treasurer
Michelle Webb	Deputy Superintendent
James Trodden	Assistant Superintendent

