



Four Year Plan

2019-2023 YEAR TWO: 2021



- 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

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.

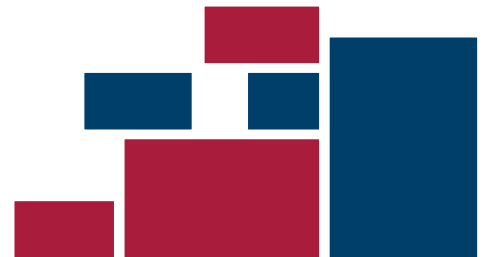
Our four-year education plan is organized around the five primary domains within education.

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:

- High level of high school completion with 88% of students graduating within three years of entering grade 10, and 92% within 5 years.
- 84% of teachers, parents and students agree that students are engaged in their learning at school.
- 81% of teachers, parents and students who are satisfied that students model the characteristics of active citizenship.
- Through Distributed Learning, BTPS supported 356 students in 29 courses.
- Various Off Campus programs meet the needs of students learning, including RAP program 25-students, the Work Experience program 156-students, Green Certificate program 8-students, Lakeland College; CTS Trades & Online - 171. Total off-campus/partnership = 360 students in 19 courses.
- Literacy and Numeracy concepts are enriched by various Reading, Writing and Math programs used across our division.
- OurSCHOOL Surveys indicate that BTPS students report above provincial norms on intellectually engagement and find learning interesting, enjoyable, and relevant.





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:

- 89% of teachers, parents and students are satisfied with the overall quality of basic education.
- 92% of parents state that teachers care about their child.
- 82% of parents share when a child needs it, teachers at their child's school are available to help them.
- Through the systemic use of the Learning Management System Hapara, BTPS was able to support student learning while transitioning to at home learning.
- 82% of teachers report that in the past 3-5 years the professional development and in-servicing received from the school authority has been focused, systematic and contributed significantly to their ongoing professional growth.
- BTPS started a Leadership Academy for aspiring leaders, and a Leadership-Mentorship program for new leaders.
- BTPS Leadership meetings hosted learning from Tom Herick multiple times over the year to work on supporting learning during the pandemic.
- BTPS continued a Wellness Initiative to focus on learning, resources and activities to support staff wellness.
- BTPS held summer opportunities in partnership with Lakeland College Trades & Technology school. 18 students participated in two trades courses over a 2 week period during July 2021.
- Optimal Learning Coaches (OLCs) gathered four times throughout the year to examine and implement conceptual instructional approaches.

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:

- 85% of teachers, parents and students agree that their learning environments are welcoming, caring, respectful and safe.
- 79% of teachers, parents and students agree that students have access to the appropriate supports and services at school.
- BTPS initiated a student service team consisting of Therapy Assistants, contracted Occupational Therapists and Speech Language Therapist to support students' needs.
- BTPS increased the available staffing time for Social Emotional Coaches to support students throughout the year.
- The Department of Inclusive Learning developed and implemented a new jurisdiction Individual Support Plan (ISP). The new ISP allows greater conversation and implementation of wrap-around supports, especially in the area of social emotional health and well-being.
- A cohort of Inclusive Learning Teachers (ILTs) participated in professional learning to develop and inclusive universal instructional framework and model.
- BTPS continued the Mental Health Capacity Building projects, VIBE and WOW, to support students, families and communities with their mental health and Wellness.



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:

- During the 2020-2021 school year the Board reviewed and updated two Bylaws, two Board Procedures and 19 Administrative Procedures. Policy Review allows the Board to ensure the guidelines provided to the district align with the vision and direction of the Board.
- The board adapted to online meetings to continue to engage parents at school council meetings, public board meetings, special meetings and stakeholder engagements.
- Each month the Board engaged groups of students from schools across the division on topics related to the assurances domains. This information formed the *Three Year Education Plan*.
- The *BTPS Re-Entry Plan* ensured a safe environment where staff and students could return to in person learning. The Plan was reviewed throughout the year to adapt to the changing circumstances.
- The Board engaged with the local MLA's to advocate for rural education. Specifically concerns around the Transportation Task Force, student Mental Health supports, local site plans and advocating for new facilities were topics of conversation.
- The Audit Committee, which includes trustees and local representatives, received and reviewed the 2019-2020 Audited Financial Statement.
- The Board Joint Transportation Agreement Committee held positive meetings with East Central Catholic Schools' Representatives.
- The Board continued to participate and advocate across the provinces as members of ASBA, PSBAA, and RCASB.

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:

- In responding to the pandemic, BTPS was able to support students' various needs and was able to maintain and even slightly increase the number of students in our division. This was unique across school divisions in the province.
- The Vermilion Outreach Centre opened in its new location at JR Robson School.
- BTPS started the transition to create a Learning Centre that will meet the learning needs of students in a variety of ways beyond the regular school and classroom.
- Partnership with Cornerstone Co-op supported BTPS schools Bags for Breakfast Program.
- Throughout the pandemic, BTPS worked closely with Lakeland College to continue to support Career and Technology Studies programs in the areas of Carpentry, Mechanics, Welding and Electrical.
- BTPS continues to support First Aid Training and 52 staff and 141 students attended sessions.
- BTPS was required to undergo 4 OHS audits and 7 AHS audits. We were incredibly successful in meeting these requirements.



2021 - 2022 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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Legend				Days of School		
<div></div> Holiday		<div></div> Convention / ATA PL Day			Students	Teachers
<div></div> First Student Day of Semester		<div></div> Celebration Day		Semester 1	89	98
<div></div> Self Directed Teacher Day		<div></div> School Based PL		Semester 2	92	97
<div></div> BTPS Learning Day		<div></div> Central Office Closed				
<div></div> Day-in-Lieu				TOTAL	181	195

Student Non-Attendance Dates					
August 2	Heritage Day	November 10	Designated Day-in-Lieu (Staff Meeting)	April 18 - 22	Easter Break
August 26	Self Directed Teacher Day	November 11	Remembrance Day	May 6	School Based PL
August 27	BTPS Learning Day	November 12	Designated Day-in-Lieu (Parent Teacher Interviews)	May 19	Designated Day-in-Lieu (Staff Meeting)
August 30	Self Directed Teacher Day		Christmas Break	May 20	Designated Day-in-Lieu (Parent Teacher Interviews)
August 31	School Based PL	Dec 20 - 31	Self Directed Teacher Day	May 23	Victoria Day
September 6	Labour Day	January 31	School Based PL	June 30	Self Directed Teacher Day
October 8	Celebration Day	February 1	ATA Teachers' Convention		
October 11	Thanksgiving Day	February 17 & 18	Family Day		
October 22	School Based PL & Support Staff PL	February 21	BTPS Learning Day		
November 8	School Based PL	March 4	Good Friday		
November 9	ATA Professional	April 15			

** Central Office Closure will be July 18th - 29th, 2022

The first day for students is **September 1, 2021**. **February 2, 2022** is the first day of Term 2. **June 29, 2022** 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 courses 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 the diploma marks are due to Alberta Ed. During non-examination times, tutorials, course review and alternate activities will occur.

The 2021-2022 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.

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 is 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 96 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.

Our Schools

Amisk School	780-856-3771
Autumn Leaf Colony School	780-842-2221
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

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 Darla Yonkman - Vice Chair
 Barry Livingston
 David Bensmiller
 Jessica Kastrup
 Jim King
 Kara Jackson
 Stephanie Cooper
 Tanya Ford

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