



# ASSURANCE PLAN 2022-2025

## VERMILION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL





## Message from the Principal

Welcome to the Vermilion Elementary School family!

We are so happy that you are part of the thriving learning environment at Vermilion Elementary School. Our school is a place where students, staff, parents, and the community are welcomed and are valued members of our school family! Education is not just learning in the classroom, and we know that our community is a huge part of how we learn and grow. We are proud to be part of the community of Vermilion and celebrate all that it brings to the lives of our students and staff.

Administration Team

Mrs. Sheila Doherty & Mrs. Adrienne Joa



# ABOUT VERMILION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Mission:

Within a safe and nurturing community, we at Vermilion Elementary School foster personal and academic excellence while treating others with dignity and respect. As a team, we will be the best we can be.

## Vision:

Vermilion Elementary School Believes:

- That each child is a unique individual with different needs and strengths.
- That the school and parents should support each other in developing the abilities of the students in our care.
- That education is a lifelong process involving all dimensions of development: intellectual, physical, and emotional.

## Mantra:

Being The Best We Can Be



## School Profile:

Vermilion Elementary School is a K-6 school located in the rural community of Vermilion, AB. Our school mission is “Within a safe and nurturing community, we at Vermilion Elementary School foster personal and academic excellence, while treating each other with dignity and respect. As a team, we will be the best we can be.” Our staff work tirelessly to ensure that all students’ needs are met - academically, socially, physically, and emotionally. Our staff team is composed of administrators, teachers, educational assistants, administrative assistants, social-emotional coaches, and a mental health VIBE coach. Together, we are building a strong community of connected learners.

VES prides itself on its connection to the community. We have a strong virtues program that focuses on living the virtues in our daily actions. We believe that each child’s learning is unique and ensures students’ needs are met using a strengths-based approach and differentiated instruction. We have strong literacy and numeracy programs supported by a Response to Tiered Instruction framework. As well, we have strong science, social studies, music, art, and wellness programs. We utilize many technology options to promote learning and critical thinking skills. Our school fosters individual journeys of Truth and Reconciliation through our First Nation, Metis, and Inuit learning.





## PRIORITY ONE: Supporting Learning Success for All Students



**Outcome:** Students are prepared for the life after K-12

### Strategies

Support and expand programming and robust learning experiences - in the classroom, online, and in the community.

Facilitate the application of foundational knowledge about First Nations, Metis, and Inuit for all students.

### School Actions

An integral part of preparing for life after K-12 is global citizenship. We will continue with school-wide citizenship projects and develop classroom citizenship projects that align

### Measures


#### Provincial

- PAT Results
- High School Completion
- Citizenship
- Student Learning Engagement
- Education Quality

#### Local

- OurSchool Survey:
  - o Student Engagement
  - o Subject Scores
  - o Intellectual Engagement
  - o Quality of Instruction



	<p>with the program of studies and our virtues program.</p> <p>Continue to work with our community partners to provide robust learning experiences in the classroom, online, and in our community.</p> <p>Continue to build relationships with our First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Elders and knowledge keepers to infuse the foundational knowledge in our classrooms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy Screening</li> <li>• Numeracy Testing</li> <li>• Division PD activities</li> <li>• School Learning Plans</li> <li>• Anecdotal Evidence</li> </ul>
<p><b>Results and Key Insights</b></p>	<p><b>2024-2025</b></p> <p><b>VES builds global citizenship through school-wide projects such as making artwork and cards to be taken to residents of the Valley Lodge and Extended Care. Each class also carried out its own Citizenship project, such as writing to the Canadian Armed Forces, singing for the Valley Lodge residents, and providing end-of-the-year treats for staff. We also participated in supporting Terry Fox, and have many leadership opportunities, such as leading our Grandfather Teachings and sharing the Acknowledgement.</b></p> <p><b>Tasha Hilderman, a Metis author, joined us on our Indigenous Peoples Day to share her story “Metis Like Me” and her personal truths. Each class participated in a beading project to go with the book.</b></p> <p><b>The grade 5 and 6 students participated in learning with Rupertsland Institute several times throughout the year to infuse Indigenous knowledge and learning.</b></p> <p><b>Our Indigenous leads helped to further the Indigenous knowing and learning by hosting “Five Minute Indigenous Teachings” in our VIP meets on Fridays. This initiative has deepened our understanding and application of foundational knowledge in our classrooms.</b></p>  <p><b>Art for Seniors</b></p>	



**Indigenous Day Activities - Beading**



**Tasha Hilderman - Indigenous Author Visit**



**Beading Project - Indigenous Day**



**Rock Your Mocs Activity - Buddy Classes**



**Making Talking Sticks for Indigenous Day**



**Unplugged Coding Activities**



**2023-2024**

**VES builds global citizenship through school-wide projects such as making artwork and cards to be taken to residents of the Valley Lodge and Extended Care. Each class also carried out its own Citizenship project, such as writing to the Canadian Armed Forces, singing for the Valley Lodge residents, and providing end-of-the-year treats for staff. We also participated in supporting Terry Fox, and have many leadership opportunities, such as leading our Grandfather Teachings and sharing the Acknowledgement.**



**Seasonal Art for Seniors**



**Postcard to the Canadian Armed Forces**



**Terry Fox Walk/Run**

**VES continues down the path of Truth and Reconciliation together. Learning is infused in all classes. We teach virtues through the Grandfather Teachings, and each month we participate in 5-Minute Indigenous Teachings during our virtual assembly. Much of our learning together was around the Inuit this year. We have also made connections with Goota Desmarais and Brianna Lizotte, who came to share their knowledge with us.**



**Indigenous Games**



**Learning about Indigenous culture through Math. Then created their own patterned beaded necklaces.**



PIC•COLLAGE

Goota Desmarais

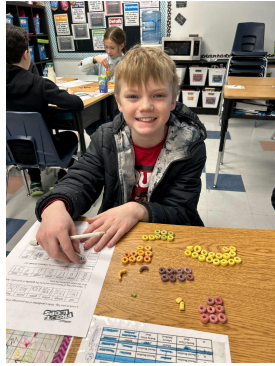


PIC•COLLAGE

Brianna Lizotte

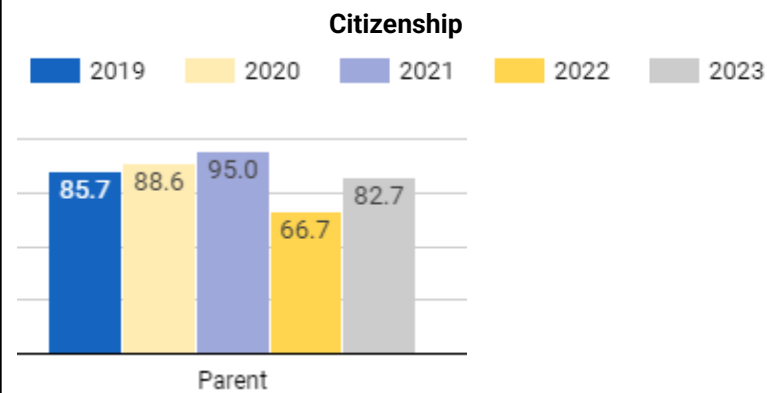
**Students engage in rich and robust learning opportunities such as unplugged coding, retelling stories, and learning about ratios, decimals, and percents in new ways.**





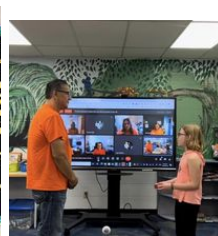
**2022 - 2023**

**Citizenship graph shows an increase 16% over the last year of parents who are satisfied that students model the characteristics of active citizenship.**



**Vermilion Elementary School infuses the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit foundational knowledge in all that we do. Jacqueline Guest, Francis Whitford, and Christy Jordan-Fenton came both in person and online to our students to share their knowledge and experiences.**







**Our Indigenous Lead teachers share knowledge in our weekly VIP meets in the Five Minute Indigenous Teachings section of the meet.**

**Grade 6 students share the acknowledgement statement at all school functions and lead our learning about the Seven Grandfather Teachings with the support of an online Elder each month at assembly.**



**All students and staff participated in learning at our year-end field trip to the Metis Crossing. This was a culminating activity for our year of learning.**



<b>Outcome: Students demonstrate strong numeracy and literacy skills.</b>		
<b>Strategies</b>	<p>Support strong assessment and instructional practices to improve foundational literacy and numeracy skills.</p> <hr/> <p>Develop a data-rich culture to support teachers in building students' literacy and numeracy skills across the curriculum.</p>	
<b>School Actions</b>	<p>Continue to drive instruction based on student needs as identified by the data collected by the assessments.</p> <p>Identify trends from the data to drive programming and instruction across grade levels and the school as a whole.</p>	
<b>Results and Key Insights</b>	<p><b>2024 - 2025</b></p> <p>Teachers administered EYE, RAN, LeNS, PAST, TOWRE-2, TOSWRF-2, TOSREC, and Numeracy Assessments throughout the year to drive instruction. Teachers utilize this data to plan lessons and programming for the classroom and intervention groups.</p> <div>   </div> <p><b>Numeracy Activities</b></p>	



**Superintendent Public Speaking Gold Medal Winner**



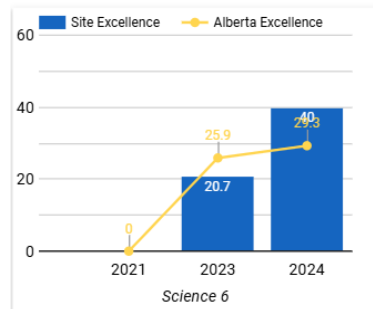
**Celebration of Learning - Sharing with Parents**

**2023 - 2024**

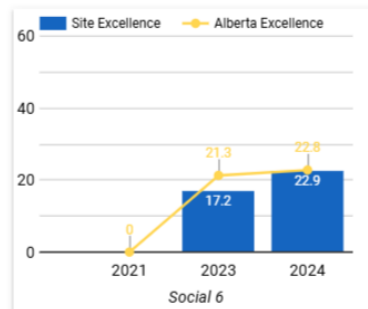
**Teachers administered CC3, TOWRE-2, TOSWRF-2, TOSREC, and Numeracy Assessments throughout the year to drive instruction. Teachers utilize this data to plan lessons and programming for the classroom and intervention groups.**

**Vermilion Elementary is at or above the provincial average for the standard of excellence in science and social studies.**

**Standard of Excellence on PATs**



**VES - 40%**  
**Alberta - 29.3%**



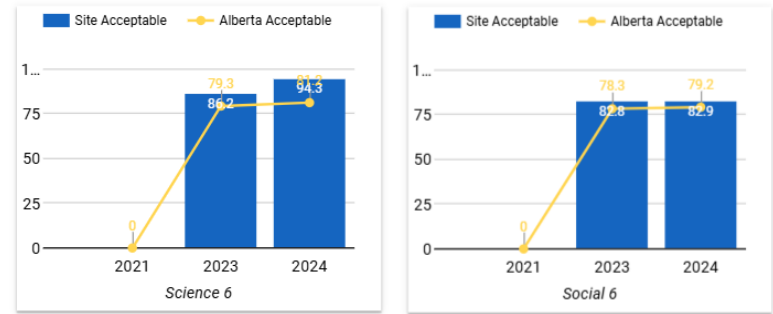
**VES - 22.9%**  
**Alberta - 22.8%**

**Vermilion Elementary is above the provincial average in the**



acceptable standard in science and social studies.

Acceptable Standard on PATs



VES - 94.3%  
Alberta - 81.2%

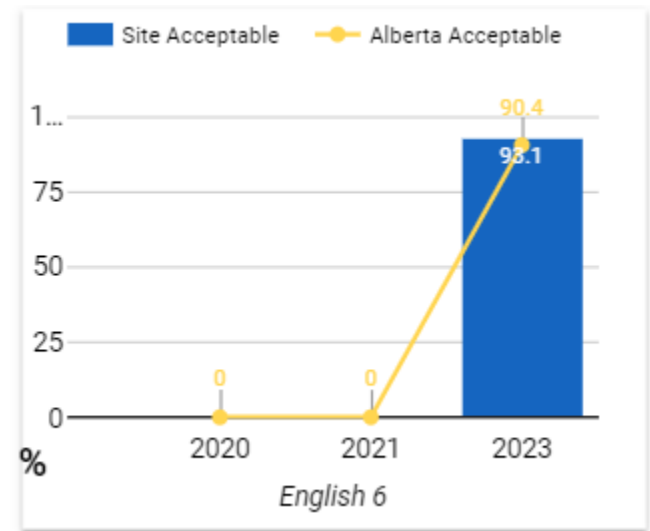
VES - 82.9  
Alberta - 79.2

Vermilion Elementary participated in the pilot exams for both English Language Arts and Mathematics, so no scores are available.

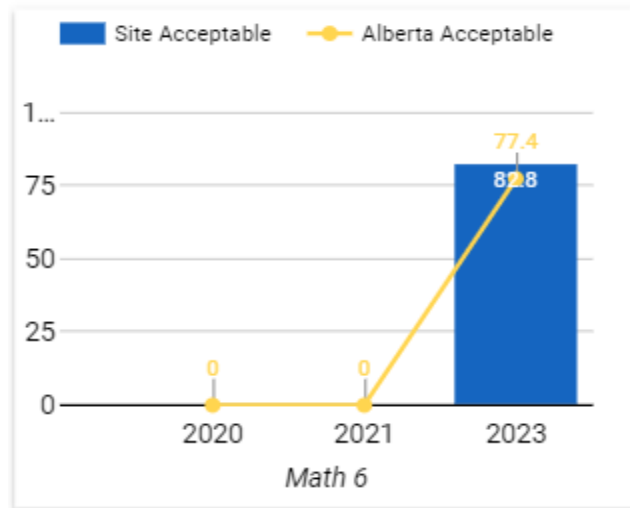
2022- 2023

Teachers administered CC3, TOWRE-2, TOSWRF-2, TOSREC, Numeracy Assessment and HLAT assessments throughout the year to drive instruction. Teachers utilize this data to plan lessons and programming for the classroom and intervention groups.

Vermilion Elementary School is above the provincial average on all the Provincial Achievement Tests at the acceptable standard.

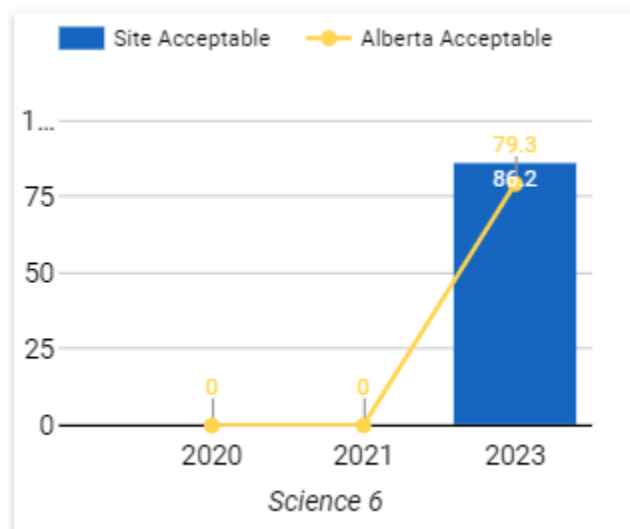


VES - 93.1%      Province - 90.4%



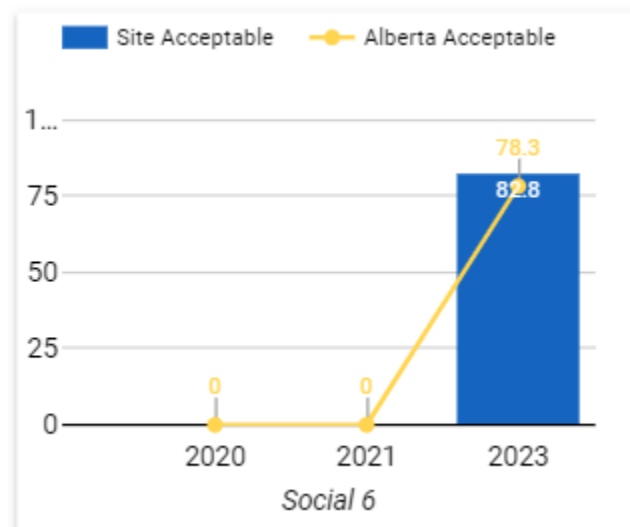
**VES - 82.8%**

**Province - 77.4%**



**VES - 86.2%**

**Province - 79.3%**

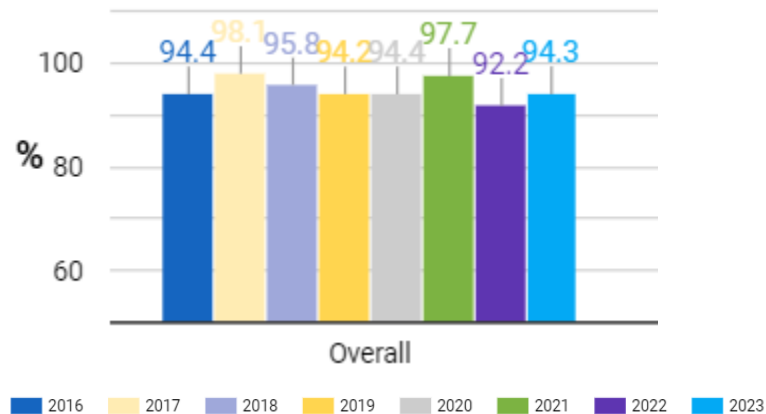




VES - 82.8%

Province - 78.3%

Overall, 94.3% of parents, students, and teachers are satisfied with the quality of basic education.



**Outcome:** Students have opportunities for rich learning experiences from highly effective staff.

**Strategies**

Align professional learning with educational research focused on building instructional leadership capacity and employing sound pedagogical practices.

	<hr/> <p>Support strong digital citizenship through a technological rich infrastructure.</p>	
<b>School Actions</b>	<p>Continue to work on aligning our professional growth plans, long-range plans and lesson plans to the school and division goals. Ensure that the professional growth plans are connected to the TQS and LQS.</p> <p>Participate in and operationalize professional learning to support the learning needs of the students within the classroom.</p> <p>VES will provide opportunities to become active digital citizens.</p>	
<b>Results and Key Insights</b>	<p><b>2024 - 2025</b></p> <p><b>Teachers and leaders continue to work on aligning their professional growth plans with the Teacher Quality Standards and Leadership Quality Standards to ensure that the professional growth is connected to the school and divisional goals. From here, students have rich learning experiences from a highly effective staff that are directly linked to the Alberta Curriculum and pedagogy.</b></p> <p><b>Teachers participated in literacy and numeracy professional learning and committed to operationalizing research-based strategies in their instruction. The focus for numeracy professional learning was a book study, "Figuring Out Fluency in Mathematics". We utilized the resource "Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics" to design activities throughout the year. Staff shared best practices and worked together as grade-level teams to ensure that these strategies were consistent across the grade levels.</b></p> <p><b>The Indigenous Leads participated in land-based learning at the Metis Crossing to share with the school.</b></p> <p><b>Teachers worked together to strengthen instruction by intentionally planning activities to use research-based strategies and practices in their lessons. The Optimal Learning Coaches supported teachers in embedding strong pedagogical practices in their daily lessons.</b></p>	



**Optimal Learning Coach leading learning on research-based pedagogical practices.**



**Professional learning - Literacy with Lana Lane**

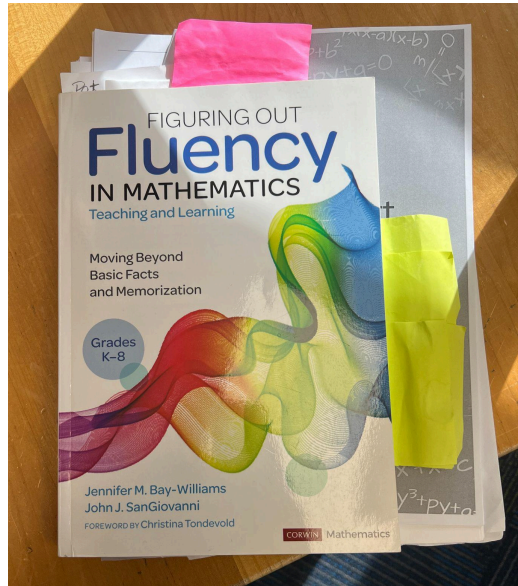


**Professional Learning - Numeracy with Jackie Ratkovic**



**Professional Learning - Book Study "Figuring Out Fluency in Mathematics"**

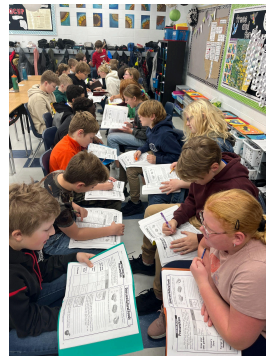




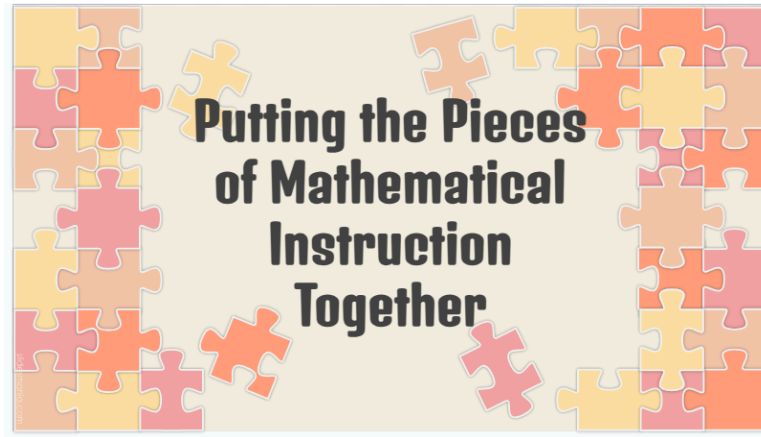
**Learning research-based strategies to build fluency.**

**2023-2024**

**Teachers and leaders continue to work on aligning their professional growth plans with the Teacher Quality Standards and Leadership Quality Standards to ensure that the professional growth is connected to the school and divisional goals. From here, students have rich learning experiences from a highly effective staff that are directly linked to the Alberta Curriculum and pedagogy.**



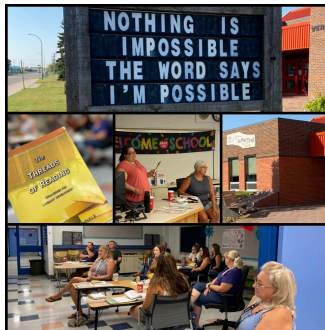
**Teachers participated in literacy and numeracy professional learning and committed to operationalizing research-based strategies in their instruction. The focus for numeracy professional learning was the threads of numeracy, specifically conceptual understanding. Staff shared best practices and worked together as grade-level teams to ensure that these strategies were consistent across the grade levels.**



### **2022-2023**

Teachers and leaders worked to link their professional growth plans with the Teacher Quality Standards and Leadership Quality Standards to ensure that the professional growth is connected to the school and divisional goals. Teachers developed long-range plans based on the Alberta curriculum that included outcomes, a timeline, and assessment practices.

Teachers participated in The Threads of Reading book study and committed to operationalizing strategies from this book or the BTPS literacy professional learning in their literacy instruction. Staff shared best practices at school-based learning days.



Observations of teachers were done by the administration to ensure that research-based strategies and pedagogy were being operationalized in the classrooms.

Teachers worked collaboratively with the BTPS Innovation Coaches to implement research-based strategies and pedagogy in numeracy using Mathology.



Teachers utilize Google Classroom and Hapara to have students construct learning and provide the opportunity to become active digital citizens.



**Assurance Domains:** Student Growth and Achievement, Teaching and Leading, Learning Supports, Governance.

## PRIORITY TWO: Fostering Safe and Caring Learning Environments



**Outcome:** Students learn in inclusive spaces that are welcoming and caring.

### Strategies

Ensure all students are valued, safe, and have their diverse needs met.

### School Action

Vermilion Elementary School will provide a range of in-school support in collaboration with outside services to ensure students are learning in inclusive spaces.

Vermilion Elementary School will continue to provide

### Measures


#### Provincial

- Welcoming, Caring, Respectful, and Safe Environments
- Access to Support and Services

#### Local

- OurSchool Survey:
  - o Social-Emotional
  - o Classroom Context



	<p>whole-school opportunities to build strong connections and relationships with each other.</p> <p>Vermilion Elementary School will begin to explore the different cultures that make up our school family, so that students can see themselves in the books, lessons, and celebrations at the school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anecdotal Evidence</li> </ul>
<p><b>Results and Key Insights</b></p>	<p><b>2024 - 2025</b></p> <p><b>Intervention at Vermilion Elementary School is a place where all students can have their needs met based on skill development. The teachers are constantly evaluating who needs a little extra support and how that can be met. All students participate in intervention at some point in the year, this may be in the form of filling a gap or enriching the learning for those who need that little extra.</b></p> <p><b>Social Emotional Coach, Therapy Assistants, and Consultants are an integral part of the continuum of supports available to students at VES. These supports help build the capacity of staff to ensure that all students are maximizing their learning.</b></p> <p><b>All students are part of our VES family. That means all students are given the opportunity to participate in fieldtrips, in spirit days, and no matter their circumstances. Each is made to feel important and successful.</b></p>  <p><b>Students reading to each other.</b></p>	



**Celebrating Reading**



**Fit Set Ninja - All students participated regardless of ability.**



**Our mascot, Jaguar, greets students coming to school.**

#### **2023-2024**

**VES continues to explore different cultures that make up our school family in resources and activities. We spent time learning about Ukrainian Culture and had a culminating school-wide field trip to the Ukrainian Cultural Museum. Classes also looked into their own culture and taught others about it. The grade 3s participated in a KIVA project. Another**

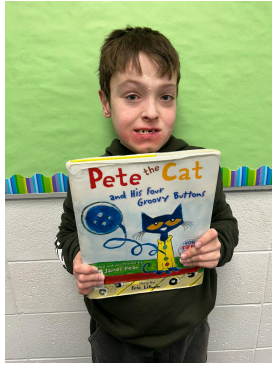
special learning opportunity was the Sword and Thistle Highland Dance Group came to share dances and traditions.



kiva



All students are part of our VES family. That means all students are given the opportunity to participate in fieldtrips, in spirit days, and no matter their circumstances. Each is made to feel important and successful.



Earning AR points with the rest of the school.

## 2022-2023

Vermilion Elementary School had service providers within the school to support students. These included speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, educational behaviour consultants, vision consultants, deaf and hard of hearing consultants, as well as our therapy assistant.



Literacy resources were explored and purchased to support an inclusive environment. Books included various cultures, learning needs, and positive mental health were added to our learning commons.



All students and staff are part of the VES school family. That means that all students have the opportunity to attend all fieldtrips and participate in spirit days, no matter their circumstances. Vermilion Elementary School arranges specialized transportation for students who need it and offsets



the cost if necessary.





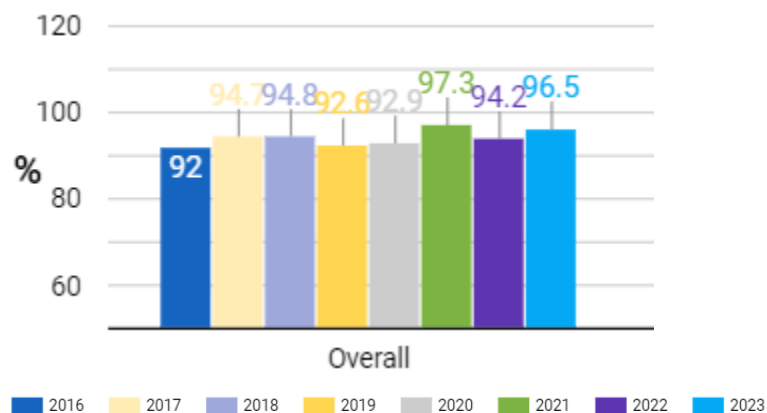
**Buddy classes are an opportunity for all students to connect and work together with others in different grade levels in our school. This relationship building creates an environment that is welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe.**



**A school-wide field trip to the Metis Crossing allowed us the opportunity to connect with each other outside of the walls of the school. This trip involves all students and staff and creates a strong community of support for all.**



**Overall, 96.5% of parents, students, and teachers agree that students are safe at school, are learning the importance of caring for others, are learning respect for others, and are treated fairly in school.**





**Outcome: Students and staff health and wellness are supported.**

**Strategies**

Build staff and student capacity for engaging in healthy, respectful relationships, and interactions with others.

Provide student health and wellness support through a continuum of supports model.

**School Actions**

Vermilion Elementary School will use our health and wellness champion, outside services, and cross-curricular opportunities to support the health and wellness of students and staff.

Vermilion Elementary School will operate under a Response to Tiered Instruction model to support all students' learning.

**Results and Key Insights**

**2024 - 2025**

**VIBE continued to be an integral part of the programming to support the health and wellness of students and staff. Every classroom has implemented VIBE programming to support the wellness curriculum. VIBE hosts after-school programming at the school as well, such as Move Your Mood and cooking club. Another exciting event is the Grade 6 VIBE day hosted at Vermilion Elementary School. This day focused on everything from sexual health to financial literacy.**

**The Social emotional coach program was utilized to support students in short-term skill building sessions to support the emotional well-being of the students.**

**Vermilion Elementary School operated under a Response to Tiered Instruction Model. Students were provided strong core**



instruction and interventions using research-based instruction designed around standardized assessments. Intervention instruction was provided by classroom teachers in a small group setting to ensure that targeted skills were addressed to meet the needs of our students continuously (in the classroom and in a pull-out situation).



**Wellness Wednesday Activities**



**Drum Fit**

#### **2023-2024**

A few examples of Health and Wellness at VES are the learning that goes with Pink Shirt day, learning about "eating the rainbow", choosing fruits and vegetables to fuel the body, participating in skating, and daily physical activity.





Vermilion Elementary School operated under a Response to Tiered Instruction Model. Students were provided strong core instruction and interventions using research-based instruction designed around standardized assessments. Intervention instruction was provided by classroom teachers in a small group setting to ensure that targeted skills were addressed to meet the needs of our students continuously (in the classroom and in a pull-out situation).

**2022-2023**

Vermilion Elementary School developed a Wellness Plan to support staff and student wellness.

VIBE programming is thriving at Vermilion Elementary School. There is programming in every classroom within the school, as well as many extracurricular programs to support positive mental health.



The Social Emotional Coach program was utilized to support students in short-term skill-building sessions to support the emotional well-being of the students.

Vermilion Elementary School operated under a Response to Tiered Instruction Model. Students were provided strong core instruction and interventions using research-based instruction designed around standardized assessments. Intervention instruction was provided by classroom teachers in a small group setting to ensure that targeted skills were addressed to meet the needs of our students in a continuous fashion (in the classroom and in a pull-out situation).

**Assurance Domains:** Learning Supports, Local and Societal Context, Governance.



## PRIORITY THREE: Building Strong Collaborations



**Outcome:** Students benefit from strong collaborations with families, our rural communities, and external partners.

### Strategies

Support and foster learning partnerships that enhance and strengthen learning opportunities.

Continue to enhance collaboration across the division, with communities and with parents/guardians.

### School Action

Vermilion Elementary School will continue to build partnerships with families, the school council, and external partners to enhance the learning for all students.

Vermilion Elementary School will work collaboratively with other schools to enhance learning for all.

### Results and Key Insights

**2024 - 2025**

VES continues to value the community partnerships in and out of the classroom. Our "Hometown Heroes" is just one of the fantastic ways that we get to embrace these partnerships. This year, we had Beckie Scott and Allison Jackson, both Olympic

### Measures

#### Provincial

- Parental Involvement

#### Local

- School Council Yearly Reports

Athletes who attended VES as young people, visit our school to talk about their story and highlight how perseverance and hard work brought them so much success in life. These ladies brought forward the idea of citizenship as well, and how important it is to give back to your community.

Our relationship with Lakeland College continues to be strong, with programming at Vermilion Elementary School and the College from Kindergarten to Grade 6. Students in their Educational Assistant, Early Learning, and Child and Youth Care programs complete their practicums in the school, as well as other various projects necessary to complete their programs.

Vermilion Elementary School mentored many student teachers from the University of Calgary, University of Alberta, and Lakeland College.

Chatsworth Farms is one of the partnerships that is an important part of what we do at VES. The hatching project has grown over the years, and we are now hatching ducks and chicks. During this process, our entire school has the opportunity to learn about animal development and care.

A new partnership this year is with a local company, Rural Roots, who make VES spirit wear for us. They highlight our school on social media and in their storefront window. Spirit wear is now more accessible to families.



Lakeland College Pool



Rotary Club of Vermilion - Judges for the Superintendent Public Speak off at VES



Vermilion and Area Musical Festival - Our grade 3 provincial nominees





**Vermilion Heritage Museum**



**Rural Roots - Partnership to support school spirit wear**



**Allison Jackson - VES alumni and Canadian Olympic Cyclist**



**Vermilion Minor Hockey  
Guest Readers for Literacy Day**



**Fire Etc Training  
(Lakeland College)**





**Band Clinicians  
supporting our music  
Program**



**Lakeland College Practicum  
Educational Assistants and  
Teacher Mentors**



**Family Picnic**

**2023-24**

**VES continues to work with community partners in and out of the classroom to provide rich and robust learning opportunities such as cartographer visiting to teach about mapping, learning about potential careers from the RCMP, learning about ecosystems from Lakeland College Environmental Sciences, participating in hatching projects with Chatsworth Farm, and about dairy cows and where milk comes from with the Lakeland College Dairy Learning Center. Other important partnerships are those we have with Lakeland College and other universities to mentor students as educational assistants and teachers.**



**Cartographer visit**



**Potential Careers with the RCMP**



**Lakeland College Enviro Students**



**U of C student teacher working  
With students.**



**Beckie Scott: Hometown Hero**



**Gr 6s learned about local government from  
The Town of Vermilion councilors**

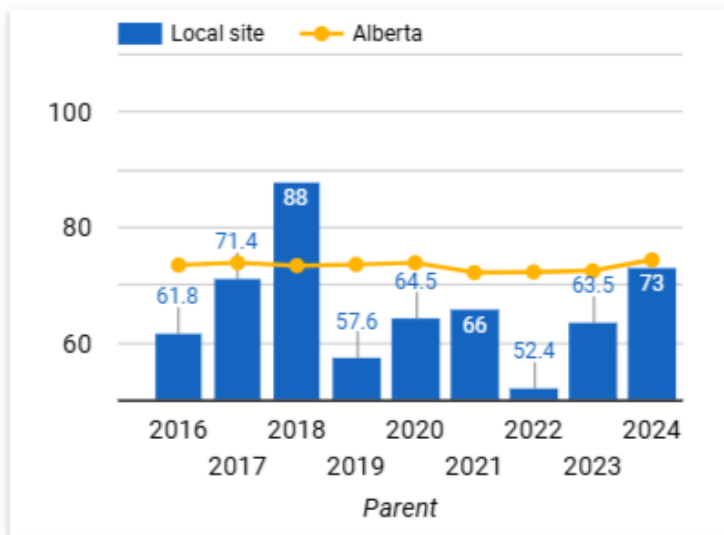


**Lakeland College Dairy**



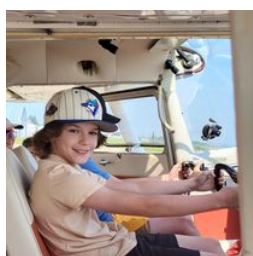
**Hatching chicks and ducklings.**

**Overall, 73% of parents are satisfied with parental involvement in decisions about their child's education. This is a 10% growth from last year.**

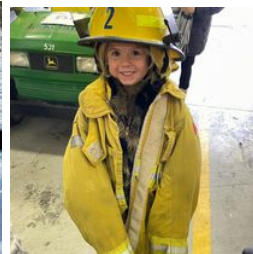


### 2022-2023

Vermilion Elementary School utilized many community partnerships to enhance learning. Some of these partnerships are: Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Vermilion Dentistry, Town of Vermilion Library, Vermilion Heritage Museum, Modern Paint, Vermilion and area Flight Club, Vermilion Provincial Park, and Lakeland College. During these times, we had community members come into the school, and our students visited off-campus locations for learning.







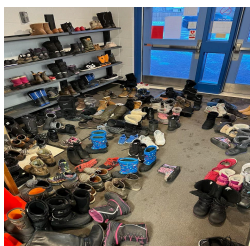
**Vermilion Elementary School mentored many student teachers from the University of Calgary, University of Alberta, and Lakeland College.**

**Vermilion Elementary has a strong connection to Lakeland College. Students in their Educational Assistant, Early Learning, and Child and Youth Care programs complete their practicums in the school, as well as other various projects necessary to complete their programs.**

**Vermilion Elementary hosts many opportunities to engage with the learning process. We have an active social media page where parents and community members can follow all the learning that happens at school. We have a monthly newsletter to communicate and celebrate with our families. We have multiple opportunities for parents to be involved in the school community. Just to highlight a few, we have Muffin Morning, Celebration of Learning, School Council evenings, Hot Lunch committee, Science Fair, Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, Kindergarten Graduation, Gr. 6 Farewell, and Family Picnic.**





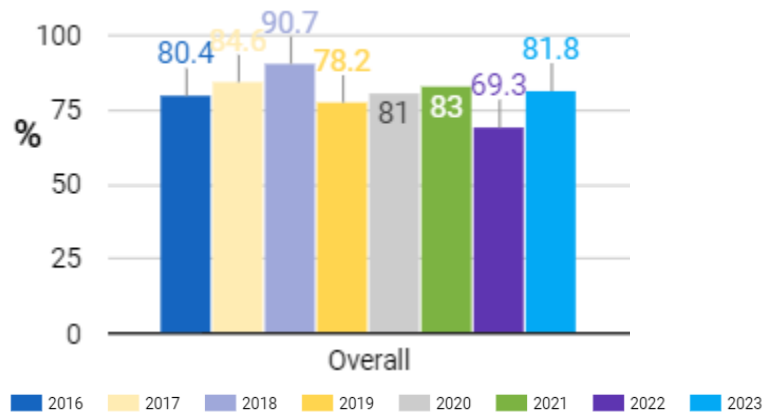




Vermilion Elementary continues to build the bridge with JR Robson and the Learning Hub. We collaborate around Indigenous teachings for all the schools involved, professional learning training, and transition plans for our students.

Vermilion Elementary School engages in professional conversations around literacy and numeracy assessments, research-based practices, and resources. Sharing the connections that we have for our First Nations, Metis, and Inuit knowledge keepers that we have been building for the last few years, ensuring that the knowledge goes beyond the walls of our school.

Overall, 81.8% of parents and teachers are satisfied with parental involvement in decisions about their child's education.



**Assurance Domains:** Learning Supports, Local and Societal Context, Governance.