

Calgary Science School

Executive Summary Report on the 2012 – 2013 School Year and Plans for an Exciting Future

Each year the Calgary Science School leadership team and staff prepare a report on the past school year and an education plan for the next three school years which is presented to the Board of Directors for approval and posted on the school website at www.calgaryscienceschool.com. This document reflects the involvement of students, parents and staff members in a process of sharing feedback and generating ideas through interviews, surveys, and focus groups. We are pleased to provide through this document the following highlights:

Establishing the Calgary Science School as a Centre for Collaboration and Innovation and for Fulfilling our Mandate to Lead, Share, Transform.

Major Accomplishments Include:

15 Year Charter Renewal: In July 2012 the Minister of Education, the Hon. Jeff Johnson, approving a 15 year charter renewal (2012 to 2027) for the Calgary Science School. The charter renewal supporting a new direction for the school outlined in the six charter goals, vision, mission and guiding principles, provides stability and an opportunity for the school to pursue long-term plans and partnerships

University of Calgary Partner Research School: In April, 2013 a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Calgary, Faculty of Education was signed to formally recognize the Calgary Science School as a University of Calgary Partner Research School.

Promoting the Development of Exemplary Teachers through Partnerships with University Teacher Preparation Programs: Calgary Science School has served as a partner school for the teacher preparation programs from the University of Calgary, Mount Royal University and the University of Lethbridge. During the 2012 – 2013 school year there were over 170 student teachers in CSS classrooms.

Promoting the Calgary Science School as a crucible for change and a centre for collaboration: There were a number of exciting initiatives for promoting innovation and collaboration within the school and with other schools during the school year facilitated by the CSS Collaboration and Communications leader and staff members including having over 820 colleagues in education visit the school, having over 500 daily visits on the school website Connect! Blog, having numerous CSS teachers visiting and partnering with colleagues from other schools and hosting the second annual Connect Ed Canada conference in the Calgary Science School with over 270 participants from across Canada and the United States.

Promoting Exemplary Learning, Teaching and Leading and Achieving a High Standard of Excellence

Indicators of Success include:

- CSS students continue to score significantly higher on the Acceptable Standard and the Standard of Excellence than the provincial norm in all Provincial Achievement Test subject areas.
- The Calgary Science School received an excellent rating in all of the key Alberta Education indicators including: safe and caring schools: work preparation and citizenship; parental involvement and continuous school improvement.
- CSS maintains a significantly higher level of student engagement of 73% compared to the national norm of 56%.
- A high percentage of CSS students 81%, identify themselves as having high skills and feeling highly challenged as compared to the national norm of 51%.
- CSS students and teachers demonstrate a high level of comfort and expertise in appropriately using technology to enhance learning and teaching.
- There is very strong support expressed by students, parents and staff members for the rich variety of environmental and outdoor education learning experiences made available to students in the Calgary Science School.

- Students reported a high degree of physical health and emotional well-being and expressed appreciation for the multitude of opportunities available to participate in activities that promote physical fitness and wellness.
- Students, parents and staff members strongly expressed appreciation for the positive, caring respectful, relationships and the culture of collaboration within the classrooms, throughout the school and beyond which are key features of the Calgary Science School.
- A high percentage of students (95%) describe themselves as being researchers, creative, and willing to try new things and 94% of teachers describe their classrooms as thriving places of active research and describe themselves as innovative and individuals who embrace opportunities to learn and grow professionally.

Action Strategies include:

- Successfully implement the guiding principles of the Alberta Education Inspiring Education through strategies such as engaging teachers and students in developing and utilizing personalized Student Learning Plans based on the CSS framework for Exemplary Learning and strive to have each student experience success.
- Provide opportunities for all students to be meaningfully engaged in extracurricular activities, leadership development programs and community service initiatives which develop, body, feelings and creative (entrepreneurial) spirit to learn and grow as a whole person and to be outstanding ethical citizens.
- Engage members of the Calgary Science School community in developing a long-range plan for the effective and appropriate use of technology to enhance learning and teaching.

- Develop a long-range plan for CSS environmental and outdoor education programs to ensure continuity of curricular learning experiences and continue to support joint ventures such as the Cross Conservation Area proposal to establish the Alberta Centre for Environmental and Outdoor Learning.
- Continue to provide opportunities for teachers and leaders to grow professionally and to develop competencies needed to help each and every student experience success as an exemplary learner.

The Calgary Science School as a publicly-funded charter school receives basically the same level funding as any other public school in the province. As a school community we take a great deal of pride in the broad range of learning experiences and learning resources such as computer technology that we are able to provide our students in spite of reductions in the level of provincial funding of \$200,000 in our overall budget of \$6.038 million. A complete financial statement and budgetary report is included in the document on the school website. We encourage you to make reference to the document in order to develop a deeper understanding of our accomplishments in the 2012-2013 school year and our plans for an exciting future.



**CONNECT
CHARTER
SCHOOL**

As of January 1, 2014 the Calgary Science School will be called
Connect Charter School