



Medicine Hat School District No. 76

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Medicine Hat Public School Division is committed to assessment and reporting that is meaningful to students and their parents and guardians. A purpose of assessment and reporting is to provide students, and the adults who care for them, accurate and timely information about “what” and “how” each student learns. Another reason for sound practice in assessment and reporting is to inform our teaching so that we can adjust to the needs of students in an inclusive way. Finally, excellent assessment and reporting should give students information about their learning that helps them improve their own approach to learning.

This year, we worked with teachers and principals from every school in order to do the following:

1. Design learner outcomes based on research and the Alberta curriculum.
2. Began the process for a 2 year pilot/initiative that includes:
 - a. All schools having teachers that are piloting a new grading system (Power Teacher Pro) that supports outcomes based instruction and assessment.
 - b. All schools having teachers that are piloting portfolio based assessment that focuses on informing the learning of students (formative) and some showcasing of student work.
3. Create a District Report Card (grades 1-9) for pilot teachers that reflect learning outcomes, areas of strength and areas of need to help continue to inform your child’s learning process.
4. Revise the kindergarten reporting process to better inform the 5 developmental areas of student learning.

The goal of this work is to make sure that our school division is using a wide range of assessment tools (including, but not limited to, exams and quizzes) and a reporting method focused on learning as opposed to generating grades alone. While we do not intend to eliminate letter or number grades at the end of junior high and in senior high school, it is our goal to help all staff, parents/guardians and students at all levels to see that the most critical piece of assessment and reporting is the learning.

Beginning this fall we will have conversations with all of these important groups about the next steps in our creation of a district assessment and reporting framework. Feedback sessions will be held in the late fall and winter to seek guidance about how to best support the assessment and learning processes in Medicine Hat Public School Division. We look forward to working together to build a better way to communicate about student learning.

Sincerely,

Mark Davidson, Superintendent
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