



Voyageur Elementary October 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Fall!

COLD WEATHER

As the weather gets cooler and wetter, please remember to dress your child(ren) for fall weather: coats, boots, hats and mittens, as we will be doing daily outdoor activities!

BEAR AWARE

With the increase in bear activity, we encourage parents/guardians to discuss bear awareness with their children when walking to and from school.

As many parents have seen, there is a bear in the area that we are being mindful of. If it poses a concern, we will be keeping students in at recess and lunch.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Wednesday, October 25 and Thursday, October 26 are Early Closure Days for all schools. Students will be dismissed at 11:23am, and buses will run three (3) hours earlier than normal bus times. Early Closure Days are an opportunity for teachers to inform you of the progress your child is making.

PARKING LOT

Reminder to please check out the signage in the parking lot for dropping off zones.

LUNCH PROGRAM

Please come to the office and fill out a form if you wish your child to be on the district lunch program.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club is available between 8:00am and 8:20. We encourage students to be here at 8:00am to get something to eat before it's all gone. No sign up required.

NEW WEBSITE

Please check out our new website for everything Voyageur! You will find our Events Calendar, Announcements, News Stories, Transportation Information, School Supply lists and much more!
<https://voyageur.sd28.bc.ca/>

FACEBOOK PAGE

You are welcome to join our Voyageur Group on Facebook. You will be asked to answer membership questions before approval. Please note, we will only be using this group to direct parents/guardians to our new website where all Voyageur information is located.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/528247561276553>

ALLERGIES

Voyageur is nut aware.

SCENT FREE ENVIRONMENT

Reminder that Voyageur Elementary is a Scent Free environment.

STUDENT REPORTING

Reporting for students has changed. More information will follow. Please check the website for updated information.

Teachers will be using digital reporting again this year. Information will be coming home from your child's teacher the first part of October.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Reminder to parents/guardians to please do a health check of your student before sending them to school if they are feeling unwell. Please stay home to rest and get better before returning!

TRANSPORTATION

Please ensure students have their bus passes ready when they are getting on the bus. We are still waiting on replacement passes for some students but if you require one, please call 250-992-8361 or email transportation@sd28.bc.ca to have a replacement card printed.

Important Upcoming Dates:

We have a lot of upcoming dates so please take a look at the attached Events Calendar on our website as well.

Sept 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Oct 2 – Statutory Holiday – Truth & Reconciliation Observation – No School

Oct 9 – Thanksgiving Day – No School

Oct 20 – Non-Instructional Day – No School

Oct 25 & 26 – Early Dismissal – Parent Teacher Interviews

Information for Parents and Caregivers



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

All about the Foundation Skills Assessment

What is the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)?

The FSA is a learning assessment for all grade 4 and 7 students. It focuses on the areas of **literacy** and **numeracy**.

FSA results are one way of measuring how the education system is doing in these key areas. It assesses how students think, communicate and reflect - not just the facts they know.

The FSA is not intended to be used to rank students, teachers, or schools. The FSA is a snapshot of student learning at a moment in time. For parents and caregivers, it tells you where your child is at in their literacy and numeracy development, as well as areas where they may need support. When all students participate, it also gives the Ministry of Education and Child Care a clear picture of how the education system is performing as a whole.

Why is the FSA important?

The Ministry of Education and Child Care sets the standards for what your child learns and, along with teachers, figures out ways to measure how well they are learning. The goal is for your child (and all students in BC) to get a great education that readies them for life after graduation and helps them become educated citizens.

One way the Ministry ensures the quality of student learning is through the FSA. The FSA helps us understand what learning looks like across the entire province. It lets us see how different groups of students are learning and find out where they might need extra help. It also helps us understand how well BC is doing over time.

The Ministry uses this information to make sure that your child's learning is "on track" and that they don't fall behind. This data also allows us to know how BC students are doing in relation to students in other provinces in Canada and the rest of the world. The FSA provides both the Ministry and parents and caregivers with the assurance that students possess the literacy and numeracy skills necessary for their future.

Literacy is your child's ability to understand language and communicate in a variety of ways.

Numeracy is your child's ability to apply important math skills, solve problems, and communicate solutions.

The FSA:

- Is **not** a high-stakes assessment
- Is **not** meant to be used for ranking students, teachers, or schools
- Does **not** impact student marks or report cards
- Provides valuable information about student learning
- Ensures all students are developing a strong foundation in literacy and numeracy
- Guides improvements to BC's education system

Information for Parents and Caregivers



How will your child participate?

The FSA will be completed by your child as part of their regular classroom learning. Your child does not need to prepare for the assessment. The FSA has five parts that can be spread out over several days or weeks during the fall of your child's grade 4 and 7 school year. Each component of the assessment will never be longer than an hour, so it won't take too much time away from classroom learning. Here is what your child can expect:

Component	Description	Time
Paper-based literacy task	A collaboration activity and 3 written response questions	60 minutes
Online literacy task	30 questions	60 minutes
Paper-based numeracy task	3 written response questions and 1 self-reflection question	45 minutes
Online numeracy task	30 questions	60 minutes
Self-reflection	1 selected-response question and 1 written-response question	5 minutes

Some students may feel nervous about tests. Talking about the FSA at home can help your child understand the purpose of the assessment. It can also help your child feel more confident writing it.

You will receive your child's test booklet back after it has been marked. Marking is done by teachers using the provincial proficiency scale, the same scale used for report cards for kindergarten to Grade 9. For FSA, "Developing" and "Proficient" have been combined on the scale into a single category, so that you know if your child is "On Track" in their literacy and numeracy learning.

Emerging	On Track	Extending
means your child is beginning to understand the expected concepts	means your child mostly understands the expected concepts	means your child is able to apply their learning in new and different ways

Along with written comments from teachers and the proficiency scale on report cards, the FSA results can be another helpful source of information to see where your child is in their literacy and numeracy development and where they can go next in their learning.

How are the FSA results used?

The FSA results offer insights to parents, caregivers, teachers, schools, districts, and the Ministry. They provide valuable information to all levels of the education system that help improve student learning.

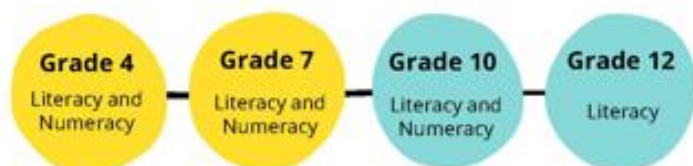
- For parents, caregivers, and teachers, these results can show how students are doing in literacy and numeracy.
- Teachers, schools, and districts can use the FSA results to help support classroom teaching. They can see where students are doing well and where they might need more help.
- Schools, districts, and the Ministry can use the FSA results to help make the education system better. The Ministry also relies on the FSA to uphold high learning standards to help all students develop their literacy and numeracy skills.

It's important to know that the FSA results aren't for ranking students, teachers, schools, or districts. Rankings don't help learning and don't make BC's education system better. The FSA is just one data point and doesn't reflect all the teaching and learning that happens in a school. That's why the Ministry doesn't make, share, or support any rankings.

When are literacy and numeracy assessed?

Foundation Skills Assessments

Graduation Assessments



Contact Us



assessments@gov.bc.ca

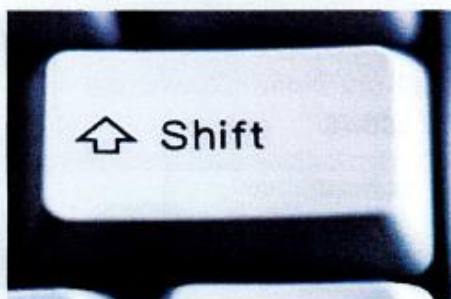


Curriculum.gov.bc.ca



A Shift in Thinking

- ✓ Timely Feedback
- ✓ Accessible for Parents
- ✓ Celebrating Learning
- ✓ Home-School Connection
- ✓ Growth Based
- ✓ Increased Ownership
- ✓ Student Involvement
- ✓ Student Centred
- ✓ Increased Self-awareness



The Ministry of Education has new guidelines that support districts to make changes to how and when they report. Several classes in the Quesnel School District are participating in the digital reporting project for communicating student learning, following these new guidelines.



Feedback

Parents have had opportunities to provide feedback on digital reporting.



Resources

BC Ministry of Education:
BC's New Curriculum
Assessment & Reporting
Learning Update Order



Communicating Student Learning

Digital Reports

Why Digital Reporting?

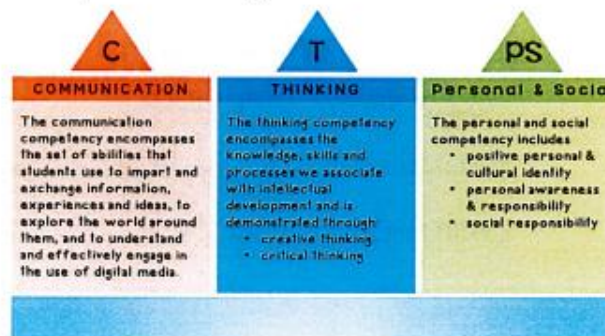
Schools are preparing students for a future we cannot predict (changing jobs, social media, technology). The curriculum has been redesigned with this in mind.

WHAT and HOW we teach has changed. Our assessment and reporting should align. There has been a shift away from "reporting TO parents" and towards "communicating WITH parents". Our focus is to share student learning.

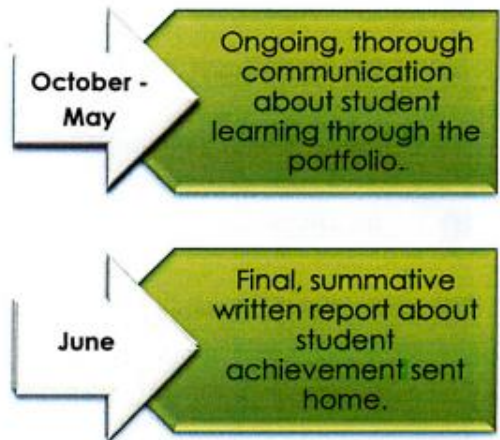


What to Expect?

- Digital posts, with learning intentions from all subject areas
- Work samples, photos, videos, and audio recording of student learning
- Communicating student progress
- Setting goals for further learning
- Connections to core competencies
- Parent and student "friendly" language
- Opportunities for student input
- Opportunity for parent participation, input and support



When & How?



Digital portfolios can be accessed 2 ways:

- School District 28 website – SSDAS
(<https://sd28.qwintosys.com/das/shared/custom/SD28.asp>)
- Ed Inform app

