

# Gilbert Paterson Middle School



[www.gp.lethsd.ab.ca](http://www.gp.lethsd.ab.ca)

## 2024/2025 Assurance Plan

### School Vision Statement

Learners are innovative thinkers who are successful, confident, respectful and caring.

### School Mission Statement

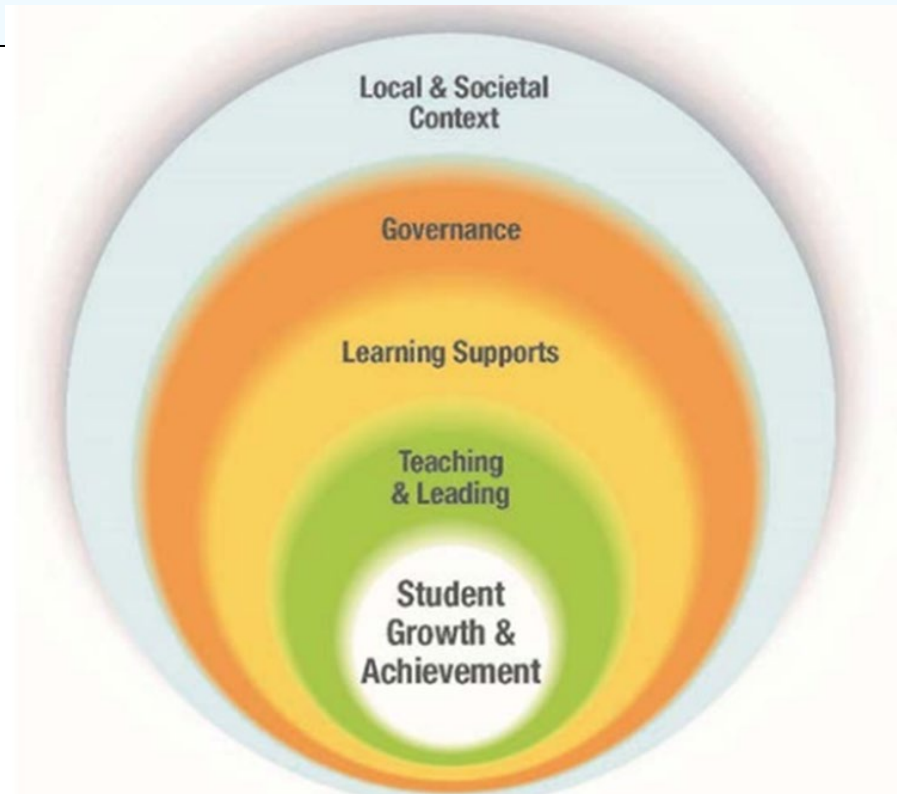
Division Mission Statement: Lethbridge School Division is inclusive, forward-thinking and accountable for engaging students in quality learning experiences that develop strong foundations, innovative minds and responsible citizens



# ASSURANCE PLANNING

**OUR VALUES: We are growing, leading and supporting, with a focus on the following:**

- **Inclusion, Well-being, Learning, Respect and Leadership**



Gilbert Paterson Middle School (GPMS) is a dual track middle school with both English and French Immersion (FRIM) programming. We are the largest middle school in Lethbridge with 840 students, 205 of those students are enrolled in the FRIM program. Our school boundaries bring students from south Lethbridge communities, while FRIM students come from all corners of the city. We have continued to see steady growth over the past five years in both English and French and our building is working at capacity in 2023-24. We are fortunate to have two gymnasiums as well as a spacious Learning Commons, fitness, foods, sewing, choir, band, construction, drama and technology facilities to meet the needs of our learners.

GPMS has a staff of about 50 staff including 40 teachers and 8 educational assistants.

GPMS has seen an exciting and noticeable shift in demographics over the last five years to include a wider range of learners with many different needs and perspectives, including more EAL families. As such, we have focused on more inclusive and diverse teaching and learning strategies to ensure student success.

GPMS offers a full range of elective course programming for students in all grades. Over the last five years, we have been committed to the continual revision of our options to offer a wider variety of choices for students. Extra-curricular fine arts activities include drama productions, choir, traditional band, handbells, and rock band opportunities developed at the elective level. Tiger athletics offers full rep, development, and club opportunities for many students to participate in school sports at a school or league level.

We are incredibly proud of our dual track French Immersion programming. Our teachers create meaningful learning opportunities that enrich cultural and foundational understanding of the French language. This year we have worked hard to offer school wide opportunities to bring together the French and English programs through activities such as Carnaval and Pi Day.

# Assurance Domain: Student Growth and Achievement

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.

## Domain Priorities

- Foundational Learning
- Diverse Learning Pathways
- Effective Assessment
- Indigenous Student Achievement

## Desired Outcomes

- Foundational Learning
  - **Desired Outcome** - Students are empowered to reach their potential through building strong foundations in literacy, numeracy and critical thinking.
- Diverse Learning Pathways
  - **Desired Outcome** - Students are inspired to be lifelong learners through diverse learning pathways that allow them to discover areas of passion and interest.
- Effective Assessment
  - **Desired Outcome** - Students are provided with multiple ways to demonstrate progress, identify strengths and areas for growth through effective assessment practices.
- Indigenous Student Achievement
  - **Desired Outcome** – Indigenous students thrive in learning environments that nurture and support growth and achievement.

## Assurance Measures

- Education Quality Assurance Survey results and trends.
- Programs of Study Supplemental Assurance Survey results and trends.
- Student Learning Engagement Assurance Survey results and trends.
- Lifelong Learning Supplemental Assurance Survey results and trends.
- Our School Survey – Student expectations for success.
- Our School Survey – Students who are interested in motivated.
- Our School Survey – Students that value schooling outcomes.

## Assurance Measures Where Applicable

- 3-year High School Completion Assurance Survey results and trends.
- 5-year High School Completion Assurance Survey results and trends.
- Provincial Achievement Test results and trends.
- Provincial Diploma examination results and trends.
- Fountas and Pinnell, LeNS & CC3 results and trends.
- MIPI and Alberta Education Numeracy Screening Assessment results and trends.

## 2024/2025 Student Growth and Achievement – Area of Focus

What is our desired *outcome*?

Students are provided with multiple ways to demonstrate progress, identify strengths and areas for growth through effective assessment practices.

What *strategies* will we *implement* to progress toward achieving this outcome?

- **Our school will continue to focus PL work toward best practice for assessment in all settings. This includes a focus on Thinking Classrooms.**
- **Exploring diverse methods of collecting assessment data and analyzing how this information is presented to students and parents through our grade books.**
- **We hope to use anti-racist and anti-oppressive practices in analysing assessment practices in order to make the best school for all.**
- **Working with other middle school both in and out of our division to create collaborations for the purpose of better reporting and sharing of common assessment practices.**
- **We are working during our collaborative time to share ideas and processes for meaningful assessment practices and reporting processes that support student learning.**

What will we intentionally focus on during the 2024-2025 school year to help progress towards achieving this outcome?

- **A focus on all assessment for the purpose of student learning.**
- **Deep discussion and continue PL on the formative and summative assessment and how those are reflected through grade books (as the method of sharing information with students and parents)**
- **Discussion with other elementary and middle schools to look at report cards and their purpose in connecting with families and student learning.**

# Assurance Domain: Teaching and Leading

Teaching and Leading refers to teachers and leaders analyzing the learning context; attending to local and societal considerations; and applying the appropriate knowledge and abilities to make decisions resulting in quality teaching, leading and optimum learning for all.

## Domain Priorities

- Respond Effectively to Student Needs
- Professional Growth
- Communication and Collaboration

## Desired Outcomes

- Respond Effectively to Student Needs
  - **Desired Outcome** – Staff respond effectively to the unique needs of all learners.
- Professional Growth
  - **Desired Outcome** – Staff engage in ongoing professional learning to support optimal student learning.
- Communication and Collaboration
  - **Desired Outcome** – Staff communicate with students, parents/guardians and other stakeholders to collaboratively enhance student learning and achievement.

## Assurance Measures

- Education Quality Assurance Survey results and trends.
- Access to Supports and Services Assurance Survey results and trends.
- Satisfaction with Program Access Supplemental Assurance Survey results and trends.
- Program of Studies Supplemental Assurance Survey results and trends.
- In-Service Jurisdiction Needs Supplemental Assurance Survey results and trends.
- Parental Involvement Assurance Survey results and trends.



## 2024/2025 Teaching and Leading – Area of Focus

What is our desired *outcome*? (select only one)

Staff engage in ongoing professional learning to support optimal student learning.

What *strategies* will we *implement* to progress toward achieving this outcome?

- **Create an over-arching question that supports the school PL focus.**
- **Keep focus on connection, empathy, and resiliency.**
- **Keep questions and learning focused on student growth and engagement**
- **Finding innovative ways of teaching numeracy and literacy to best suit student need**
- **Build thinkers who care about each other.**

What will we intentionally focus on during the 2024-2025 school year to help progress towards achieving this outcome?

- **We will continue to focus on how to create a great, inclusive, school for all students.**
- **We have intentional focus on PL with a focus on anti-racist/anti-oppressive practices, literacy, numeracy, and inclusion.**
- **Building community through shared learning experiences**
- **Support learning for staff, parents, and students**
- **Intentionally continuing our staff leadership committee**
- **Support our learners through diverse programming such as FRIM**

## Assurance Domain: Learning Supports

Learning Supports refers to the mobilization of resources (including expertise, facilities, human and community services) required to demonstrate shared, system-wide responsibility for all children and students, and the application of these resources to ensure quality teaching and leading and optimum learning for all.

### Domain Priorities

- Safe and Caring Culture
- Equitable Learning Opportunities
- Active, Healthy Students
- Truth and Reconciliation

### Desired Outcomes

- Safe and Caring Culture

- **Desired Outcome** – To ensure every person feels valued, respected, safe and welcomed in our school communities.
- Equitable Learning Opportunities
  - **Desired Outcome** – To foster learning environments that enable each student to achieve learning success.
- Active, Healthy Students
  - **Desired Outcome** – To foster the physical, mental and emotional wellness of students to support optimal learning.
- Truth and Reconciliation
  - **Desired Outcome** - School communities take action to advance Truth and Reconciliation.

#### **Assurance Measures**

- Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments Assurance Survey results and trends.
- Safe and Caring Supplemental Assurance Survey results and trends.
- Citizenship – Assurance Survey results and trends.
- Our School Survey – Students with a positive sense of belonging results and trends.
- Our School Survey – Students feel safe attending school results and trends.
- Access to supports and services Assurance Survey results and trends.
- Student Learning Engagement – Assurance Survey results and trends.
- Education Quality – Assurance Survey results and trends.

#### **Where Applicable**

- English as Additional Language 5-year completion rate
- Indigenous student 3-year completion rate Assurance Survey results and trends.
- Indigenous student 5-year completion rate Assurance Survey results and trends.



## 2024/2025 Learning Supports – Area of Focus

What is our desired *outcome*? (select only one)

To foster the physical, mental and emotional wellness of students to support optimal learning.

What *strategies* will we *implement* to progress toward achieving this outcome?

- **Our hope is to continue to connect with our counselling team, Indigenous ed coordinator, and outside agencies to support the whole child.**
- **Work to create meaningful relationships that allow us to develop flexible programming with students in our care.**
- **Collaborate with wrap around services to help provide support for students.**
- **Continue to learn with our Indigenous community and connecting to land through Indigenous Ways of knowing.**

What will we intentionally focus on during the 2024-2025 school year to help progress towards achieving this outcome?

- **Continuing to connection to land we live on through Indigenous Ways of Knowing.**
- **Continually reflect and revise our learning support model to meet students currently in the building.**
- **Work with alternative programming to best suit student needs.**
- **Continuing to build relationships with feeder schools to support students through transitions.**



## **School Domain**

Our hope is to continue to revamp our vision statement to reflect our growing numbers and the students that are currently in the building. We hope to build a school devoted to empathy, connection, and resiliency. The voice and choice of our staff is very important, and we want to support them by creating a staff leadership group that set the direction of the school. We always want to continue our excellence in academics and athletics while creating a school that everyone is proud to attend.

