

School Learning Plan

October 2022/23

THE CURRENT CONTEXT

- New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS) of New Westminster, BC, currently has 2263 Grade 9 – 12 students and 71 SIGMA students. We support a very diverse population. At NWSS, there are many strong connections among staff, students, parents and the community. As the primary secondary school in the city, NWSS offers many different types of programs for students including International Baccalaureate, Construction Diplomas, Red Seal Apprenticeships, Alternate Education, French Immersion, Sports Academies, and one of the online virtual schools in BC. We continue to be a school that exemplifies resiliency, flexibility and collaborative work ethic of our staff and students.
- SLP Background: Last year we focused on creating a **Collaborative** learning environment where students feel **Connected** to a learning **Community** that **Celebrates** diversity and clearly **Communicates** equitable and inclusive opportunities for all learners (5 C's). Surveys revealed that students, parents and staff strive to have a stronger sense of connectedness at NWSS and that redefining the school culture given the current educational landscape would be our most important work moving forward into the 2022-23 school year. As we worked with staff, students and parents to educate and communicate the 5 C's we began to get feedback that there were several areas for improvement and learning. Through staff and student surveys, along with student action and organization, we learned that students and staff did not feel safe at times while attending NWSS. Working within the framework of the 5 C's we will now focus on creating a safe school community for all stakeholders here at NWSS. We will work with our students through Student Voice and SEAS (Safety, Education, Advocacy and Support) student organizations. We will communicate and survey our NWSS families through our Weekly Parent Bulletin, Parent Teacher Conferences and NWSS PAC. We will continue to educate and work collaboratively with our staff. During our September and October staff and department head meetings, as well as a full day Pro-D day in September, we have begun to engage in the exploration of what actionable work that we can do to support our community and create a safe learning environment for all stakeholder here at NWSS.

OBJECTIVE: WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE

NWSS is a **Collaborative** learning environment where students feel **Safe** and **Connected** to a learning **Community** that **Celebrates** diversity and clearly **Communicates** equitable and inclusive opportunities for all learners. We strive to provide a learning journey where NWSS is a place where students love to learn and to ensure that NWSS is a safe, engaging and inclusive environment.

DESIGN: HOW WE PLAN TO MEET OUR OBJECTIVE

Action Plan

Safe Community and Connectedness:

- Promotion of positive energy and school spirit events to connect students and staff
- Continue to invite parents/guardians to participate in school events (e.g., course selection evenings, open house/parent tours – Oct. 27, District Parent Evening)
- Continue to proactively respond to student concerns about safety in schools
- Provide education for staff to help reinforce NWSS as a safe learning environment for all
- Revision of NWSS Student Code of Conduct
- Increased supervision during the school day; currently with 4 supervisors on site
- Creation of Student Behaviour Support online form
- Creation of Student Handbook with School Code of Conduct
- Update of Staff Handbook with Inclusive Education tier support system information

Timeline

Safe Community and Connectedness:

- Working with staff and students (e.g., Leadership class) to create and promote events during school calendar year to promote positive energy and school spirit
- Meet with Student Voice student group - monthly
- Meet with our SEAS (Safety, Education, Advocacy and Support) student group – monthly
- Work with staff, SEAS and Student Voice to revise the Student Code of Conduct
- Continue to address concerns and educate staff during Staff meetings, EA meetings, DH meetings
- Foster/enhance a culture of resiliency
- Presentations to staff: Consent Culture as Classroom Practice & Student Code of Conduct
- Presentations to staff and students: Kenneth Headley's District Vice-Principal role in Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-racism

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Collaboration:

- To enhance a clear visual aid and process outlining consistent positive behavioural expectations in alignment to our school code of conduct
- Students and teachers will utilize and maximize collaborative spaces to share their learning and teaching. Promotion of and enhancement of cross curricular learning and teaching
- Collaborative activities for staff to support 5'S

Communication:

- To create a clear process of student support using response to intervention (RTI)
- Continue to enhance communication with our student and parent community through our morning announcements as well as our weekly staff and parent bulletin
- To continue to actively listen and meet regularly with Student Voice and our overall student community
- Provide families the opportunity to provide feedback during Parent Evenings.
- Increase in social media presence- Instagram, Twitter, etc.

Celebration:

- To create a year plan outlining celebration that reflect the diversity of our school and community
- Continue to recognize student and staff achievements
- Parent tours and Events
- Increased Grad Events (Sunrise Celebration, Winter Formal, Movie nights, etc.)

- Presentations to staff and students: Melanie Smith's District Vice-Principal role in Safe and Caring Schools

Collaboration:

- Identification of key areas of focus: Community, Collaboration, Connectedness, Communication, Celebration and Safety
- Creation of clear expectations for use of collaborative learning spaces
- September Pro-D – Admin lead

Communication:

- Engage with staff through staff and department meetings to chart our current initiatives and create action plans
- Revisit department goals, initiatives, and progress
- Student Voice to begin work with key areas of focus
- Ongoing check-ins and sharing with staff at our monthly staff and department meetings, engage staff in continual reflection about school culture
- Ongoing social media posts of NWSS activities

Celebration:

- Ongoing celebration of student and staff achievements (e.g., weekly bulletin, social media, classroom)
- Staff working to support key areas of focus
- October parent tours, January District Programs Evening, Grade 9 Parent Welcome (May)

SUCCESS INDICATORS: HOW WE WILL KNOW THAT OUR ACTIONS ARE HAVING THE DESIRED IMPACT

Key Results

- Evidence of teachers trying new strategies:
 - teachers sharing examples at monthly department and staff meetings, collaboration days, Pro D days;
 - creation and sharing of teacher lessons and resources (that focus on the 5 Cs) on MS Teams and our shared R drive;
 - teacher participation/enrolment in professional, online learning opportunities.
- Feedback from parents and students pertaining to our objectives considered and incorporated into our implementation of the School Learning Plan throughout the year.
- Evidence of student voice and engagement within the school (Student Learning Survey, parent engagement survey data, Student Voice club surveys, SEAS student group surveys, attendance data)
- Weekly bulletins, daily announcements, and TV screens information – student and staff achievements submitted and highlighted
- Evidence of students utilizing collaborative spaces for classroom learning (e.g., staff reports, visual representation)
- Students will be able to report feeling safe, connected, and engaged to their school community
- Students will report in their self-assessment to demonstrate their learning across all curricular areas (i.e., referencing celebrations, collaborations)

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- Student participation in three-way conferences
- Students and families will report receiving informal communication about their learning that is celebratory (i.e., email, phone calls, MS Teams meeting)

COMMUNICATION: HOW WE WILL SHARE OUR LEARNING JOURNEY WITH OUR COMMUNITY

- Announcements, class discussions, and student leadership initiatives (including Student Voice club)
- Self-Assessment of Core Competencies
- Family engagement through weekly parent bulletin, email, school messenger, school website, social media, PAC meetings, and parent and student surveys
- Communicating student learning informally (parent/teacher interviews) and formally (report cards) in student and parent friendly language
- Make our school learning focus visible in our school (posters, art displays, etc.)
- Revise Student Code of Conduct and update website and reviewed at student assemblies
- Posting of updated SLP to school website

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