

Personalizing Schools: Organizing for Success

Greater Victoria K-5 Elementary Schools

In the Greater Victoria School District, K-5 elementary schools advocate the importance of the early years as the foundation for lifelong learning. The District recognizes the benefits of developmentally appropriate practices in optimizing children's learning. K-5 elementary school work to accommodate the broad range of children's needs, their differentiated rates and styles, and their knowledge, experiences and interests. The K-5 program's significant focus on literacy, numeracy, exploration, and social responsibility is reflected in the early identification and intervention for children who have special learning needs.

The K-5 program is founded on the nine common beliefs listed below. These beliefs guide the decisions made by the K-5 schools.

We believe that:

1. Daily, meaningful participation in each of the five Areas of Development within the K-5 program promotes the development of the learner:
 - ◆ Aesthetic Development
 - ◆ Artistic Development
 - ◆ Emotional Development
 - ◆ Social Development
 - ◆ Intellectual Development: Physical Development and Well-Being; Development of Social Responsibility)
2. Early intervention is critical and must be a planned systemic program of services and support to ensure the academic success of all students.
3. Children actively participate in their learning through play and exploration.
4. Children's different learning styles and rates are addressed through curriculum and instructional strategies.
5. Children learn both individually and in positively structured social groups.
6. Assessment and evaluation involves the child, is ongoing, is based on clear criteria (derived from B.C. Performance Standards) and provides direction for the next stages of learning.
7. Formal reporting of student progress will be communicated in a structured written format.
8. Parents' active partnership benefits children's development as learners.
9. Planning and teaching collaboratively promote the development, refinement and use of a wide repertoire of exemplary instructional strategies.