

Annual Report to the Community

September 2015 – June 2016

New Germany Rural High School



A note from the Administrative Team

Entering our third and final year for our CSI plan our teachers continued to work hard on meeting its goals. In writing, teachers continue to implement new teaching strategies to improve student achievement and bring our writing results in close alignment to our reading results. The *Tell Them From Me* student survey was not scheduled to be administered this year therefore the SAC as well as the staff extended the timeline to meet the engagement goal to May 2017. Our students have thrived this year academically and emotionally with supportive staff and involvement from home. Many changes are coming to NGRHS next year, including the new administrative team of Principal Beth Collins and Vice Principal Hester Gibson. They are both excited to continue on in the rich tradition of excellence of NGRHS. We are also bidding farewell to Guidance Counsellor Kate Stringer and welcome our new counsellor Ann Lambe. All the best to Deborah Fleming, who is retiring in June after years of facilitating the revitalization of the visual arts program at NGRHS. We would like to thank the entire NGRHS school community for supporting our current administrative team. We will truly miss the incredible staff, students, parents and volunteers and we sincerely thank you.



Provincial and Board Assessment Results

SSRSB students participate in provincial and board-wide assessments. The information gained through these assessments help teachers determine their next steps in improving student achievement in literacy and mathematics and developing a positive school climate.

Assessments	School Results	Board Results
Grade 8 Reading (Provincial Assessment)	54%	50%
Board's SELL/EXSELL Reading Assessment (All grades combined)	87%	74%
Board's SELL/EXSELL Writing Assessment (All grades combined)	64%	71%
Grade 8 Mathematics (Provincial Assessment)	34%	46%
NSE 10 Reading	77%	73%
NSE 10 Writing	63%	63%
NSE Mathematics 10	60%	50%
NSE Mathematics at Work 10	N/A	46%
Tell Them From Me Survey (February 2015)	School Results	Canadian Norm
Positive Sense of Belonging	65%	71%
Intellectual Engagement	63%	50%
Interested and Motivated	36%	30%
Effort (Tries hard to succeed)	78%	69%

Continuous School Improvement and Professional Learning

NGRHS teachers continue to work at reaching goals specified in the school's *Continuous School Improvement Plan*. One way this is accomplished is by engaging in collaborative teams during embedded time on early dismissal Wednesdays. The following examples explain the type of work some of our teams accomplish during that time.

- Our English department teachers focused on student engagement by providing opportunities to work within various settings within our school community;
- The science and social studies teacher team created formative assessment tools intended to foster an increase in student interest, engagement and achievement;
- The student support team worked on implementing ways to support and encourage the development of age appropriate social skills, promote positive expected behaviors and increase student engagement in academics.

NGRHS teachers also attended conferences that addressed many topics, including artisan teacher practices and response to intervention at work.

In the 2014-2015 school year, Nova Scotia Examinations (NSE's) for grade 10 English, Mathematics, and Mathematics at Work were administered to all students enrolled in these courses. As this was the first official year for the administration of these exams, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development released provincial, board, and school results. The board's baseline results for NSE's for Mathematics 10 and Mathematics at Work 10 were not very good with 50% and 46% respectively. Although NGRH students scored well on the Mathematics 10 assessment compared to the rest of the board, our results still have room for improvement. The first round of results for mathematics in grade 10 has prompted education personnel at the board level to lead a year-long professional development initiative for grade 10 math teachers. Several times during the year, grade 10 math teachers met at the board office to help them develop greater clarity around expectations for students at different points throughout the year. They also implemented district-wide common assessments to consistently gather information on where students are at in their learning and to respond with support in a timely manner.

School Goals

Goal 1: By May, 2016 the percentage of students from grades 7-12 who meet or exceed expectations in writing will improve.

Strategies: Teachers will...

- Provide multiple opportunities for students to use personal and/or persuasive writing in their subject areas.
- Use a common writing assessment tool to track students' progress (i.e. Exsell or Teacher Created).
- Ask students to assess their own strengths and areas for improvement in their writing.

Goal 2: By May, 2016 the percentage of NGRHS students who report being interested, motivated and intellectually engaged in their learning will improve.

Strategies: Teachers will...

- Structure lessons that make real life connections evident for students on an ongoing basis.
- Regularly seek input from students to plan instruction and assessment that reflect their strengths in representing their learning.
- Provide students with a variety of options to differentiate their learning experiences and products, including the use of technology.

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