

Saanich Schools



## ***School Plan Summary***

### **A Focus on Student Achievement**

**2009/2010**

**School: Claremont Secondary School**

**Date: April 2009**

**Submitted by: Mark Fraser**

#### **School Mission:**

The students, staff and parents of Claremont Secondary encourage lifelong learning within a safe and respectful environment where students pursue their highest possible levels of academic achievement and personal growth.

#### **School Context:**

Claremont Secondary School has a student population of almost 1050 students and a staff of ninety including teaching, support and administration staff. Our student population is quite diverse and this year includes seventy international students representing China, Germany, Japan, Korea, Mexico, France and Brazil.

The school has a reputation for excellence in academics, athletics and the arts. Academically we offer Advanced Placement courses in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics and Math 100. Our writing program produces students whose work is often featured and celebrated in competitions and printed in publications such as the *Claremont Review*. Many of our students earn scholarships to post-secondary institutions in Canada and abroad. Our Athletic department consistently produces teams which represent the school at major tournaments including Provincial tournaments. The Claremont Sports Institute continues to grow and provides outstanding training and other opportunities for the students in this program. Our arts courses include the visual arts and performing arts. Productions for the public are held each year in the Ridge Theatre. We believe it is important to support charitable organizations in our community and around the world and we are proud to be able to say that we donate and raise thousands of dollars each year to various projects, organizations, and individuals.

The school works hard to support students do the best they can in every area of their life. We continue to look for new opportunities and ways to improve what we do to help students prepare for their life after high school. The creation of this plan is one part of the process we engage in as we continue to refine and improve our practice to support student learning.

**GOAL #1:** To improve student engagement in learning.

**Objective:** As students move from grade 9 to graduation, specific attributes and skills will be taught in a sequential manner to graduate students who demonstrate the attributes of persistence, perseverance and critical thinking.

**Rationale:** Based on initial feedback from the What Did You Do In School Today (WDYDIST) survey data, students indicate that our standards and expectations for student success can be raised. As a result of a staff survey conducted during the March 2, 2009 NID day, staff feel that students want and need to be more responsible and accountable for their learning. Research suggests that students who are engaged in the school academically and socially are likely to experience more success in school and after graduation. It is important to identify and focus on a sequence of skills that students learn as they move through the grades. We must be purposeful and consistent.

**Evidence:**

1. Data from the WDYDIST surveys.
2. Data from our Work Habits and Attitude and Effort rubrics.
3. School and provincial exam results.
4. Anecdotal evidence from students, parents, and staff.
5. Provincial Satisfaction Survey Results
6. Data from our Attendance records.

**Targets:**

1. Raise the levels of intellectual engagement by male students to at least the national mean on the WDYDIST survey.
2. All students should demonstrate by June 2010 at least “Satisfactory” performance on the work habits and conduct rubrics.
3. On all required provincial exams, the number of students scoring A,B or C+ should be at or above the provincial average.
4. On Provincial satisfaction surveys, we should see an increase in the number of students who indicate they try their best at school.

**08/09 Results:**

WDYDIST intellectual engagement	Mean score is 5.1 Gr. 9 boys 5.2      Gr. 9 girls 5.4 Gr. 10 boys 4.7      Gr. 10 girls 5.3 Gr. 11 boys 4.8      Gr. 11 girls 5.1 Gr. 12 boys 4.4      Gr. 12 girls 5.4
Provincial Exams Success Rates: A passing final grade.	EN12 Prov. 97.06%      School 97.64% SS11 Prov. 95.59%      School 99.05% EN10 Prov. 95.64%      School 99.3% PM10 Prov. 92.57%      School 97.2% SC 10 Prov. 95.58%      School 99.05%
Satisfaction Survey. Students who try their best All or Most of the time.	Grade 12 67% Grade 10 61%

**Strategies/Monitoring:**

- Continue to use, refine, model and promote the expectations as described in our rubrics for Work Habits and Conduct .
- Students will identify, review and discuss specific aspects of the Work Habits and Attitude and Effort rubrics at each grade level during various house blocks so that as students move through the grades they demonstrate the attributes we expect of all graduates.
- Students will use wait-time, think-pair-share, peer assessment and other best practice strategies to demonstrate persistence.
- Students will complete the WDYDIST survey to help us determine their level of academic engagement.
- Grade 9 and 10 students will use a common system of note taking that includes questioning, synthesizing, and summarizing learning in both SS and English in grade 9 and Science and Math in Grade 10.

**GOAL #2:** To improve student levels of socially responsible behavior.

**Objective:** Throughout the year we want all students to:

- Demonstrate respect for self, others and the environment;
- Participate daily in active living, healthy school activities; and,
- Contribute in some way to at least one community charity activity.

**Rationale:** We believe that if students are involved in the school in ways that extend beyond the classroom, school spirit improves which in turn reduces other negative behaviors. We also believe that active living and making healthy choices helps people live happy, productive lives. And we believe that giving and making a contribution to our community is everyone's responsibility.

**Evidence:**

1. The level of student and staff leadership and participation in school-wide events.
2. Feedback from a representative focus group of students on school spirit and input into the setting of events.
3. Participation levels and activities completed in service clubs and courses (Key, Global Awareness...)
4. Participation levels in events like Recycling, Terry Fox Run, Bike-to-Work week, etc.
5. Provincial Satisfaction Surveys
6. What Did You Do In School Today survey data. (WDYDIST)

**Targets:**

1. At least four times in the 09/10 school year we will hold school-wide activities.
2. Student focus groups report an increased level of School Spirit and can reference specific events.
3. Increase the number of grade 9-11 female students sense of belonging to or above the national mean on the WDYDIST survey.
4. Increase the number of students who on WDYIST report participation in school clubs.
5. On Provincial satisfaction surveys in the School Environment and Safety sections, we should see an increase in the number of students reporting more positive results.

**08/09 Results:**

WDYDIST girls' sense of belonging	National Mean score is 75%		
	Gr. 9 girls 69%	Gr. 9 boys 77%	
	Gr. 10 girls 69%	Gr. 10 boys 72%	
	Gr. 11 girls 69%	Gr. 11 boys 74%	
	Gr. 12 girls 77%	Gr. 12 boys 76%	
WDYDIST participation in clubs	Gr. 9 girls 36%	Gr. 9 boys 32%	
	Gr. 10 girls 32%	Gr. 10 boys 31%	
	Gr. 11 girls 45%	Gr. 11 boys 29%	
	Gr. 12 girls 58%	Gr. 12 boys 31%	
Provincial Satisfaction Survey All or Most of the time.	Respect others:	Gr. 12 84%	Gr. 10 80%
	Feel safe at school.	Gr. 12 83%	Gr. 10 67%
	Feel welcome at school.	Gr. 12 68%	Gr. 10 69%
	Learning to take care of the environment.	Gr. 12 46%	Gr. 10 53%

**Strategies/Monitoring:**

- Student and staff focus groups will periodically review and evaluate the success of the school-wide events that promote socially responsible behaviour (Milk Run, Terry Fox Run, Multi-cultural week, etc.) that are promoted on the Annual Calendar of School -Wide Events.
- Students will complete the WDYDIST survey to help us determine their levels of engagement and participation in school.
- Students will complete the provincial satisfaction surveys.
- We will use the House System to facilitate the development of school spirit and participation.
- Students and staff will celebrate socially responsible successes, in particular by house, through events such as the “Breakfast of Champions.”
- Staff will incorporate aspects of social responsibility into their instructional and curricular areas and students will demonstrate that they have learned these aspects.