

North Vancouver School District
SCHOOL PLAN
2008-2009

School: Argyle Secondary

Principal: Olga Woodland

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 North Vancouver, BC V7K 1J3
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School/Community Context:

Argyle Secondary School in the North Vancouver School District is nestled in the beautiful Lynn Valley Mountains. The school houses approximately 1600 students in grades 8 to 12 and 120 staff. Argyle is noted for its breadth, depth and high standards of excellence in academics, fine and technical arts, applied skills and athletics.

Argyle houses many curricular and co-curricular programmes with many of our students being recognized for their excellence at the District, Provincial and National levels. Argyle has a strong reputation in academic excellence as evidence through the high number of scholarship recipients and post secondary placements. In addition, we have a renowned Digital Media program and, in 2008-2009, Argyle will pilot a Digital Media Academy. Our French Immersion program is the largest in the district with over 350 students graduating with a dual Dogwood Diploma. Currently, 600 students are enrolled in our music programme that includes concert bands, jazz bands, strings and choirs. In addition, our athletic programme has the most diverse offerings and the highest rate of student participation in the North Vancouver School District.

Many opportunities are provided for student leadership both in the school and the community. Argyle students participate in community events and are also involved in many volunteer activities that benefit others both locally and globally.

Argyle is rich in spirit and culture, which is evident through student deportment in and outside the school. We celebrate our cultural diversity through school events, clubs, school trips and the display of International flags hanging in the school foyer.

The Argyle community is justifiably proud of the programs that we offer and the achievements of all our students.

Demographics:

Total number of students: 1583 Male: 822 Female: 761

Grade	8	9	10	11	12
English	214	262	247	282	242
Fr. Imm.	83	69	82	54	48

# FTE Teachers & Administrators	% Aboriginal Students	% Special Needs Students	% International Students	% ESL
74.88	.62%	12.8% (202)	3.29% (52)	2.02% (32)

Progress Analysis:

Review of School Goals – Previous Year

Historically, Argyle Secondary School has actively addressed the four North Vancouver School District goals in line with the School Growth Planning document. The School Planning Council identified specific actions, reviewed and analysed output data as part of the on-going improvement effort against each of the 4 goals identified by the North Vancouver School District.

This section identifies the previous 4 goals and provides a summary of the achievement against these for goals up to the current school year.

School Plan Goal 1: To Improve Reading Proficiency of all Students with an Emphasis in the Junior Grades.

Results indicated that Argyle students' reading proficiency is clearly increasing.

The first measure of proficiency is report card marks. In Grade 8, 97.2% of students passed English in 2007 as compared with 90% in 2002, the year we began monitoring our performance through the School Growth Plan.

The second measure of proficiency is the recently instituted Grade 10 Provincial Final Exam. From data collected from the three provincial English exams written in June 2005, January 2006, June 2006 and June 2007. Argyle students were found to perform above both the district and provincial averages.

School Plan Goal 2: To Improve Success Rates in Mathematics of Students in the Junior Grades

Overall, we see an increase in success rates at the grade 8 – 11 level in Mathematics. From 2002 – 2007 the grade 8's success rate has increased appreciably from 87.8% to 97.3% over these five years. Grade 9's have stayed consistently above a 90% success rate with 91.8% in 01/02, with the highest of 95.4% in 02/03 and then a slight declining trend to 90.0% in 05/06. The grade 10's success rate has increased from 88.3% in 01/02 to a high of 94.0% in 04/05 with a drop to 87.7% in 05/06 92.2% 06/07 92.5%.

School Plan Goal 3: To Improve the success rate of Aboriginal Students

Argyle's Aboriginal student population is small, relative to the school's total population; there are currently 9 First Nations students out of a student population of 1574.

The target to reduce the number of courses failed by aboriginal students is being partially met; the data in shows 4 failures in 2003, 2 failures in 2004, 3 failures in 2005, 2 failures in 2006 and 3 failures in 2007. Although the cohort of nine aboriginal students is too small to identify a trend the school continues to track and monitor their progress individually with the goal of ensuring the students are fully supported and successful in their school endeavours.

School Plan Goal 4: To Improve Certain Aspects of the Safe and Caring Schools Model

The trend over the past 5 years is that the goals that the school community established as a priority have been met. As evidenced by the activities listed in the Safe and Caring Timeline it is apparent that as a school community, Argyle is actively engaged in a cycle of continually improving the teaching and learning environment of the school.



Argyle has viewed the Social Responsibility Survey that was administered in the Spring of 2006 as a top priority in terms of providing quantitative data defining current practice and informing future direction.

Similarly, Environmental Stewardship is also viewed as a theme that enables staff and students to focus certain resources to raise awareness and actively engage in a broad based campaign to address environmental issues related to the school and community.

Argyle's Code of Conduct was critiqued as part of a District wide review in the fall of 2006 which, relative to Ministry Criteria, found it to be exemplary in all categories. As a matter of routine, the annual internal review added the section on School Dance protocols in June 2006 with "Cyber-Bullying and Electronic Harassment" being added in the spring of 2007.

Opportunities for Further Development:

Based on our current progress and listening to the needs of the school as reported by the staff, goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 will continue to be monitored in the next school year, especially Environmental Stewardship. For the 2008-2009 school year the staff, in consultation with the School Planning Council, saw the need to establish and implement the goals as described below.

School Goals:

Based on the review of student achievement using Provincial, District and school evidence, the goals set out in the Argyle Secondary School Plan for 2008 - 2009 are:

1. **To Improve Students' Writing Skills Across the Curriculum**
2. **To Increase Students' Sense of Empowerment and Responsibility**
3. **To Increase the Personal Health of Students in the Argyle Community**

School Goal 1: To improve Students' Skills in Writing across the Curriculum

Goal Rationale:

The ability to write clearly and effectively is a critical life skill that needs to be fostered in all areas across of the school. As a staff and community we believe that it is crucial to identify and support those students who are "not yet meeting grade level expectations" in writing and to provide enrichment to those who are "meeting and exceeding grade level expectations" in writing.

Objective: 1.1

Improve the writing proficiency of all Grade 9 students.

Strategies/Structures:

- Staff, with departmental representation, create a writing skills assessment tool
- Administer writing assessment to all grade 9 students during first month of school year
- Staff quantitatively evaluate results of writing skills assessment
- Staff define specific targets for improvement in terms of school goal criteria below



- Based on results, staff work with district expert resource to develop 3 or 4 specific activities to improve efficiency of writing skills in Grade 9 students, across all departments
- Staff incorporate specific activities as part of course delivery throughout the learning year across all content areas (cross-curriculum)
- Staff creates a similar writing skills assessment and administer to the Grade 9 cohort in May or June.
- Staff quantitatively evaluate results of writing skills assessment
- Assessment of effectiveness of the 3 or 4 specific activities for consideration in next years plan.

Evidence: (Quantitative)

Key Performance Measure:	Baseline	Actual	Target
To be defined after initial assessment in September			

Evidence: (Qualitative)

We have no evidence at this time. This will be defined in the fall of 2008.

<p>School Goal 2: To Increase Students' Sense of Empowerment and Responsibility</p>
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Goal Rationale:

In order to prepare our students for the future, they need to be able to make responsible decisions in order to reach their potential. By encouraging them to set high yet attainable goals for themselves and to take appropriate steps to reach those goals, they will learn skills and attitudes that are also necessary for success in the workplace.

Objective 2.1:

Empower students to be more responsible for their own learning.

Strategies/Structures:

- Students should be encouraged to attend teacher tutorials
- Students should record all homework and upcoming tests in planners on a regular basis
- Monitor and improve student attendance in classes
- Provide diverse opportunities for students to be involved in leadership and advocacy roles
- Teachers discuss academic goal setting for students in their classes at start of year and review goals periodically throughout the year.
- Display students' achievements on a Wall Of Achievement and post Honour Roll and other awards in new display cases
- Raise academic standards for Argyle by setting a goal to improve Provincial Exam results

Evidence: (Quantitative)

We have no quantitative evidence for agenda use and tutorial attendance at this time.

Key Performance Measures:	Baseline	Actual	Target
Attendance at tutorials Student attendance Provincial Exam results			

Evidence: Teacher Reports; bcesis Attendance Profiles, and Ministry Reports.

To be started in September of 2008. Data will be accessed through teacher reports, bcesis, and Government Exam Result Reports.

Objective 2.2:

Increase student awareness and understanding of the Code of Conduct.

Strategies/Structures:

- Teachers intentionally discuss with classes Argyle's Code of Conduct frequently throughout the year
- School logo including the basic tenets of Code of Conduct displayed in all classrooms and in common areas
- Staff refer to pertinent specific sections of the logo or Code of Conduct when dealing with students
- Send home Code of Conduct to each household in August

Evidence: (Quantitative)

Key Performance Measure:	Baseline	Actual	Target
Satisfaction Survey Question: Do you know what your school's expectations are for student behaviour?	Gr.10-73% Gr.12-73%		86%

Evidence: (Qualitative)

Satisfaction Survey; Safe and Caring Schools' Survey.

School Goal 3: To Increase the Personal Health of Students in the Argyle Community

Goal Rationale:

Good health is one of the basic foundations of learning, and is a lifelong venture. The Argyle Community, specifically students, but also the adults in the building, need to be more aware of their mental and physical fitness levels and as a community we need to work hard to improve those levels. Obesity, stress, poor nutrition, and lack of physical activity are areas of concern both at Argyle and throughout Canada. We need to assess 'health' levels and bring the overall health of students to a higher level.

Objective 3.1: To increase the number of grade 12 students who reported they get exercise at school or in the community

Strategies/Structures:

- Increase opportunities for students to actively participate in physical activities in the school, especially at the senior level, and community
- Increase intra-mural participation by offering more programs and encouraging participation by all grades both male and female
- Look into more elective PE opportunities at the senior level to encourage more students to enrol
- Work in concert with the NVRC to offer students community opportunities
- Encourage monthly or even weekly “Walk to School” Days

Evidence: (Quantitative)

Key Performance Measure:	Baseline	Actual	Target
Satisfaction Survey Grd12 06/07, % of student responses to the question, “At school, do you get exercise (for example, physical activity or sports)?	Grd 12 =45%		Grd 12 2009 60%

Evidence: (Qualitative)

Satisfaction Survey; Completion of the Daily Physical Activity component of the Graduation Portfolio.

Objective 3.2: Support and expand preventative measures for overall wellness

Strategies/Structures:

- Continue to work toward more healthy food choices in the cafeteria and vending machines
- Lobby to ensure that the position of a Concurrent Disorder Counsellor (CDC) remains available in the school
- Provide Grade 12 students Drug and Alcohol Awareness presentation through the YTRPL12 course (preferably in smaller groups)
- Support Peer Counselling (PC) and have them take a more active roll in student counselling (with the support of school counsellors)

Evidence: (Quantitative)

Key Performance Measure:	Baseline	Actual	Target
Referrals to PC’s and CDC.			

Evidence: (Qualitative)

This objective could be defined as a “soft objective”. Data may be difficult to get. Strategies and enforcement and monitoring of strategies are more important.

Connections:

Connections to Family of School’s School Plans and/or District Achievement Plan:

The District Achievement Plan outlines, amongst other objectives, a commitment by the district to improve academic success rates in students and support the North Vancouver Safe and Caring Schools’ initiatives.

Argyle School Plan reflects these objectives and expands to include student wellness through physical activity.

Argyle Family of Schools' Plans are similar in the followings ways:

- Argyle goal #1 to Improve Student Writing Skills Across the Curriculum connects with the Family of Schools Impromptu writing goal.
- Teachers at Argyle are involved in the Writing 44 initiatives
- Argyle Family of Schools Principals meet monthly and include in their agenda a review student achievement issues & practices
- Argyle Goals on Safe and Caring Schools matches the District's Achievement Plan and the Family of Schools' School Plans
- Included in this year's Argyle Plan is student wellness which is connected to schools providing a healthy learning environment
- Argyle's Code of Conduct is currently reviewed at the district level for its compatibility with the FOS Codes of Conduct

Consultation Process of Argyle School Planning Council:

- School administrators, staff, parents and students have been actively involved in the development of the School Plan.
- A summary of the approved Argyle School Plan will be posted on the school web site by October 31, 2008.

School Planning Council Approval of Proposed School Plan:

Date: May 13, 2008

	Name	Signature
Chairperson (Principal)	Olga Woodland	<i>Original Document signed by SPC Members</i>
Teacher	Non Assigned	
Parent	Charles Steele	
Parent	Fiona Narod	
Parent	David Beckley	
Student (Gr 10, 11, 12 schools only)	Jordan Hopper/Venetia Verdicchio	

Board Approval of School Plan:

Approved by:

Bryn Roberts, Assistant Superintendent
June 17, 2008

