

## Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting in Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools Parent Information

### We Live in a Changing World

BC has one of the best education systems in the world: teachers are skilled, and students are performing at the top of international assessments. But the world is changing and we need to make sure students have the skills they need to succeed in our changing world. That's why it's critical that we refine our education system, designed in the last century, so students can succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.



### Re-designed Curriculum in BC

Parents expect their kids to learn the basics – reading, writing and math. The new curriculum will teach them those skills in a way that connects them to the collaboration, communication and critical thinking skills that are so important to us after high school. These are the core skills universities, colleges and employers tell us that they are looking for. These core skills are also those skills that support all people both personally and socially. What and how we teach our students has been redesigned to provide greater flexibility for teachers, while allowing space and time for students to develop their skills and explore their passions and interests. The deep understanding and application of knowledge is at the centre of the new model, as opposed to the memory and recall of facts that previously shaped education around the globe for many decades.



### Assessment

Assessments should reveal how well students have learned what we want them to learn while instruction ensures that they learn it. Changes in curriculum lead to changes in how we assess student learning. The emphasis will focus more on Formative Assessment and less on Summative Assessment. This shift will provide more meaningful feedback to support growth and ongoing learning.

Formative Assessment: The goal of formative assessment is to *monitor student learning* to provide ongoing feedback that can be used by instructors to improve their teaching and by students to improve their learning.

Summative Assessment: The goal of summative assessment is to *evaluate student learning* at the end of an instructional unit by comparing it against some standard or benchmark



### Reporting

Today, our provincial curriculum is designed to engage the passions and interests of our students to better meet their personalized needs. With these changes, quality assessment and reporting practices takes on increased significance. Reporting refers to the sharing of student progress to parents/guardians. Traditionally, this sharing took the form of a standard report card with comments and letter grades sent home three times per year. In Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools, we are moving from a model of *'reporting to parents/guardians'* to a model where we are *'communicating student learning with parents/guardians'* on an ongoing basis. This means that reporting will provide multiple opportunities throughout the school year for you to see your child's learning, as it occurs.