

STARTING SCHOOL: THE EARLY YEARS

Introduction

Starting school is an exciting time for families! Here at the Sea to Sky School District, we believe that the key to an effective education is a partnership between home and school. We are looking forward to working with you and your child to design a personalized approach for your child's learning journey. Whatever your child's strengths, interests and needs may be, we believe that they are ready for kindergarten, and that they will add a valued contribution to the diversity of the classroom.

We hope this brochure helps explain how to register and what to expect in the early years at schools in SD 48. If you find you have specific questions, please contact your child's school principal. You will find contact information on each school's website.

Mission

We are committed to engaging all students with personally relevant and flexible learning, empowering them to acquire the competencies vital for success in their future.



Registration

Registration typically opens in January. If your child turns 5 on or before December 31st, they are welcome to register for kindergarten. Register your child at the school which serves your neighbourhood (catchment school). You can find school catchment information and registration forms on the school district website at

www.sd48seatosky.org

You need to register in-person at your child's catchment school and bring the following documents:

- Completed Student Registration Form
- Proof of residency (i.e. driver's license, telephone/hydro bill or other documentation with street address)
- Student's Birth Certificate
- Student's BC Services Card
- Proof of status in Canada (if applicable)
- Legal documentation involving guardianship (if applicable)
- Immunization records

Requests to attend a non-catchment school or a school outside your catchment area will be considered **subject to the availability of space. You still need to register your child at their catchment school and fill in a Transfer Request Form.**

Programs of Choice

Please note that availability in one of our Programs of Choice is based on unique school configurations, and space may be limited.

French Immersion: Complete registration at your [French Immersion catchment school](#).

Cultural Journeys: Register for Cultural Journeys at Stawamus School.

Recess & Lunch

Every school has a mid-morning recess and lunch recess. Please contact your school for specific schedules. We take extra precautions in the first few weeks of school to ensure the safety and well-being of our kindergarten students as they learn the guidelines around recess and lunch.

Communicating Student Learning

Families receive timely information about their child's learning in a variety of ways. Letters home, email, newsletters, student presentations, portfolios, various digital media, and report cards are just a few of the ways we share.



Parent Advisory Council

We invite families to be active in their Parent Advisory Council (PAC). Joining your PAC is a wonderful opportunity for parents/guardians to get involved in supporting students while also gaining a greater sense of belonging within the school community.

The PAC usually meets once a month, and is open to all parents at your child's school. Check your school website for more information on how to join your local PAC.

Shape of the School Day

Teachers play a central role in enhancing children’s development and learning. Teachers are intentional in everything they do. They create supportive learning environments by designing and implementing learning experiences to engage all children so they become successful, independent, and collaborative learners.

Our kindergarten classrooms are shaped through thoughtful, research-based instruction, allowing time to incorporate play, oral language, self-regulation, and all curricular competencies.

Pathways to Learning

The Pathways to Learning describe the instructional strategies guided by the First Peoples’ Principal of Learning, that will lead to deeper learning for our students.

- Assessment
- Collaboration
- Engagement
- Play & Exploration
- Purpose & Authenticity
- Technology

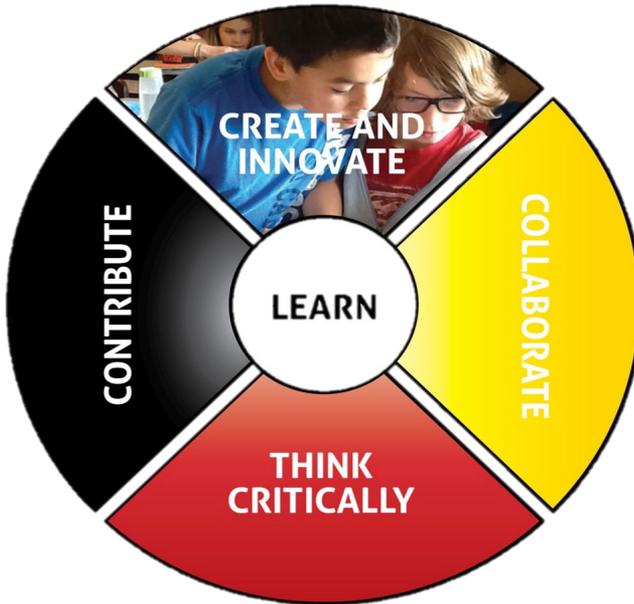
Through these instructional approaches, students will be able to explore, discover, and develop themselves as complete learners through a personalized and balanced perspective.



Understanding Student Competencies

Knowing precisely what a student will need to be successful in the future will always be a challenge. However, we do know there are key competencies that will help prepare students to respond and adjust with flexibility and confidence during life's journey. To support our students with this development, we encourage a focus on higher order thinking skills through a healthy, balanced approach. We use the Aboriginal symbol of the medicine wheel to represent this balance and identify our student competencies.

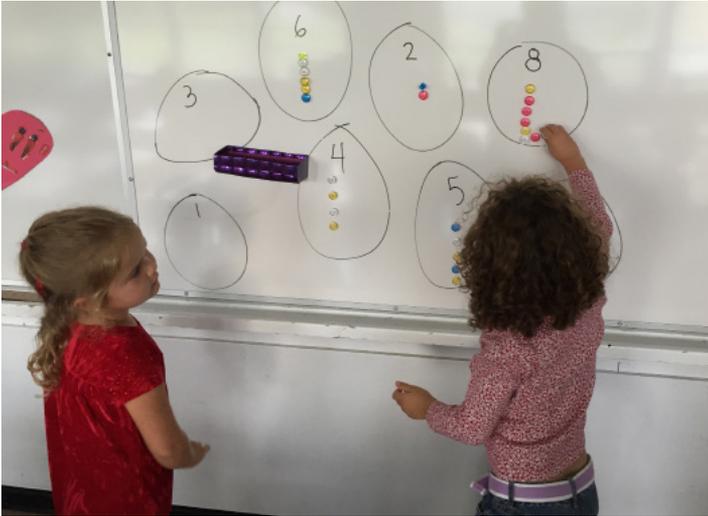
Our conception of the medicine wheel aligns nicely with the core competencies that are the foundation of the BC Curriculum's Personal and Social, Communication, and Thinking.



We create safe, purposeful, and powerful learning environments in order that all students can think critically, create, collaborate, contribute, and learn.

Diversity

Biodiversity in the natural world creates stronger, sustainable, and more resilient ecosystems. Similarly, diversity in human life benefits everyone. All students contribute to deeper learning through their unique gifts, needs, life experiences, identities, values, attitudes, and perspectives.



Multi-age classrooms create environments where both the older and younger students benefit from the diversity around them. The creation of pro-social learning environments through multi-age classrooms, both academically and social-emotionally, means that students can be both supported by and be supportive to one another. Teachers design learning environments through a strength-based approach, therefore a younger student could easily show leadership with an older student and vice versa.

Diversity exists in every class and teachers create purposeful, developmentally-appropriate learning opportunities for all students. We look forward to welcoming your unique child into this environment!

Early Learning Initiatives

StrongStart is a program that runs playgroups for parents/guardians and their children up to 6 years of age. Activities are designed to support the success of children when they enter kindergarten.

S.P.A.R.K. (Supporting Parents Along the Road to Kindergarten) is for parents whose children are newborn to age 5. Caregivers learn important strategies and fun activities that offer vital support to their child's early learning.

For more information and resources on early learning initiatives, visit the Government of B.C.'s [Early Learning Framework](#) and [Play Today handbook](#).



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