

# **PBHS Educational Plan 2025-2028**



**Literacy and numeracy goal across all aspects of learning  
Support well being and tools/confidence to have a healthy life**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

PBHS continually strives to be the school of choice in the Picture Butte area by offering great educational and extra-curricular experiences within a positive, welcoming and safe environment.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

Our vision is to produce capable and compassionate citizens that can both see, and realize their maximum potential in all aspects of home, school and community life. We believe in a student-centered approach to education that can best realize the success of each student.

## **MOTTO**

"For the kids!"

## **GOAL #1 - Improve all students access to academic language**

PBHS has students with vastly diverse learning and social needs. Through the following strategies, PBHS has the objective of maximizing each student's learning through individualizing instruction towards gaining better understanding and usage of the academic vocabulary used in each specific classroom.

### **Strategies**

1. Individualized language acquisition
  - All students have been afforded opportunities to learn in alternative learning environments (eg level specific language usage for each student)
  - **One to One.** PBHS has invested in Google ChromeBooks to the point that we have one Chromebook for every student. This has proved to be very effective and advantageous for the students and has opened up teaching opportunities for our staff.
2. Broadening teacher resources and instructional tools. Individualized instruction requires significant resources. PBHS is committed to the acquisition of these resources including, but not limited to:
  - **Level specific resources.** An example of this resource could be a simpler version of a book that would make that book more accessible to a particular student.
  - **Course specific language.** Each discipline has academic language specific to that discipline, whether it be a language arts classroom or a CTS option class. Each class and course will focus on the academic language specific to that course. Each classroom will create meaningful word walls specific to each course.

### **Measures of success**

1. School surveys
2. Student population data

## GOAL #2 - Numeracy Foundational Skills

The numeracy skills of students in all grade levels need a higher level of support and attention. The staff of PBHS are undertaking a comprehensive review of improving numeracy skills through all grade levels and subjects.

### Strategies

1. Scope and sequencing of numeracy skills (7-12)
  - **Scope and sequencing** essentially refers to comparing all required skills (eg the ability to read and interpret a graph) between all the grade levels and then figuring out a way to teach those skills from year to year to ensure success at the Grade 12 level.
  - **Review and Plan.** All staff at PBHS have been participating in a complete review of numeracy skills required in all subjects and grades. A pathway of teaching and learning those skills is now being developed to help students learn over the course of their time at PBHS.
2. Common Math Blocks
  - **More efficient streaming.** There are multiple levels of available math curriculum in each grade. Some students at PBHS were struggling after choosing the wrong stream. By creating a common math block, students that are either struggling (or not being challenged enough) can now seamlessly switch between streams without difficulty.
  - **Increased number of courses.** By putting all math courses together at the same time, the timetable has become more efficient. This efficiency has resulted in more overall choice for students and more overall course options.
3. Increased benchmark testing
  - Some students will be referred for supplementary testing to determine gaps in knowledge required for success. Once identified, they will access time referenced in the previous strategy. One example of such testing is the MIPI being investigated as a tool for establishing numeracy skills.
4. Emphasis on functional trades math activities
  - In conjunction with the Option teachers, emphasizing and reinforcing math constructs that have applicability in the trades.

### Measures of success

1. Benchmarking followed by course completion analysis
2. Academic meetings with students

## GOAL #3 - Creating an environment for positive mental health

In these new and demanding times, the need for healthy environments is bigger now more than ever. PBHS is committed to developing the most stable and nurturing environment that will support learners at their particular point in the mental health spectrum.

### Strategies

1. Improving access to mental health supports in Picture Butte
  - **Connections.** PBHS is in consistent contact with the town of Picture Butte to advocate for more direct mental health supports within the town itself. While only 24km away from Lethbridge, it is too far for most families to access, either physically or psychologically.
  - **FCSS connections.** Family & Community Support Services has recently created a task force to better coordinate mental health supports in Picture Butte. PBHS is fully supporting this initiative as it will help to create the understanding for the need for more direct access for our population and hopefully find better efficiencies for the programming offered to Picture Butte.
  - **FSLC.** PBHS has spent time making students more aware of the services of our Family School Liaison Counselor as it pertains to mental health supports.
  - **MCW.** PBHS now has a Making Connections Worker on staff that assists the FSLC in providing mental health support to students and their families. This position helps to connect families with services offered by other agencies in the province.
2. Hands on learning to improve mental health
  1. **Trades focus.** The focus of PBHS is to improve student well being through the engagement of meaningful courses and activities. The intent is to increase the breadth of programming to allow for more individualized choices and personalized learning.
  2. **Classroom experiences.** Teachers are being challenged to envision more practical, hands on learning in all curriculums to make learning more relevant and engaging.
3. Community task force on mental health.
  - a. A task force, comprised of staff, students and parents, will meet regularly to identify areas of concern and create potential strategies to address ongoing mental health concerns.

### Measures of success

1. Student questionnaires
2. Alberta Ed surveys
3. FSLC data and case summary observations