

Colwood 2025-26 School Plan

School Context:

We are a small school of 200 students and about 36 staff members. Colwood Elementary is nestled on the beautiful grounds next to the Royal Roads Forest and Westshore Secondary's vegetable and fruit gardens. We have 9 divisions and will have only 8 divisions for the 2025/2026 school year.

Although we are a small school, we are big on school spirit and the staff work together as a real team. Staff would say that we are close-knit and there is always a feeling of positivity when you walk the halls of our school.

Goal #1: Literacy

This year, at Colwood, there were 5 teachers from K-5 who participated in a learning series based on developing a writing continuum. With the understanding that structured literacy is an integral piece to developing early literacy skills, our team set out to:

- Unpack curriculum from around the world using a structured literacy approach.
- Teach students how to write syntactically correct sentences, complex sentences and then paragraphs and multi paragraph essays.
- Teach specific literacy skills needed throughout K-5.
- Continue teaching UFLI in all areas.
- Combine students in classes to build more targeted groups.

Actions/Strategies: *Provide some strategies you will pursue and actions you will be taking toward this goal.*

Our team set out to define what each grade needs to learn a syntactic scope and sequence through k-5. We unpacked various curriculums, recreated our own learning targets for each grade, and collected writing samples every term that corresponded to our learning targets.

Collaborate with teachers when reporting and following up with each other when completing the rubrics.

Plan the same UFLI/phonics blocks so more cross-class groupings may occur. Prep times will affect this.

Data/Evidence of Impact: *Describe what comparative data sources and evidence you will use to demonstrate a desired impact on student success. How will you know?*

We now have student exemplars from each grade and term compiled into one document that demonstrates where students should be meeting proficiency from k-5. Our hope is to share this with other teachers who are feeling overwhelmed learning about structured literacy and what that can mean specifically for writing.

Goal #2: Numeracy

Many of our teachers would like a structured numeracy approach. Teachers would like a clear resource that ensures that students are learning mathematics in a structured and systematic way. Some teachers began learning about the “Build Thinking Classrooms”, philosophy which is a problem-solving approach requiring students to think deeply.

Creating numeracy goals has been challenging but not impossible, Colwood teachers began creating goals a few years ago. They have included:

- Creating blue box math resources which are stored in the math cupboard.
- Working with vertical whiteboards and the resource "Building Thinking Classrooms".
- Perhaps create a math team again to come together and do some whole school collaboration like we've done with UFLI.
- Other teachers are interested in learning more about “Building Thinking Classrooms”.

Actions/Strategies: *Provide some strategies you will pursue and actions you will be taking toward this goal.*

Building Thinking Classrooms is an excellent resource.

- We would like to find a curriculum that is user friendly and explicit throughout K-3.
- We would like to be provided with collaboration time to unpack our learning targets for math and see what resources are the best fit.
- Some Colwood teachers observed teachers at David Cameron Elementary who are using strategies from the “Building Thinking Classrooms” resource while other teachers have been working on some similar math learning goals.

Data/Evidence of Impact: *Describe what comparative data sources and evidence you will use to demonstrate a desired impact on student success. How will you know?*

Future work needs to be done in a numeracy continuum.

Goal #3: Equity

This year we developed equity bins full of lesson plans that connected to various holidays around the world and the Saanich 13 moons. Each month we brought our family groups together, which consisted of mixed grade groupings. We had an assembly that discussed our monthly lesson and then we broke out into our family groups. This was intended for students from across the school to get to know each other.

Family Groups

- There will be more hands-on relationship building activities rather than pencil/paper activities.
- We will build and expand our focus on more cultures around the school. There will be more school activities occurring in family groups.
- There will be a greater focus on assemblies sharing current celebrations.
- We would like to celebrate "student wins" around the school with KRIS the Cougar goals of being **Kind, Respectful, Inclusive and Safe**.
- We would like to have more celebrations of learning. For example, class photos that may highlight monthly happenings.

Lahal Tournament Goal

- We expanded our Lahal Tournament to invite more family volunteers, Westshore High School students and Role Models.

Actions/Strategies: *Provide some strategies you will pursue and actions you will be taking toward this goal.*

Our family group bins were well received. We would like to add materials to them for next year. This year we would like to create lessons that are focused on teamwork and community building. We found that since our family groups only met for 30 minutes once a month, the students didn't have the chance to bond with each other. We intend to build upon the bins so that each year we have a new set of lessons. We believe that after 5 years we could start repeating our year plans.

Data/Evidence of Impact: *Describe what comparative data sources and evidence you will use to demonstrate a desired impact on student success. How will you know?*

Our family bins were quite successful and the feedback from teachers about these bins has been positive.

Our Equity team is quite strong and very capable and caring about equity. They met regularly throughout the year and put a great amount of work into our school year.