Dunsmuir 2025-26 School Plan

School Context:
Dunsmuir Middle School (DMS) is a grade 6-8 school located on the traditional lands of the Coast Salish peoples, specifically the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, in Colwood. Built in 1965, DMS has been a part of the community for a long time, with many current students being second-generation attendees. We're really proud of our shared core values, which our students and staff identified together in 2022: **Act Respectfully, Be Kind, Create Belonging, and Develop Resilience**. Our dedicated staff are committed to living these values and nurturing them in every student, creating a supportive, inclusive and uplifting community where every person feels like they belong.

Our **projected 2025-2026 enrolment is 816 students**. Our DMS students speak over 17 different languages at home, providing a culturally rich school community where diversity is celebrated by all. Our inclusive learning environment offers a range of supports for students with diverse needs both inside and outside of the classroom. A variety of purposefully designed learning spaces are available in the school where students can develop intellectual and social-emotional learning strategies with the assistance of our highly skilled staff.

Goal #1: Numeracy
To improve student achievement in math by identifying and addressing gaps in foundational math skills for all learners, increasing student engagement and building learner confidence through evidence-based strategies.

Actions/Strategies: *Provide some strategies you will pursue and actions you will be taking toward this goal.*
- Create Numeracy Focus Team
- Make math visible across the curriculum
- Incorporate math talk strategies into daily routines
- Schedule and implement tiered interventions through targeted numeracy blocks
- Share and encourage staff participation in District professional development offerings through the Curriculum Department
- Involve families in math learning through home-school communication

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?*
- Baseline and mid-year diagnostic assessments of foundational skills (tool TBD)
- Student Learning Updates in MyEd
- Foundational Skills Assessments

Goal #2: LITERACY

To enhance literacy achievement by addressing gaps across the five critical components of reading through inclusive practices that respond to learner needs and support all students in becoming confident, capable readers.

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

- Create Literacy Focus Team
- Embed explicit reading instruction connected to the Five Critical Components of Reading/Reading Rope into daily classroom practice
- Foster academic vocabulary development across the curriculum
- Build a culture of daily sustained reading in the classroom with accountability measures and access to high-interest, 'just-right' leveled texts in class
- Schedule and implement tiered interventions through targeted literacy blocks
- Share and encourage staff participation in District professional development offerings through the Curriculum Department
- Involve families in literacy development through home-school communication

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?*

- Baseline and mid-year diagnostic assessments of foundational skills using CORE reading assessments (e.g. MAZE and/other TBD)
- Student Learning Updates in MyEd
- Foundational Skills Assessments

Goal #3: ENGAGEMENT

To improve student attendance by cultivating a positive school culture that promotes belonging and uses timely data to identify and reduce chronic absenteeism ensuring that all students are supported in showing up and actively participating in their learning.

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

- Create Engagement Focus Team
- Create a welcoming school climate fostering safety, inclusion and respect
- Monitor attendance daily and act early to inform parents
- Develop goal setting and attendance tracking tools for students and parents
- Engage with and support families with ongoing communication/resource sharing
- Share and encourage staff participation in District/other professional development offerings
- Address internal and external barriers to attendance

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?*

- MyEd BC attendance data
- Student Learning Surveys

Dunsmuir School Goals 2025-2026

Dunsmuir Middle School values are built around four pillars: Act Respectfully, Be Kind, Create Belonging, and Develop Resilience. Our values are crucial for fostering a positive and supportive school environment where everyone feels valued and can thrive.

NUMERACY
To improve student achievement in math by identifying and addressing gaps in foundational math skills for all learners, increasing student engagement and building learner confidence through inquiry-driven, evidence-based strategies.

LITERACY
To enhance literacy achievement by addressing gaps across the five critical components of reading through inclusive practices that respond to learner voice and support all students in becoming capable, confident readers.

ENGAGEMENT
To improve student attendance by cultivating a positive school culture that promotes belonging and uses timely data to identify and reduce chronic absenteeism ensuring that all students are supported in showing up and actively participating in their learning.

rationale
School-wide assessment data and student feedback suggest that 20% of students experience difficulty with core concepts such as number sense, fractions and problem-solving. Gaps in foundational understanding in math are leading to reduced math confidence and limited engagement. This goal focuses on improving numeracy skills to support long-term success in math.

rationale
Data suggests that 25% of our students enter middle school at the developing or emerging level in literacy each year and are struggling with foundational reading skills. Closing gaps in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension is essential to ensure all learners can access grade-level texts and succeed academically.

rationale
Data reveals that 12-15% of our students are chronically absent, leading to missed opportunities for learning and connection. A focus on engagement and attendance is critical as students who attend school regularly are more likely to succeed academically and socially.