

**Covenant Christian School: Assurance Plan - 2022/23 - 2024/25**



*Flourishing Learners, Delighting in God, Inspired to Serve*







## Covenant Christian School Assurance Plan - 2022-2025

### School Profile:

- Covenant Christian School (CCS) is an alternative Christian program just outside of Leduc, Alberta within Black Gold School Division (BGSD). We offer a Christ-centered education to approximately 360 students in kindergarten to Grade 9. As an alternative program, we have students who come to us from all over Leduc County, in both urban and rural settings. We employ approximately 40 staff to serve our building in various capacities. A Christian worldview is integrated into all subject areas and aspects of our school culture. Aside from our focus on academic subjects, we also have Bible classes in each grade and offer French as a second language (FSL) to grades 4-6. In the area of technology, we are a “bring your own educational device (BYOED) school for Gr. 5-9, and iPads and chromebook carts for our K-Gr. 4. Our Core Purpose at Covenant Christian School is: “Flourishing Learners, Delighting in God, Inspired to Serve”. Covenant believes that God is Lord of all things and that He is calling each of us to be part of His Kingdom-Building restoration vision. Our theme for the 2022-2023 school year is “The Stable Table” and our focus is that we are called to welcome and sit with all people at God’s table. We are all formed in the likeness of Christ, and the hurt, anger, and division that is so prevalent in our world needs to stop. The table is a great access for all people to come together with Christ at the center.

### Celebrations:

- At Covenant Christian School, we believe that community is very important. According to our recent 2021 AEA survey, despite the pandemic, over 80% of our parents noted how strong our parent involvement is. We took measures to ensure that we continued community involvement by having weekly virtual assemblies, parent wellness sessions, and even arranged for parents to come out (distanced) and cheer on our cohorted Terry Fox run. We have a highly involved School council following, and a committed group of parents who pray for the school weekly from the parking lot. This year also saw the link between the school's portables and the main building finished (complete with student chosen artwork), and architecture plans to look at our parking lot and front office areas. Our wellness team (a mixture of students and staff), also meet biweekly to ensure that we are keeping our mental, spiritual, and physical health at the forefront of our minds this year. All of these simply prove the declaration from 97% of our parents that the education quality at CCS is second to none.

### Academic Celebrations

- Over the pandemic, students and staff showed true fortitude. Switching from online learning to in school, and back again was something that was not easy on anyone. Through this, teachers and students alike learned new ways to learn and teach, which

has grown their ability in critical thinking, resilience, and problem solving. Covenant Christian School is a leader in the area of Christian Education as we continue to implement the Teaching for Transformation (TfT) model. Our focus has been on the key elements of TfT: Storyline (classroom themes), Throughlines (Biblical themes), and Formational Learning Experiences (FLEx) practical opportunities to learn the curriculum through service to others. We currently have focused in on Storyline, and our deep hope for our students in our classrooms.

### **School Events/Activities**

- One thing that makes Covenant special is the many events and activities that we try to do with our school community. These include larger events like our “Marketplace”, which we have postponed due to the pandemic, and our newly implemented golf tournament, which we did in early September. At CCS, we also have a great tradition of celebrating our Grade 9’s through their final year which had included a trip, and graduation ceremony. This year, while following COVID protocols, we are still looking to see what this will look like. In addition to these large events, we also have a virtual Christmas Concert, our traditional Grade 8 drama (Shrek Jr), we compete in volleyball, basketball, track and badminton for sports, and also do many safe field trips. These field trips most often are a part of our FLEx program, which give our kids the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

### **Challenges:**

- A challenge that we face as we continue to grow is limited space. We continue to work collaboratively with the Leduc Society for Christian Education (LSCE) and BGSD to achieve a solution that will meet the needs of our growing population and allow us to continue to expand the curricular options and physical space that we can offer our school population. In the last year, we have built six classroom spaces through a portable expansion. This includes the “den”, a common area between the portables and the main building. We are currently looking to redo not only our parking lot area but also looking at ways we can recreate our learning commons and front office spaces. Also, as we are currently working our way out of a pandemic, we are looking at helping find and repair any learning gaps that COVID-19 has caused in our early learners. These primarily are in the areas of literacy and numeracy. For our div II and III students, we are looking to increase an understanding in numeracy and mathematics, and have focused our attention on computational algorithms and number literacy. By creating intentional steps to increase our achievement and understanding, we look to address some of the declining Provincial Achievement Test data seen over the last few years.

## School Council Message

Covenant Christian School Council has set out the following goals to accomplish for the 2022/2023 school year:

School Council will meet directly after the last school "Celebration" of each month. Celebration is our school's weekly assembly. Each meeting will consist of a devotion, adoption of the previous months' minutes, updates from the Principal, the Leduc Society for Christian Education, and Black Gold school board. We will address any new agenda items, answer any questions or concerns and close the meeting in prayer.

Covenant Christian School council is a forum for information to be shared between parents, school staff, LSCE and the Black Gold School Division Board. School Council will be a means for parents to work together with administration and staff to promote the overall effectiveness of our school community. The main role for our school council is advisory.

In addition to performing an advisory role, there are a few other responsibilities of our School Council. At the beginning of each school year, welcoming emails are sent out to new families in the school community. We inform new families of all the committees and volunteer opportunities available and answer any questions that may arise. School Council members also organize an annual Staff Appreciation Day, to show appreciation to CCS staff.

Our school council chairperson, along with other interested parents will attend the annual Black Gold Council of School Council meetings and report back to the Council. Something new our School council has set up this year is an email address for teachers and staff at CCS. Teachers and staff can send prayer requests to this email address. It's one way we can lift up and support our staff. This forum lets them know that we are thinking and praying for them and their loved ones. This year the School Council once again received a grant for \$500.00. We are in ongoing discussions on how to best use this grant.

In summary, School Council is an opportunity for meaningful involvement by parents, to uphold and support the common vision for our school. It gives parents a forum to come together on a monthly basis to discuss the needs of the school community and to highlight our school's positives and discuss any concerns or matters relating to their children's education.

Respectfully submitted,

*Shauna Balehowsky*

Chairperson Covenant Christian School

**Signed by: Shauna Balehowsky**

**October 24, 2022**



## Required Alberta Education Assurance Measures - Overall Summary

Spring 2022

School: 9943 Covenant Christian School



Assurance Domain	Measure	Covenant Christian School			Alberta			Measure Evaluation		
		Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Student Growth and Achievement	<a href="#">Student Learning Engagement</a>	85.2	87.0	n/a	85.1	85.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	<a href="#">Citizenship</a>	87.8	90.0	94.2	81.4	83.2	83.1	Very High	Declined	Good
	<a href="#">3-year High School Completion</a>	n/a	n/a	n/a	83.2	83.4	81.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
	<a href="#">5-year High School Completion</a>	n/a	n/a	n/a	87.1	86.2	85.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
	<a href="#">PAT: Acceptable</a>	n/a	n/a	78.2	n/a	n/a	73.8	n/a	n/a	n/a
	<a href="#">PAT: Excellence</a>	n/a	n/a	26.2	n/a	n/a	20.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
	<a href="#">Diploma: Acceptable</a>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	83.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
	<a href="#">Diploma: Excellence</a>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	24.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Teaching & Leading	<a href="#">Education Quality</a>	92.7	92.6	95.5	89.0	89.6	90.3	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Learning Supports	<a href="#">Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments (WCRSLE)</a>	93.5	94.0	n/a	86.1	87.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	<a href="#">Access to Supports and Services</a>	89.9	89.6	n/a	81.6	82.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Governance	<a href="#">Parental Involvement</a>	88.8	84.6	91.1	78.8	79.5	81.5	Very High	Maintained	Excellent



**School Goal 1: Improve student achievement in reading literacy.**

**Alignment with Division Priorities:** *Success*

**Timeline:** 3 year goal

**Rationale:**

- We chose this goal based on the quantitative data we received from our Provincial Achievement Test results as well as our Accountability Pillar Survey results. We also realize that there are substantial academic gaps due to emergency remote learning from the pandemic. These gaps will take years of literacy interventions to close, and we understand that literacy affects all learning.

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Supporting Data</b>
September 2022 - June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Targeted professional development for staff to build greater capacity regarding the understanding of teaching and learning language. (Administration, teacher and support staff collaboration, PD opportunities, PLC's as well as Division, School-Based and ATA PD days).</li> <li>● Precision Reading program for targeted support of low readers</li> <li>● Itchy and Heggerty program use for universal early literacy development.</li> <li>● Use of DIBELS program Gr. 1-3, and targeted 4-6 students.</li> <li>● Creation of targeted, repeated, EA literacy help for students based on their RRST and results.</li> <li>● Use of consistent grammar programs for all students in Grades 1-5 (Jolly Phonics)</li> <li>● Ensure all students K-9 are read to at least 30 minutes/week</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students will demonstrate an understanding of the phonetic construction of words and will be able to use these to read and write</li> <li>● Decrease the amount of students in the 3T's "red zone" by 10%</li> <li>● Observable increase in student "abundant reading" to 30 minutes/week.</li> <li>● Observable increase in student 3T's results from green to blue zones.</li> <li>● Observable increase on div II-III HLAT phonetic construction results</li> <li>● Creation of reading groups based on "TTT" screening to give extra literacy time to struggling readers.</li> <li>● Increase of word recognition and accuracy for those targeted students using Precision Reading and DIBELS assessment.</li> </ul>

<p>September 2023 - June 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continued use of HLAT to drive div II/III understanding of writing construction, and sentence fluency.</li> <li>● Continued targeted professional development for staff to build greater capacity regarding the understanding of teaching and learning early literacy. (Administration, teacher and support staff collaboration, PD opportunities, PLC's as well as Division, School-Based and ATA PD days).</li> <li>● Continued use of Precision Reading program for targeted support of low readers</li> <li>● Use of targeted, repeated, EA literacy help for students based on their TTT's results.</li> <li>● Continued use of consistent grammar programs for all students in Grades 1-5 (Jolly Phonics)</li> <li>● Continued use of consistent phonemic awareness programs for all students K-3 (Heggerty)</li> <li>● Ensure all students K-9 are read to at least 60 minutes/week</li> <li>● Continued use of HLAT to drive div II/III understanding of phonetic construction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review PAT results to affirm that 2022-23 staff PD efforts have impacted Part A reading comprehension</li> <li>● Students will demonstrate an understanding of the phonetic construction of words and will be able to use these to read and write</li> <li>● Decrease the amount of students in the 3T's "red zone" by 10% from 2022/23</li> <li>● Observable increase in student "abundant reading".</li> <li>● Observable increase on div II HLAT phonetic construction results</li> <li>● Observable increase in student 3T's results from green to blue zones.</li> </ul>
<p>September 2024 - June 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continued targeted professional development for staff to build greater capacity regarding the understanding of teaching and learning literacy strategies for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review PAT results to affirm that 2023-24 staff PD efforts have impacted Part A reading comprehension</li> <li>● Students will demonstrate an understanding of the phonetic construction of words and will be able to use these to read and write</li> <li>● Decrease the amount of students in the 3T's "red zone" by 10% from 2024/25 .</li> <li>● Observable increase on div I HLAT phonetic construction results</li> </ul>

	<p>their division. (Administration, teacher and support staff collaboration, PD opportunities, PLC's as well as Division, School-Based and ATA PD days).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continued use of Precision Reading program for targeted support of low readers</li> <li>● Use of targeted, repeated, EA literacy help for students based on their DIBELS results.</li> <li>● Continued use of consistent grammar programs for all students in Grades 1-5 (Jolly Phonics)</li> <li>● Ensure all students K-9 are read to at least 75 minutes/week</li> <li>● Continued use of HLAT to drive div II/III understanding of phonetic construction.</li> <li>● Incorporate a 15 min Literacy block two times a week which focuses on lagging skills, and not simply extra LA time.</li> <li>● Incorporate Heggerty phonemic awareness in conjunction with Jolly phonics and vocabulary, fluency and comprehension strategies for early readers.</li> <li>● Implementation of a 0.4 IST Literacy position allowing a focus on closing literacy gaps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Observable increase in student DIBELS results from yellow to green zones.</li> <li>● Observable increase in student HEGGERTY results</li> <li>● Creation of reading groups based on "TTT" screening to give extra literacy time to struggling readers.</li> <li>● Increase in student scores using the "TTT" screening tool.</li> </ul>
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**School Goal 1:**

**Review, Reflection and Progress update:**

<p>Numeracy Goal for Assurance Plan - 2022-23</p> <p><b>School Goal:</b> Staff at Covenant Christian School will continue to build their capacity to develop numerate thinking skills and teaching strategies so as to better support students in the attainment of success in all areas related to numeracy.</p> <p><b>Timeline:</b> 3 year goal</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> It is our mission at Covenant Christian School to develop flourishing learners. Through an intentional approach to improving the quality of our numeracy programs, it is our deep hope that this aspect of our mission will be visible through a longitudinal increase in measurable numeracy skills.</p>		
Timeline	Strategies	Supporting Data
September 2022 - June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PD sessions will be focused around numeracy teaching strategies</li> <li>● teachers will be encouraged to utilize NISTs to cover their classes so they can collaborate to discuss teaching strategies</li> <li>● the use of Mathology resources will be encouraged</li> </ul>	<p>Staff success will be demonstrated by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the development of a collection of math strategies for teaching each strand at each grade level - these will be compiled digitally in our CCS shared drive</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● utilizing the Nelson Math Pre-Assessments will be encouraged to help teachers focus their teaching and to help differentiate learning for students</li> <li>● regular meetings with NIST to increase attention to our goal and to allow for open discussion surrounding needs and support</li> <li>● use of NIST to cover classes so teachers can pull small groups of learners to provide extra instruction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● staff will report an overall perception of an increase in their confidence and repertoire of teaching strategies in the area of numeracy as recorded through a survey administered 3 times a year.</li> </ul> <p>Student success will be demonstrated by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● an increase in benchmark scores on the gr. 1-4 new math assessment and the gr. 4-6 Mipi, for those scoring 50% or less on their September benchmarks, on January assessments</li> <li>● Class averages on Math PATs will be monitored over a 3 year period</li> </ul>
<p>September 2023 - June 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PD sessions will be focused around numeracy teaching strategies</li> <li>● teachers will be encouraged to utilize NISTs to cover their classes so they can collaborate to discuss teaching strategies</li> <li>● the use of Mathology resources will be encouraged</li> <li>● utilizing the Nelson Math Pre-Assessments will be encouraged to help teachers focus their teaching and to help differentiate learning for students</li> <li>● regular meetings with NIST to increase attention to our goal and to allow for open discussion surrounding needs and support</li> <li>● use of NIST to cover classes so teachers can pull small groups of learners to provide extra instruction</li> </ul>	<p>Staff success will be demonstrated by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the development of a collection of math strategies for teaching each strand at each grade level - these will be compiled digitally in our CCS shared drive</li> <li>● staff will report an overall perception of an increase in their confidence and repertoire of teaching strategies in the area of numeracy as recorded through a survey administered 3 times a year.</li> </ul> <p>Student success will be demonstrated by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● an increase in benchmark scores on the gr. 1-4 new math assessment</li> </ul>

		<p>and the gr. 4-6 Mipi, for those scoring 50% or less on their September benchmarks, on January assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class averages on Math PATs will be monitored over a 3 year period</li> </ul>
<p>September 2024 - June 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PD sessions will be focused around numeracy teaching strategies</li> <li>• teachers will be encouraged to utilize NISTs to cover their classes so they can collaborate to discuss teaching strategies</li> <li>• the use of Mathology resources will be encouraged</li> <li>• utilizing the Nelson Math Pre-Assessments will be encouraged to help teachers focus their teaching and to help differentiate learning for students</li> <li>• regular meetings with NIST to increase attention to our goal and to allow for open discussion surrounding needs and support</li> <li>• use of NIST to cover classes so teachers can pull small groups of learners to provide extra instruction</li> </ul>	<p>Staff success will be demonstrated by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the development of a collection of math strategies for teaching each strand at each grade level - these will be compiled digitally in our CCS shared drive</li> <li>• staff will report an overall perception of an increase in their confidence and repertoire of teaching strategies in the area of numeracy as recorded through a survey administered 3 times a year.</li> </ul> <p>Student success will be demonstrated by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an increase in benchmark scores on the gr. 1-4 new math assessment and the gr. 4-6 Mipi, for those scoring 50% or less on their September benchmarks, on January assessments</li> <li>• Class averages on Math PATs will be monitored over a 3 year period</li> </ul>

**School Goal 2:**  
**School Goal 2 Reflection**

**Review, Reflection and Progress update:**



**School Goal 3:** Covenant Christian School will create a culture of self-care for staff and students that promotes positive relationships and social emotional learning which contributes to a mentally healthy school climate.

**Alignment with Division Priorities**

**Timeline:** 3 year goal

**Rationale:** We chose this goal in part based on our commitment and desire to fulfill the overarching theme of our Core Purpose of “Flourishing Learners” and “Inspired to Serve”. As noted in the last few years “Our School” surveys, as well as coming back from a pandemic our students have indicated they are feeling high to moderate levels of stress in their lives. As our staff reported feeling this same unhealthy level of anxiety, we wanted to look closer at strategies to deal with stress.

Timeline	Strategies	Supporting Data
September 2022 - June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Staff will engage in a range of professional learning activities to develop skills, abilities, and self efficacy to support students experiencing anxiety and to recognize and manage anxiety in their own lives.</li> <li>● Staff will take part in an “email shut off” from 7:00 pm – 7:00 am each day.</li> <li>● Encourage and support students to do variety of “FLEx” activities where they are doing something for others in and around our community</li> <li>● Engage in Staff Devotions and Prayer on Tuesday and Friday</li> <li>● Admin will begin making “good news” phone calls each week</li> <li>● Host parent information sessions on subjects on SEL topics</li> <li>● Enhance relationships through more community and global community participation and connection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Results from Staff Survey</li> <li>● Increased participation in various events around the community</li> <li>● Teacher qualitative feedback</li> <li>● Increased parent understanding from parent sessions</li> <li>● Continue use of 0.1 wellness IST position to help implementation.</li> <li>● Creation of a Peer Support team for student wellness and emotional control.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Create a “no cell phone policy” for students, so as they can get away of the social media pressures during the school day.</li> <li>● Specifically target PD days as a time for staff wellness, physically, mentally, and spiritually.</li> </ul>	
<p>September 2023 - June 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Staff will engage in a range of professional learning activities to develop skills, abilities, and self efficacy to support students experiencing anxiety and to recognize and manage anxiety in their own lives.</li> <li>● Staff will take part in an “email shut off” from 7:00 pm – 7:00 am each day.</li> <li>● Encourage and support students to do variety of “FLEx” activities where they are doing something for others in and around our community and global community.</li> <li>● Engage in Staff Devotions and Prayer on Tuesday and Friday</li> <li>● Increase in Theme Days for students and staff to look forward to.</li> <li>● Admin will begin making “good news” phone calls each week</li> <li>● Host parent information sessions on subjects on SEL topics</li> <li>● Enhance relationships through more community and global community participation and connection</li> <li>● Continue the “no cell phone policy” for students, so as they can get away of the social media pressures during the school day.</li> <li>● Continue to target PD days as a time for staff wellness, physically, mentally, and spiritually.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Results from Staff Survey</li> <li>● Increased participation in various events around the community</li> <li>● Teacher qualitative feedback</li> <li>● Increased parent understanding from parent sessions</li> <li>● Attendance at school council and Principal Coffee meetings.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduce a monthly “Coffee with the Principal”, where parents can engage on pre-assigned topics of conversation.</li> </ul>	
<p>September 2023 - June 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Staff will engage in a range of professional learning activities to develop skills, abilities, and self efficacy to support students experiencing anxiety and to recognize and manage anxiety in their own lives.</li> <li>● Staff will take part in an “email shut off” from 7:00 pm – 7:00 am each day.</li> <li>● Encourage and support students to do variety of “FLEx” activities where they are doing something for others in and around our community and global community.</li> <li>● Engage in Staff Devotions and Prayer on Tuesday and Friday</li> <li>● Increase in Theme Days for students and staff to look forward to.</li> <li>● Admin will begin making “good news” phone calls each week</li> <li>● Host parent information sessions on subjects on SEL topics</li> <li>● Enhance relationships through more community and global community participation and connection</li> <li>● Continue the “no cell phone policy” for students, so as they can get away of the social media pressures during the school day.</li> <li>● Continue to target PD days as a time for staff wellness, physically, mentally, and spiritually.</li> <li>● Creation of PLC’s during Celebration so staff can meet together on implementation of curriculum and/or wellness activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Results from Staff Survey</li> <li>● Increased participation in various events around the community</li> <li>● Data from PLC’s</li> <li>● Teacher qualitative feedback</li> <li>● Increased parent understanding from parent sessions</li> <li>● Attendance at school council and Principal Coffee meetings.</li> </ul>

