

SPRING DISTRICT REPORT 2024



Prepared By:

THE ACOE TEAM

Phone:

403-342-5044

Email

OFFICE@ALBERTASDAEDU.ORG

www.albertasdaedu.org

FROM US TO YOU

Greetings!

As we find ourselves in the middle of another academic year, we wanted to take a moment to express our deepest appreciation for your unwavering dedication and hard work in the ministry of Adventist education. Your commitment to shaping the hearts and minds of our students is truly commendable, and we are immensely grateful for the impact you are making in their lives.

At this point of the school year, it is natural to feel both the joys of progress and the weight of challenges. You have poured countless hours into lesson planning, grading papers, guiding students, and fostering a nurturing classroom environment. Your persistence in upholding the values of Adventist education even amidst the trials and tribulations of the academic journey is an inspiration to us all.

As we reflect on the past months and look ahead to the remainder of the year, let us draw strength from the promise found in Isaiah 40:31: "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." May this promise serve as a source of encouragement and renewal for you as you continue to pour your heart and soul into your teaching ministry.

Remember, you are not alone in this journey. The Alberta Conference Office of Seventh-day Adventists stands alongside you, ready to offer support, guidance, and encouragement whenever needed. Together, we form a community dedicated to the holistic development of our students, nurturing them academically, spiritually, and emotionally.

As we navigate the remainder of the school year, let us lean on each other for support and lift each other up in prayer. May God's grace continue to abound in your classrooms, and may His wisdom guide your every step.

Thank you once again for your tireless dedication to the ministry of Adventist education. Your labor of love does not go unnoticed, and we are immensely grateful for all that you do.

Gail Wilton

Brent van Rensburg

Tricia Gabrys

Glen Holly

Holly Kay

Corene Glover

Our **3** Audacious Goals!

Over the last few months, in preparation for the completion of our 3-Year Education Plan, we sat down and determined (with insights from you) what our district's three audacious goals should be. We will use these goals to make sure we are meeting the needs of our Educators, students and stakeholders across the district.

1

Holistic Student Development

By 2028, elevate the educational experience in Alberta Seventh-day Adventist schools to focus not only on academic excellence but also on holistic student development, encompassing spiritual, social, emotional, and physical dimensions.

Action Plans

1. INTEGRATE CHARACTER EDUCATION:

- Develop and implement a character education curriculum that aligns with the values of the Seventh-day Adventist faith.
- Continue to encourage and support schools in the usage and cross-curricular integration of Encounter Bible Curriculum which includes character development experiences with an adventist worldview.

2. MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS INITIATIVES:

- Provide professional development for teachers on recognizing and supporting students' mental health needs.
- Establish counseling services within schools and promote mental health awareness campaigns.
- Continue to encourage the implementation and use of Open Parachute: A resource designed for mental health training at school as well as at home.
- Continue to develop our Mental Health Task Force and supply them to support the district.

3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS:

- Continue service-learning opportunities for students to actively participate in community service projects.
- Foster partnerships with local religious and community organizations to enhance spiritual growth opportunities.
- Develop service opportunities designed to encourage collaboration between church and school.

2

Innovative Teaching and Learning Practices

By 2028, position the Alberta Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as a trailblazer in education by fostering an environment that encourages and supports innovative teaching methods and embraces emerging technologies.

Action Plans

1. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:

- Enhance the continuous professional development program with intentionality toward educators staying updated on innovative teaching methods and emerging technologies.
- Encourage participation in conferences, workshops, and online courses focused on educational innovation.
- Encouraging Participation in the Master's Degree funded resources
- Succession planning

2. ESTABLISH INNOVATION LABS:

- Evaluate and survey schools to determine schools requirements for setting up innovation labs and support schools in implementation.
- Facilitate cross-disciplinary collaboration among teachers to encourage the sharing of innovative teaching practices.
- Develop cohorts within educational divisions to support technological innovation.

3. PROJECT-BASED LEARNING:

- Integrate project-based learning into the curriculum to promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Encourage teachers to design projects that connect cLAssroom learning to real-world applications.
- Move to standards-based grading to encourage project-based learning practices.
- Continued development of our outdoor school programs and outdoor learning spaces.



3 Community-Centric Education

By 2028, strengthen the bond between Seventh-day Adventist schools and their surrounding communities, making education a shared endeavor that positively impacts not only students but also families and neighborhoods.

Action Plans

1. COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

- Enhance the development of regular community events, open houses, and information sessions to involve parents and community members in the educational process.
- Establish connections from the schools to strengthen involvement with events, programs and initiatives within the community.

2. PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES:

- Forge partnerships with local businesses to provide mentorship opportunities, internships, and career guidance programs.
- Develop joint initiatives that benefit both the school and the local business community.

3. COMMUNITY RESOURCE PROGRAMS:

- Develop community resources and programs encouraging collaboration between churches and schools to provide access to educational materials, workshops, and support services for families.
- Collaborate with local community organizations to offer programs and resources within the schools.



What we are working on...



3-YEAR EDUCATION PLAN

Each year, we update or create a three-year Education Plan with the district goals and responses to the Alberta Education Results Report (AERR). This is the start of a new 3 year cycle and we are excited to direct you to our website to see the completed and approved report.



OUTDOOR SCHOOL

Grade 5/6 Outdoor School this year was a great success! We look forward to this amazing program each year and we thank you all for your hard work in contributing to this program once again. 178 kids and 58 staff and volunteers participated this year!!!



TEACHER/SUB RECRUITMENT

We are interviewing daily, recruiting often and seeking out teachers to add to our district family. The teacher shortage is challenging and we are speaking with as many people as we can to help mitigate this. From reaching out to Alberta Ed, to our connections at AISCA to the Canadian division, we are all working to find solutions.



DATA PROCESS STREAMLINING

Across the District, we are working on strategies and resources to help support the data processes for our teachers and administrators. From IPPs, permission forms, grading practices and report card completions, we are working to ensure our requirements on your time are as limited as possible, freeing you up to be the amazing teachers that you are!

2024-25 Registration Opens!

**Congrats
Graduating Class
of 2024!**

**How many potential
graduates this year?**

68

On February 15th, registration for the 24-25 school year officially opened on our brand new platform: School Engage!

With the option for parents to access re-registration forms through their PowerSchool Portal, we are happy with the results so far!

We will be exploring more and more options for this platform in the coming months (including streamlining field trip permission forms) to make your life easier!

As Of May 29, 2024:

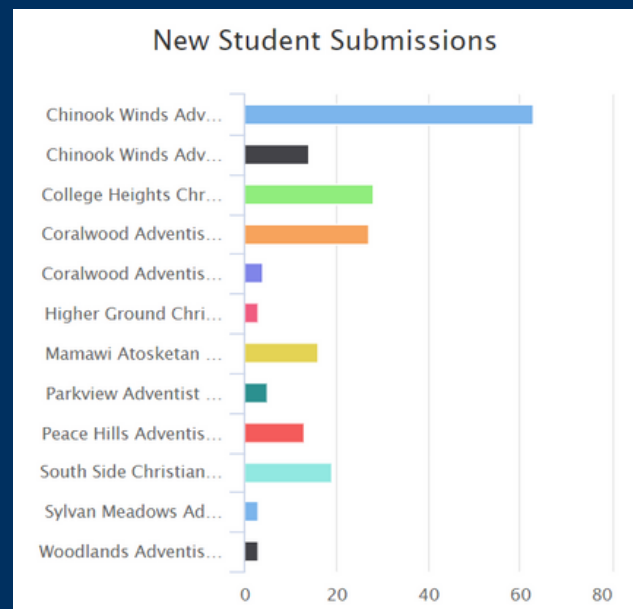
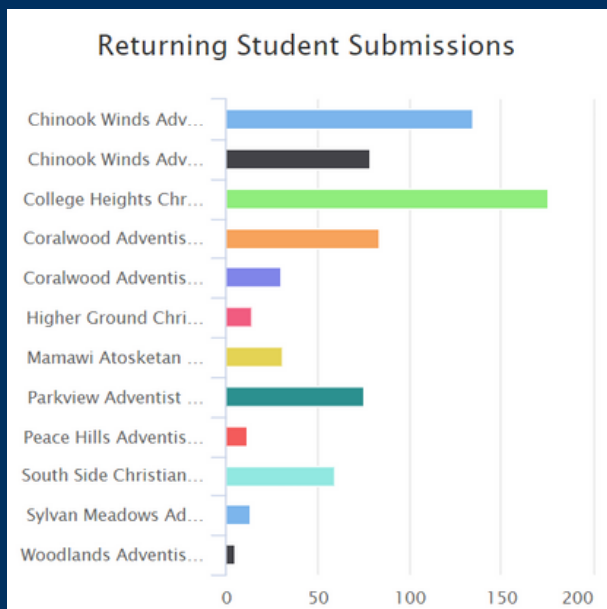
**Returning Student
Registrations**

709 / 1153

**New Student
Applications**

174

Registrations/Applications by School



IMPORTANT NOTES...

POST GRADUATE DEGREES

Did you know the SDA church pays for our Educators to complete post-graduate degrees?! Email us if you would like more information.

TEACHER EVALUATIONS

Teacher Evaluations are a chance for you to show off, get support and hone your skills. As required for SDA certifications, Gail and Brent spent time in almost 40 classrooms this year getting an on-the-ground feel for the needs of our district. We are so impressed by the professionalism and dedication displayed in your classrooms! Might we suggest that you peek in on each other? Take time to go see what your amazing colleagues are up to!

WHY DO I NEED AN EVALUATION?

Based on your SDA Certification...

Regular Status (>3yrs, Standard or Professional) = 1 local eval every 2 years

Provisional Status (Basic or Conditional Status) = 1 local and 1 ACOE Yearly

Probationary Status= 4 ACOE evaluations during probationary period

Expired SDA Cert = 1 ACOE eval every year

At the request of the Teacher or Principal= As requested



SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATIONS

Our New Summer camp director is gearing up for a great summer! Please get the word out to your students about the great opportunities available to them at our summer camp experiences.

Information and Registration links are here.
<https://www.foothillscamp.ca/summer-camp>



Leadership Quality Standards

As a district we are working to ensure a strong foundation of upcoming administrators. Our School Admin Teams are a big part of our district success and we are excited to provide opportunities for our teachers to take part in this training.

Requirements:

In order to qualify for ACOE funded LQS training, you must already hold an Alberta Permanent Certification and Standard or Professional SDA Certification.

The response to this initiative is so encouraging and we appreciate greatly our amazing Conference Treasurer's willingness to outline the program for you all below.

**MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ALBERTA LQS CERTIFICATION:
[HTTPS://WWW.ALBERTA.CA/LEADERSHIP-CERTIFICATIONS](https://www.alberta.ca/leadership-certifications)**

**CHECK YOUR EMAILS!!! IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE
CONFERENCE TREASURY DEPARTMENT REGARDING THE CHANGES TO
OUR REMUNERATION!!**



NEW STEM LEARNING COACH

Colton Greenlaw, MMT

We are very excited to add to your support team at the Alberta Conference Office of Education. Starting August 1, 2024, this position will provide you, our teachers and administration, with added support for new programs, teaching strategies, student support and all the other aspects of our province-wide programming.

"Hi everyone! Colton here. I'm the new Learning Specialist for STEM Education at the Alberta Conference. I love all things math and science and have dedicated my career to finding ways that enhance the learning experience of all students within our conference. My background includes a Bachelor of Education with a focus on math and science instruction, and a Master of Mathematics for Teachers. I strongly believe in creating a classroom environment where students are actively thinking about their own learning, and facilitating experiences that encourage them to discuss and collaborate their ideas. Learning math and science should be fun, engaging, and meaningful. It is my sincere desire that each teacher within our conference feels equipped to deliver quality STEM education and is confident in their ability to do so! Looking forward to working with you over the years to come."



EDUCATE WITH ACOE



**ALBERTA
ADVENTIST
EDUCATION**

**THE ALBERTA
CONFERENCE
OFFICE OF
EDUCATION**

Our family of teachers is the heart of Alberta Adventist Education.

We are always looking for passionate teachers, who love being a part of a team, who are willing to place their trust in Jesus, and be HIS light to the students in our charge.

**Current Job
Opportunities**

 albertasdaedu.org



HIRING NOW!!!

**Submit your
Resume Today!**

 resumes@albertasdaedu.org

PERKS IN ALBERTA

- ▶ No PST, low GST!
- ▶ Mentoring & Support Networks
- ▶ Outdoor Education Opportunities
- ▶ Funded Leadership Training
- ▶ Human Resources Support
- ▶ Education IT Department
- ▶ Learning Coaches for Teacher Support

WHAT BENEFITS ARE PROVIDED BY THE SDACC?

The Seventh-day Adventist Church
in Canada provides the following
for our Alberta Adventist Educators:

Office of Education

- SDACC Teacher Certification
- Continuing Education Financial Support
- Post-Graduate Degree Funding
- Both Canadian and North American Division Educator's Conventions

Health Benefits

- Dental Coverage
 - Incl. Orthodontics
- Vision Coverage
 - Incl. Laser Eye Surgery
- Paramedical Services
- \$300 Wellness Spending Account
- Disability Insurance, Life Insurance and personal accident insurance
- Prescriptions, orthotics, hearing care, travel insurance, fitness, weight loss management, etc



ADVENTIST EDUCATION
Journey to Excellence



Retirement Benefits

- Monthly Pension benefits
- Group RRSP Benefits
- Post Retirement Benefits
 - Health, Retirement, & funeral allowance

Indigenous Ministries

- Classroom Resources
- Leadership training for those working with indigenous students
- 4 Seasons of Truth and Reconciliation Course

FOR MORE INFORMATION



adventist.ca

Your ACOE Team

We are here working for you
and we love to connect with you.
Reach out and we'll reach back!



Gail Wilton

Education Director



Brent van Rensburg

Associate Education Director



Holly Kay

Data Coordinator



Glen Holly

IT/Education Support



Tricia Gabrys

Learning Coach



Corene Glover

Finance