



October 26, 2009

Parkland students uphold provincial standards

Parkland School Division students performed well again this year on 2008/09 Provincial Achievement Tests, Grade 12 Diploma Exam and Final Course Marks.

“Parkland School Division continues to be very proud of the achievements of students and staff,” says Superintendent Mary Lynne Campbell. “Our continued focus in three priority areas is paying off.”

Overview of Results of Provincial Achievements Tests (PATs)

PAT participation rates, in grades 3, 6 and 9, continue to be within 1% or exceed that of the province with the exception of FLA grade 9. Our Grade 3 students had a higher participation rate and higher percentage of students attaining the acceptable standard than their provincial counterparts. With the exception of Math, PSD grade 3 students are within 5% of their provincial counterparts in the standard of excellence in all areas. The following courses indicate a 5% or more increase from the 2007-2008 to the 2008-2009 school year; Math 3 FI - Acceptable Standard (+7.1%), Math 3 FI - Standard of Excellence (+8.2%) and FLA 6 - Standard of Excellence (+6.0).

Overview of Results of Diploma Exams

In Diploma Exams, Parkland School Division students achieved higher than provincial results in the Acceptable Standard by 5% or more in ELA 30-1 (+5.9%), ELA 30-2 (+6.6%), Applied Math 30 (+7.5%), Pure Math 30 (+5.9%), Chemistry 30 (+5.8%) and Physics 30 (+11.5%). The percentage of students who achieved the Acceptable Standard on Diploma exams was higher in Parkland than it was in the province in all but one High School category. Parkland students also achieved higher than provincial results in the Standard of Excellence by 5% or more in Physics 30 (+7.9%).

Final Course Marks Grade 12

The percentage of students who achieved the Acceptable Standard in Final Course Marks was higher in Parkland than it was in the province in all 12 High School Categories. 100% of PSD students scored the Acceptable Standard or higher in Social Studies 30 FI, Social Studies 33 FI and Physics 30. Our students also achieved higher than provincial results in the Acceptable Standard by 5% or more in Social Studies 33 (+5.3%), Social Studies 33 FI (+8.3%), Applied Math 30 (+7.5%), Pure Math 30 (+7.6%) and Physics 30 (+7.8%). Parkland students also achieved higher than provincial results in the Standard of Excellence by 5% or more in Social Studies 33 (+5.8%) and Physics 30 (+8.1%).

Areas for Growth

For Provincial Achievement Tests, Parkland’s five-year trends in grade 3 indicate a decrease of 7% or more in Math FI - Acceptable Standard (-9%) and Math FI - Standard of Excellence (-12%). The five-year trends in grade 6 indicate a decrease of 7% or more in Science 6 - Acceptable Standard (-9%). In Diploma Exam results, Parkland students achieved lower than provincial results in the Acceptable Standard by 5% or more in FLA 30 (-5.1%). Parkland School Division will continue to work towards the Standards of Excellence set by the provincial averages and Division targets.

Superintendent Mary Lynne Campbell, says she’s pleased with the results and credits students, teachers, support staff and parents for all their hard work. “It shows we are upholding and in some cases exceeding provincial standards in Parkland,” says Campbell. “That’s evidence that we’re providing the right learning environments for our children to thrive.”

While there is much to celebrate, Campbell says there is always room for improvement. “Clearly we will want to look into areas where we didn’t perform as well as previous years,” says Campbell. “But, in Parkland, we have set our own Division targets far above the provincial averages. We set lofty goals for ourselves because we know we can achieve them. We want to set the bar for the rest of the province.”

Complete provincial comparisons are available online at <http://www.psd70.ab.ca/psd/content/division/accountability.shtml>