

Telephone

Whenever you have a question for your child's teacher, call Mrs. McDaniel. She will give the teacher the message and you will receive a call within a timely period. The school number is 902 823-2463. Additionally, teachers or school administration may call with any concerns. Our children will benefit when we work as a team to support their academic and emotional growth.

Homework

Homework provides practice/revision of work covered in class. Students should have a quiet, well lit space to focus. The Nova Scotia Department of Education has a new homework policy for students in Primary to Grade 12.

Scheduled Parent/Teacher Meetings

There are two scheduled times to meet regarding student progress. The first scheduled parent visitation will be December 7th. The second visitation will be on April 19th. Times TBD

School Planning Team

Our School Planning Team meets regularly to discuss student needs. Students are referred by staff about issues that might be of concern. Parents are consulted if adaptations to a child's program are required. All decisions regarding additional supports for students are made through the school team.

School Website

Our school website is updated regularly. We post monthly newsletters and calendars. Also included are staff email addresses, upcoming events/important dates, special announcements, School Advisory Council information, links to classroom websites and school contact information. Our home on the internet is located at:

<http://www.estm.ednet.ns.ca>

HRSB Website

Our school board website is a comprehensive resource with links to many documents relevant to parents. Take some time to explore this informative resource: <http://www.hrsb.ns.ca>

Newsletters / Calendars

We send home school newsletters once per month with additional supplements as necessary. Parents/guardians are kept informed of upcoming events and other school initiatives and activities. Each issue contains a list of pertinent dates for that month.

Concerts and Performances

We often have special concerts and performances in our school. Aside from our annual December concert, there are other times throughout the year when children showcase their talents and abilities. We will provide advance notice when special events are taking place at ESM.

This document is revised on a yearly basis. If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact the school principal.



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Communicating Student Learning Plan

East St. Margaret's Consolidated School

2017-2018





Introduction

As Educators, we understand that a child's learning is enhanced when there is strong communication between home and school. This communication is facilitated in a variety of ways throughout the school year. We strongly encourage you to take full advantage of opportunities to learn about programming and how your child or children are progressing.



Background

The following is an overview of the structure within which we work at the school and includes the following themes:

Principles of Learning

Students create understanding and make it meaningful in terms of their own knowledge and experience.

Learning is a process of actively building knowledge.

Learning is improved when it takes place in a social and cooperative environment.

Students need to continue to view learning as an integrated whole.

Learners must see themselves as capable and successful.

Learners have different ways of knowing and demonstrating knowledge.

Reflection is an integral part of learning.

What Children Should Learn:

The Learning Outcomes Framework

The Nova Scotia Department of Education gives direction to teachers on what children should learn. In each subject area, the curriculum is built around what students are expected to know, be able to do, and value as a result of their learning experiences.

Essential Graduation Learning (EGLS)

The EGLS are areas of development that describe the knowledge, skills and attitudes expected of all students who graduate from high school and are the result of the student's total educational experience. The areas are:

- **Aesthetic Expression**
- **Citizenship**
- **Communication**
- **Personal Development**
- **Problem Solving**
- **Technological Competencies**

Student Assessments

Assessment is collecting information on student progress using a variety of tasks designed to monitor and improve student learning. **The assessment and evaluation** of student learning are aligned with the learning outcomes framework as contained in the Department of Education curriculum documents. Teachers at our school use these outcomes as the primary resource to plan instruction for students.

Formative Assessments (Assessment *for* Learning)

are ongoing assessments that take place during the teaching and learning process for the purpose of showing growth over time, determining student needs, planning next steps in instruction and providing students with descriptive feedback.

Summative Assessments (Assessment *of* Learning)

take place at the end of a learning period for the purpose of determining the extent to which learning has occurred. In assessment *of* learning, the teacher assesses the students' achievement of expected outcomes.

External Large-Scale Assessments are assessments and evaluations that are designed by a group outside the school in order to collect data for the use of national, provincial, regional, school and classroom levels. Results from these assessments will not be used to determine student placement or grading.

Report Cards

ESM uses a provincial standard progress report. This formal report will be sent home 3 times a year (November, March and June). The cover page will assess work habits and social development. The following pages will explain how your child is measured according to grade level outcomes. Each child will receive a letter grade and an anecdotal comment for each subject area (Grade Primary students will not receive letter grades). Students who have an IPP will receive a separate report for their specified area of change. Each letter grade will be assigned to specific outcomes addressed during the reporting period. Therefore, the letter grade may vary each term depending on the student achievements in the area of focus.

Parent Concern Protocol

If you have a question or concern regarding your child, the channel of communication begins with your child's teacher. Concerns related to classroom issues should always be addressed with the teacher first. If the issue remains unresolved, it should be then directed to the principal. Should the matter not be resolved by this communication, please refer to the "Parent Concern Form" which can be obtained by contacting the school.

Communication

Communication is the process of sharing information about your child's progress. As parents/guardians you can expect to receive information from teachers about your child's learning in relation to the expected learning outcomes. It is important for teachers to share this information with students and parents so that we can work together to support your child's learning

School Advisory Council

The School Advisory Council provides feedback on school based initiatives. Although participation in the School Advisory Council is for SAC members, members of the school community are welcome to attend and observe. Any SAC member can be contacted to communicate issues that are of concern. These issues will be brought forward at meetings which take place six times per year. All relevant SAC information is located on the SAC link of the school web-site.

