

Literacy Goal:

HILLCREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL School Learning Plan 2025-2026



School Context:

(Describe your school, population, geographic location. Community, demographics, and unique needs.)

K'wsaltktnews ne Secwépemcul'ecw. The Hillcrest school community is proud to support our new SD83 name, which translated means "we are all connected (people, animals, sky, land, and water) on Secwépemc land". We begin every school day by using our new SD name as part of our land acknowledgement on morning announcements. Hillcrest Elementary School is located at the top of the hill, in a densely populated residential area of Salmon Arm. The large school grounds are home to forested areas, hills, an outdoor classroom, a large playing field and three playground spaces. Students, staff, parents, and community members value and take pride in this natural setting and you will often find classes participating in outdoor learning opportunities, and community members utilizing this environmentally rich property as well.

The Hillcrest catchment area includes the surrounding suburbs and stretches through South-East Salmon Arm into the downtown area. There continues to be development and new home construction in our catchment area which has resulted in a stable enrolment over the past few years. However, our overall enrolment has decreased the last 2 years, mostly due to lower kindergarten registrants. We currently have 278 students registered in 13 divisions for the 2025-26 school year. Hillcrest typically receives cross-boundary requests due to the daycare facilities in our catchment area and our educational reputation for meeting the needs of all students.

The Hillcrest school motto is "At Hillcrest, Everyone Belongs". This core belief is well known by students and staff who work towards inclusion and teamwork with their classes everyday. We support this belonging and inclusion belief by starting with daily PA announcements where we share (and practice) our new name, along with our land acknowledgement, and as a specific act of reconciliation, a daily greeting spoken in Secwepements (translated to ask, Are you well? Yes or no). Most recently, we have started the practice of learning numbers to 10, days of the week, and months of the year in Secwepements and these are shared daily over the announcements. Our inclusive school is also fortunate to have a very supportive PAC who organizes several school wide fundraisers and special events (Spring Carnival, school dances, movie nights) throughout the year and enthusiastically supports school initiatives and projects as well.

Strategic Priority: Intellectual Development

• In the School Learning Plan, the Intellectual Development goals must be connected to the School District No. 83 Strategic Priority goal – Each student will develop their literacy skills, numeracy skills, and competencies to become their most capable self.

Numeracy Goal:

- Goals must be specific, measurable, achievable, informed by and supported by data.
- Potential data sources may include FSA results, PM Benchmarks, SNACC results, School-wide writes, SD No. 73 Non-Fiction Writing Assessments...

Each student will work towards increasing their writing proficiency in relation to each student's grade level or CBIEP. Teachers have held deep pedagogical discussions about learning and assessment and have recently decided to use the Vancouver Island North writing rubric to assess student writing of authentic in-class writing samples of "writing from experience" and/or "personal writing". We plan to increase students' proficiency, confidence, and achievement as writers. Target: To strive for 25% fewer students at the emerging, and developing levels in June 2026 than what we observe in November 2025, and to have 25% more students at the proficient and extending levels in June 2026 than in November 2025.

Each student will work towards proficiency of their skills in the problem-solving domain as measured by classroom based SNACC results as formative assessment in relation to their grade level or CBIEP. We will also refer to the Grade 4 FSA results in problem solving to help recognize strengths as well as areas needing more attention. We plan to increase students' proficiency, confidence, and achievement as mathematicians. Target: To that show at least 80% of students in spring of 2026 can demonstrate a logical problem solving strategy (Level C) on the SNACC assessment tool. The FSA data has been included to show an achievement snapshot of a cohort of students.

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Strategies and Actions:

- We have committed our collective use of the Vancouver Island North writing rubrics to assess our young writers with their writing development.
- We continue to focus on Adrienne Gear Powerful writing structures and resources.
- We continue to discuss the strategy of providing students with writing exemplars (specifically the recently acquired exemplars from SD23 which we access from the SD83 Curriculum Resources Team) as well as more constructive/specific feedback about what makes "good" writing.
- More discussion about our writing strategies, goals and achievement data will be incorporated at monthly teacher staff meetings when possible.
- LST and Numeracy Support Teacher and our IEW helps support our priority learners, both as classroom supports, and with individual and small groups.

Strategies and Actions:

- We continue to focus on the daily and weekly problem-solving questions and numeracy resources provided on the SD83 Curriculum and Resources Team in the Numeracy channel.
- We will understand that problem solving is a key component of the School District's Comprehensive Numeracy Framework.
- We will encourage staff to attend professional development on problem solving such as book club for Mathematics Tasks for the Thinking Classroom by Peter Liljedahl. We already have about 9 staff involved in this, this year.
- We will focus on activities that encourage students to have fun and feel joy when doing math and actively engage in mathematical thinking activities.
- We teach students a common approach to problem solving and reading for information for consistency throughout the grades.
- We each hold a commitment to 60 min per day for math instruction and practice times.
- We will ensure common language is being used for math to build confidence and increase student achievement (ie. making 10's vs. complements of 10). We recognize language should match the language used in SNACC.
- One of the district numeracy helping teachers also works at our school, and she is going to post podcasts about problem solving on our Numeracy Channel in our Hillcrest Team.

Data to Inform/Support Literacy Goal:

- Hillcrest Grade 4 **FSA** Results **2024, Personal Narrative Writing:**
- 46 grade four students wrote the FSA in 2024. Three students received a score of 0 (meaning no response attempted), and 43 students received a score of 1 (out of a possible 4), demonstrating an emerging level of competency.
- In comparison, in 2023, 49 grade four students wrote the FSA. In the written personal narrative section, 5 students received a score of 0 (meaning no response attempted), twenty seven students received a score of 1, fifteen students received a 2, three students received a score of 3, and no students received a score of 4. Clearly, last year our students struggled much more than in the previous year.
- Hillcrest "Writing from Personal Experience" School Based Data, 2024-2025, all grade levels:
- Our classroom teachers gather data from their students in fall and spring each school year, using class based written work. We are just about to gather the fall data for this school year. The chart below shows this achievement as of June 2025.

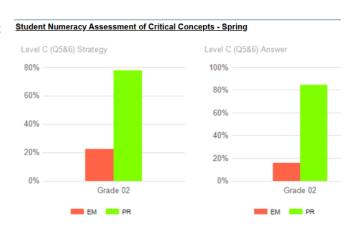
Data to Inform/Support Numeracy Goal:

- Hillcrest Grade 4 FSA Results - 2024:

The chart below indicates the results of last year's grade 4 students and how they scored with their constructed responses on the 3 problem solving questions.

Score	% of Students
3+	26%
1 or 2	64%
0	9%

SNACC data from 2024-2025: Grade 2



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Writing From Experience/Personal Writing

of Students

	EMG	EMG	EMG	DEV	DEV	DEV	PRF	PRF	PRF	EXT	EXT	EXT
	Fall	Fall	Spring									
	2024	2025	2025	2024	2025	2025	2024	2025	2025	2024	2025	2025
Grade			3			8			19			2
K												_
Grade	5		6	13		11	26		30	4		3
1												
Grade	10		13	18		9	20		23	0		1
2												
Grade	6		9	28		17	15		25	1		0
3												
Grade	5		5	20		19	24		25	1		1
4												
Grade	3		1	25		19	23		31	2		3
5												

% of Students at all Grade Levels

	Fall 2024	Fall 2025	Spring
			2025
EMG	12%		13%
DEV	42%		29%
PRF	43%		54%
EXT	3%		4%



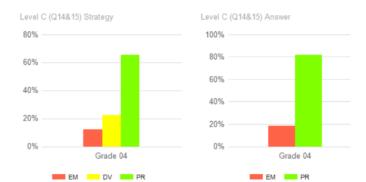


Student Numeracy Assessment of Critical Concepts - Spring

Student Numeracy Assessment of Critical Concepts - Spring

EM DV PR

Grade 4



Grade 5

Level C (Q11,12,13) Strategy 35% 30% 25% 20% 15% 10% Grade 05 Grade 05

EM DV PR

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Strategic Priority: Human and Social Development

- In the School Learning Plan, the **Human and Social Development** goals must be connected to the School District No. 83 Strategic Priority goal *Each student will feel welcome, safe, and connected to peers and adults in their schools.*
- Goals must be focused on measuring a sense of belonging.
- Potential data sources may include the School District No. 83 EDI Environmental Scan, the Student Learning Survey, and student focus groups.

Strategic Priority: Developing a Culture of Well-Being

- In the School Learning Plan, the **Developing a Culture of Well-Being** goal must be connected to the School District No. 83 Strategic Priority goal *Each student will feel socially, emotionally, and mentally supported within their schools and the district.*
- The goal must be focused on STUDENT well-being.
- Potential data sources may include the School District No. 83 EDI Environmental Scan, the Student Learning Survey, and student focus groups.

Sense of Belonging Goal:

We believe Hillcrest students generally feel welcome, safe, and connected to peers and adults, and feel this is "their" school. Target: To show a 10% increase in students indicating "most of the time" or "all the time" when asked "Is school a place where you feel like you belong?" by June 2026. This is a question posed to grade 4 students in the BC Student Learning Survey, but we asked this of all our K-5 between April and June, 2025, and we will ask this question again in the spring of 2026 to compare and reflect.

Student Well-Being Goal:

We believe Hillcrest students generally feel socially, emotionally, and mentally supported within their school. Target: To show a 10% increase in students indicating "almost always" or "always" when asked "If you have a problem, can you get the help you need from adults at your school?" by June 2026. This is a question posed to grade 4 students in the BC Student Learning Survey, but we asked this of all our K-5 students between April and June, 2025, and we will ask this question again in the spring of 2026 to compare and reflect.

Strategies and Actions:

- Students at every grade level participate in buddy class activities throughout the year
- Our IEW is involved with and supports our students with Indigenous backgrounds in the classroom and during lunch time activities, in addition to the classroom supports that happen for all students like being greeted at the door (as just one example)
- We start every single school day morning with announcements that includes a land acknowledgement spoken by a grade 5 student, as well as teaching and learning the Secwepements words for days of the week, numbers, and months of the year.
- We are proud to display all 3 flags inside and outside of our school: Secwepemc, British Columbia, and Canada
- Hillcrest has a breakfast program where warm, caring, and friendly connections are made with consistent staff involvement as well as parent volunteers
- Students have opportunities for leadership including helping roles (planting, gardening in the courtyard, equipment and furniture set up), activity planning (theme days like pajama days, indoor and outdoor game/play days for each grade), just to name a few
- Our school has lunch sports like our annual floor hockey league
- Hillcrest students have opportunities for joining school teams like basketball, cross-country running, and cross-country skiing
- Students can see and know all members of the school staff with which to connect, and staff photos are in the hall to help increase the connections and familiarity, which leads to a sense of safety and comfort
- We have a permanent painted tree in a major hallway, and students contribute their art and works to "hang" on that tree at thematic times of the year (Valentine's Day, Orange Shirt Day, Remembrance Day, etc). In Sept 2025, the theme was changed to a Kindness wall, where every child, during the first week of school, added words or a drawing to show an idea of kindness. We share one 3 times a week over the morning announcements.
- While we have many strategies which help to build this sense of belonging, we acknowledge the stretches and challenges we have as well, including: a somewhat regular turnover and shortage of CEA staff, and a fairly stable student population can make it lonely initially for new students. In the 2025-26 school year we will continue with our pattern of monthly assemblies, which we believe contributes to more students feeling a stronger sense of belonging. Our 'month-at-a-glance' iMovie shown at assemblies, showcasing photos of students involved in school and class activities, also promotes a deep sense of belonging.

Strategies and Actions:

- Hillcrest students confidently know about and use Kelso's Choices during playground "small problems", and these are taught schoolwide by classroom teachers, and supported by LRTs and the Principal
- We greatly benefit by the support of our 2 day a week school based counsellor who we hope will continue to work in classrooms for some 3-5 week sessions about grade level and specific class-wide needs (friendship skills, social skills, etc). Our counsellor also meets individually with students in need of support.
- Hillcrest teachers demonstrate thorough and competent work with incorporating cultural content into lessons, both intentionally and in teachable moments, which among other things, helps address and teach about racism.
- We have a variety of portable movement paths which help for self regulation and support, and when regulated, students are better able to manage conflict.
- While we have many strengths which help to build this culture of well being, we acknowledge the stretches and challenges we have as well, which include better supporting the well being of the adults who work in our building too. We know "you can't pour from an empty cup", so the well being of students is closely and directly tied to the well being of our staff.

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Data to Inform/Support Sense of Belonging Goal:

- Qualitatively the vast majority of our students have a strong sense of belonging at Hillcrest, as evidenced by their ability and comfort to report problems and seek out help socially.
- Hillcrest students have a long history of knowing and sharing that "Hillcrest is where everyone belongs", and this mantra is displayed on walls and equipment both inside and outside our school.
- Data gathered from all students in the spring of 2025 (based on a question from the BC Student Learning Survey) is below, and focused on the question, "Is Hillcrest a place where you feel like you belong?". This question will be asked of all students again in spring 2026, helping us to determine if there is growth or change that may need further strategies to address it.

Sense of Belonging

"Is Hillcrest a school where you feel like you belong?"

April – June 2025

	'Never' (raw data)	'Never' (%)	'Almost Never' (raw data)	'Almost Never' (%)	'Sometimes' (raw data)	'Sometimes' (%)	'Almost Always' (raw data)	'Almost Always' (%)	'Always' (raw data)	'Always' (%)
Grade K	0	0	1	3%	13	38%	7	21%	13	38%
Grade 1	0	0	2	4%	12	25%	6	13%	28	58%
Grade 2	0	0	2	4%	6	13%	12	27%	25	56%
Grade 3	0	0	0	0	5	10%	14	29%	30	61%
Grade 4	0	0	2	4%	6	13%	13	27%	27	56%
Grade 5	1	2%	1	2%	3	6%	13	25%	34	65%

% of Students at All Grade Levels

	Spring 2025
Never	0.03%
Almost Never	3%
Sometimes	16%
Almost Always	24%
Always	57%

Data to Inform/Support Student Well-Being Goal:

- Qualitatively we believe many of our students feel their social, emotional, and mental health are well supported at Hillcrest, but we know in these challenging times in society and life, there are many families who are struggling to help their children, and indeed, are struggling themselves, including anger management.
- We gathered quantitative data in the spring of 2025 which showed more concretely how students are coping and whether they felt supported with their "big and little problems".
- The K 5 data shown below, (based on a question from the BC Student Learning Survey), focused on the question: "If you have a problem, can you get the help you need from adults at your school?" This question will be asked of all students again in spring 2026, helping us to determine if there is growth or change that may need further strategies to address it.

Student Well Being

"If you have a problem, can you get the help you need from adults at your school?"

April-June 2025

	'Never'	'Never'	'Almost	'Almost	'Sometimes'	'Sometimes'	'Almost	'Almost	'Always'	'Always'
	(raw	(%)	Never'	Never'	(raw data)	(%)	Always'	Always'	(raw	(%)
	data)		(raw	(%)			(raw	(%)	data)	
			data)				data)			
Grade	0	0	0	0	25	74%	5	15%	4	12%
K										
Grade	0	0	1	2%	27	56%	10	21%	10	21%
1										
Grade	0	0	0	0	17	38%	19	42%	9	20%
2										
Grade	0	0	1	2%	14	29%	23	47%	11	22%
3										
Grade	0	0	1	2%	15	31%	25	51%	7	14%
4										
Grade	0	0	0	0	10	19%	29	56%	13	25%
5										

% of Students at All Grade Levels

	Spring 2025
Never	0%
Almost Never	1%
Sometimes	39%
Almost Always	40%
Always	20%

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Data Analysis/Narrative:

It is noted that when grade 4 students were asked (in the BC Student Learning Survey) if they feel school is a place where they belong:

- 2021/22: **59%** of grade 4 students answered 'almost always' or 'always'
- 2022/23: 57% of grade 4 students answered 'almost always' or 'always'
- 2023/24: **62**% of grade 4 students answered 'almost always' or 'always' In the spring of 2025, our data included students at all grade levels.
- 2024/25: **81%** of all students answered 'almost always' or 'always'

We are proud of these results. Of note, it was interesting (and perhaps a little endearing) to hear some of our youngest students (in K and Gr 1) only give a rating of 'almost never' when asked the question, and when asked to explain more about why, they replied with thoughts like, "because I belong at my home". Some students answer reflective questions like this quite literally!

We continue to recognize there is significant connection between a sense of belonging and achievement, so we are striving to create even more growth with our results. While our results this past year are promising, we also must note that nearly 20% of students only feel a sense of belonging 'sometimes' or 'almost never'.

Data Analysis/Narrative:

It is noted that when grade 4 students were asked (in the BC Student Learning Survey) if they could get help to solve problems from adults at their school:

- 2021/22: **68%** answered 'almost always' or 'always'
- 2022/23: **68%** answered 'almost always' or 'always'
- 2023/24: 64% answered 'almost always' or 'always'
 In the spring of 2025, our data included students at all grade levels.
- 2024/25: 60% of all students answered 'almost always' or 'always'.

We are especially proud of the results we observed across all grade levels, but in the 2025-26 school year, we will be working to help increase an awareness and support for our students with regards to feeling adults at school provide them with the help they feel they need. When the spring 2025 data was gathered, it was noted that when some students explained their rating for the question, they indicated things such as "sometimes I can't find someone to help me" and "sometimes the adult doesn't listen to everything". We know that for students to feel safe and capable, they must also feel supported and be taught problem solving skills, so we will continue to create growth in this area – about 40% of all our learners are answering 'never', 'almost never' or 'sometimes' to this question, which is concerning.

Strategic Priority: Career Development

- In the School Learning Plan, the Human and Social Development goals must be connected to the School District No. 83 Strategic Priority goal Each student will develop the skills and competencies to be successful in a career pathway of their choice.
- In the elementary/middle years, schools should be implementing strategies to help students learn about potential career pathways and providing opportunities for career exploration.

Strategies and Opportunities for Career Development:

- The leadership opportunities we offer for our students provide skills building for the once termed "soft skills", but now more accurately referred to the essential skills every person needs to succeed for any chosen career path. These competencies are also given attention curricularly. The grade 5 teachers and their grade 5 teams take the lead with offering many of these opportunities.
- Hillcrest students get regular access for skill building to learn coding, even at the early primary level.
- We are fortunate to have a 3D printer at our school which opens a world of possibility for future career paths.
- Every classroom provides ADST challenges which get students thinking about innovation, creating, and problem solving, all of which are requirements for a wide variety of career and job opportunities.
- Career Week is Nov 24-28, 2025 this year, and there are many resources shared out that will be highlighted for classroom teachers and their students to take advantage of.

Resources and Professional Learning

Identify specific learning, resources, or initiatives at the school and/or district level that will build staff capacity to work toward school goals.

- We have discussed at various staff meetings and Pro-D meetings the idea of trying to structure some of our Pro-D plans around writing assessment and instructional practices.
- In November 2024, we had an Indigenous Learning focus with a connection to literature and resources within our own school as well as what is offered at our School District Resource Centre.

School Learning Plan Consultation Process

Please describe the consultative process with rights holders and stakeholders in the development of this School Learning Plan.

- February 26, 2024 PAC meeting discussed our intellectual 'Writing' and 'Problem Solving goals
- March 12, 2024 teacher staff meeting discussed strengths and stretches in regards to our 'Human and Social Development', 'Sense of Belonging', and 'Career Development' goals
- April 9, 2024 teacher staff meeting discussed intellectual goal wording as well as challenges related to the change from BC Performance Standards to the newly developed BC grade level proficiency descriptors we have chosen not to adopt these at this time.

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Kwsaltktnéws ne Secwepemcúl'ecw School District No. 83

Hillcrest Elementary School Learning Plan 2025-2026

- We have great classroom teacher and LRT participation with some of the very best practices including: Heggerty, UFLI, What's Next for Beginning Writers, and most recently, the work of Peter Liljedahl.
- Doug Smith, SD83 numeracy helping teacher last year, provided several of our staff with an excellent workshop involving great student "hands on" strategies and assessment practices.
- Christine Blacklock, one of the school district Numeracy Helping Teachers this year, as well as being our Literacy Support Teacher at Hillcrest, provides our staff with on site professional conversations about numeracy strategies and challenges. She is easily accessible to us because she works out of our school.
- Oct 8, 2024 teacher staff meeting discussion about schoolwide use of a writing rubric
- Nov 12, 2024 teacher staff meeting discussion about gathering student writing achievement data as a baseline, in authentic classroom environments
- Spring 2025 staff meetings and beyond we will try to incorporate a section of our learning plan at a time to these monthly staff meetings, and encourage reflective discussion about goals, targets, strategies and results
- We will try to incorporate a "standing item" within the Principal's Report section of monthly PAC meetings to inform parents/guardians about school goals

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