



# E.J. Dunn Elementary ḥaaḥuupaquwił Growth Plan - 2023/2024



**Principal** Darrin Olson  
**Vice Principal** Stephanie Prizeman

## Land Statement

E.J. Dunn Elementary School ḥaaḥuupaquwił is situated on the ha-houlthees of the c̓šaaʔath and hupačasath First Nations and acknowledge that we work alongside all Nuu- chah-nulth nations as well as the Métis Nation of British Columbia to serve the children and youth of our school community.

E. J. Dunn Elementary School ḥaaḥuupaquwił strives to increase awareness, understanding and integration of Nuu-chah-nulth culture, history, and language in our school. It is part of our ongoing commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.





## Our School Story

### E.J. Dunn Elementary School ҺaaҺuupaquwił Characteristics

At E.J. Dunn Elementary School ҺaaҺuupaquwił, social emotional learning is woven into our entire school culture. It is not only explicitly taught in our classrooms, but also an agreed upon priority that is consistently modeled by our staff. We start our week by welcoming everyone at our Monday Morning Meeting. We have a drum circle to celebrate our school district song, and warm messages for the week by the Principal and Vice-principal.

Our school support team has worked to help staff identify student needs expeditiously and connect with students and families and make the best use of our supports. We understand that our school serves a vulnerable population, and we take care to serve our families, not just our students. We aspire to use a trauma-informed lens when approaching and hosting parents at our school. We acknowledge the needs of our Indigenous families, our families that struggle with poverty, and our families with inter-generational mental health challenges.

Isaaks naas, 'Walking with respect', and našuk?axin 'We are strong', are mantras we reiterate at every school gathering, providing language for our children to speak about and understand their own resiliency.

At E.J. Dunn Elementary School ҺaaҺuupaquwił we use the nearby forest for many learning opportunities, such as mindfulness and calming practices as well as traditional indigenous ways of healing. We encourage outdoor learning, connecting with nature regularly, and taking the time to slow down and build authentic relationships with each other.

### E.J. Dunn Elementary School ҺaaҺuupaquwił Demographics

E.J. Dunn Elementary School ҺaaҺuupaquwił is committed to the unique learning needs of its diverse student population. Enrolment for the 2023-2024 school year is approximately 240 students from kindergarten to grade 7 in 11 divisions.

Our small school size enables us to get to know our students and their families well. Currently, 42% of our students self-identify as having indigenous ancestry. We are currently staffed at 15.5 FTE teachers, 10 educational assistants and a full time Nuučaanuł Education Worker.



## Our School Goals

Outlined below you will find E.J. Dunn Elementary School ḥaaḥuupaquwiṭ goals for the 2023-2024 school year as well as the goals from the School District#70 - Pacific Rim strategic Plan. Alignment with School District #70 – Pacific Rim and E.J. Dunn Elementary is fundamental in moving our district and school forward.

School District#70 - Pacific Rim

Indigenous Learner Success and Relationships with First Nations:

E.J. Dunn Elementary School ḥaaḥuupaquwiṭ

To increase the awareness, understanding, integration and presence of nuucañuṭ and Métis culture our school.

School District#70 - Pacific Rim

Student Achievement:

E.J. Dunn Elementary School ḥaaḥuupaquwiṭ

To increase the number of students applying or extending their literacy skills.  
To increase the number of students applying or extending their numeracy skills

School District#70 - Pacific Rim

Mental Health and Social-Emotional Well-being:  
Safe, Welcoming and Modern Learning Environments:

E.J. Dunn Elementary School ḥaaḥuupaquwiṭ

To improve students' social and emotional well-being.



## Data/Evidence

1. **Indigenous Education** - it is important to emphasize our continued commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

**Strategy: To build on and continue to implement our Indigenous Cultural Education Plan at E.J. Dunn Elementary. In addition, to provide and space to learn from and on the land.**

2. **Well-Being** – over 55% of students are on the low end of the well-being index related to the Middle Years Development Index Survey

**Strategy: Continue to build and re-establish positive school culture activities lost or put on hold during the world pandemic.**

### 3. Literacy

- a. 40% of all students are at the beginning stages of reading.
- b. 63% of our grade 4 and 7 students are at the emerging stage of their literacy skills related to the Foundation Skills Assessment

**Strategy: school staff are working with the District Resource Teachers and working with the staff related to efficient reading interventions**

### 4. Numeracy

- a. 76% of our grade 4 and 7 students are at the emerging stage of their numeracy skills related to the Foundation Skills Assessment
- b. 29% of all students are at the beginning stages of their numeracy skills.

**Strategy: school staff plan to work with the District Resource Teachers related to efficient numeracy interventions. Carole Fullerton's resources are being utilized in many classrooms.**

A note to consider is that our Indigenous students are success rates are similar all students.



## Our School Celebration Story

One aspect E.J. Dunn would like to acknowledge and celebrate is our **Monday Morning Meeting**, where our entire school gathers to do a land acknowledgement and sing *našukʔaʔin* 'We are strong'. We discuss upcoming weekly events, review behavioural expectations, and celebrate student birthdays. One of our teachers stated, "Monday morning meetings are a wonderful way for us to acknowledge each other and reinforce our connectedness within an indigenous based framework."

Another piece to celebrate is our **inclusion of student voice** where the students outlined some of the positive aspects of our school. This year, we aim to include more student voice in a more formal manner and involve students in some of our decision making. We are always looking for ways to increase student engagement and overall social emotional well-being in all our efforts at E.J. Dunn Elementary.

### What our students are saying:

*"We have the best teachers ever!"*

*"We have nice teachers and fun activities"*

*"Our school is safe. There is very little bullying"*

*"We get to play outside and do math and everything!"*

*"I like the environment at E.J. Dunn"*

*"It's pretty fun. You get to learn stuff like P.E., nuu-chah-nulth, go outside, and see the younger kids learn"*

*"We get to do fun things like wrestling and basketball"*

*"I like that we have four square and biking"*

