



# Bamfield Community School

Kindergarten to Grade 12

## 2023/2024



Principal: David Maher

Teacher/Vice-Principal: Robin Schmitt

### Land Statement

Bamfield Community School is situated on the ha-houlthee of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations, and we 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 the Alberni-Clayoquot region.

The district strives to increase awareness, understanding and integration of Nuu-chah-nulth culture, history, and language in all SD70 schools. It is part of our ongoing commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.



## Our School Story

### **What are the unique, positive characteristics that we celebrate in our school/community?**

Bamfield Community School provides a supportive and caring learning environment that strives to meet the academic, physical, social-emotional, and cultural needs of our students in a K-12 setting of diverse learners. We are more than students and staff at Bamfield Community School; we are a family who cares professionally and deeply about each child in our care.

Bamfield Community School staff work and plan together to create learning opportunities that are accessible, equitable, and engaging for all students. Our staff's primary focus is student health and wellbeing with the belief that learners who are happy and healthy will be able engage more purposefully in the academic activities that will lead them to successful graduation.

At Bamfield Community School we plan each student's academic pathway individually. We use evidence from our classrooms, as well as school district assessments, and provincial assessments to move each child from where they are at educationally to a place that maximizes academic achievement, a place where they have many opportunities in their future, and a place where each of our students sees themselves contributing positively to our world.

### **What are the important demographics of our school and community?**

Bamfield Community School is now a Kindergarten to grade 12 school. We just celebrated as our Grade 12's graduated from BCS in June of 2023! BCS currently has just under 50 students enrolled with many young children in the community eagerly waiting to join our school in the coming years. We are excited to offer great educational opportunities for all Kindergarten to grade 12 students and are looking forward to more graduation ceremonies in the years to come!

We currently host three multi-grade classrooms, each with approximately 15 students. Our students come from the Huu-ay-aht community of Anacla and the community of Bamfield. We are looking forward to an even larger student population in the future as housing developments and the completion of the Bamfield Road Project are projected to bring more people to the region.

BCS is supported by teaching and learning specialists from the SD70 board office and supported by some of the great staff of Huu-ay-aht First Nations. It truly does take a community to raise a child and we acknowledge all the excellent collaboration that occurs with our educational partners.

## Our School Goals

**Bamfield Community School** strives to create accessible, engaging, and equitable learning environments for all learners in our K-12 programs. Our school focus is a relationship-based approach to engaging with students and their families. Careful educational and human development planning is facilitated by our school staff all with the goal of developing and inspiring students who feel good about themselves and have a dream for the future!

At BCS our goals are:

- 1. To offer innovative and creative instruction school-wide that leads to engaged learning, graduation success, and a sense of future focus.**

STRATEGIES:

- Explore and collaboratively opportunities for cross-curricular, multi-grade, and school-wide project-based learning experiences.
- Encourage a connection with each other, the land, community, and environment through these carefully crafted projects that are co-created by staff and student voice and choice where possible.

- 2. To increase the percentage of students displaying proficiency or excellence in both numeracy and literacy.**

STRATEGIES:

- Strategic early intervention program for reading implemented and facilitated with team teaching strategies.
- Focus on literacy and numeracy resources and strategies in staff meetings and professional development days.
- Collaborate with SD70 resource teachers and support staff for student specific intervention.

- 3. To encourage the healthy development of student social and emotional wellbeing.**

STRATEGIES:

- Collaborate with BCSEA, HFN, and local businesses to create opportunities to connect students to nature.
- Create personalized connections with each student and family to facilitate out of school wellness supported by SD70 support staff, Huu-ay-aht support staff, and ADAPS support staff.
- Continue to encourage a trauma-sensitive school environment.
- Collaborate with BCSEA staff to ensure a healthy meals-snacks program is available to each child at BCS.

## Data/Evidence

**Bamfield Community School** reviews wellness, attendance, and academic data on each student weekly. We use Indicators of School Success (extensive support needed, some support needed, no support needed) to assess the learning, attendance, and wellness progress of each student during the year.

Our teachers work collaboratively with each other to provide learning environments for one-to-one learning, small group learning, classroom based learning, and whole school learning. We work collaboratively with the Bamfield Community School Association and Huu-ay-aht First Nations to ensure that school learning is supported on evenings and weekends and that there are a wide variety of recreational activities and programs for students to engage with after school.

We also work collaboratively with Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Bamfield Marine Science Center, Bamfield Community School Association, and many local aquaculture and land stewardship organizations to bring opportunities to learn from the unique marine and terrestrial environments of the area and to ensure our students have opportunities to learn on and from the land.

As a school community, through collaboration with staff, families, and support services, we have noticed the following trends over the course of the last year:

- Although attendance overall was more stable at BCS than in previous years, there were still “pockets” of students for whom attending school regularly was a challenge. This led to the question of engagement, Social-Emotional growth, and a further exploration of the reasons why some students are not attending school regularly.
- Many of our students expressed and/or exhibited signs and symptoms of trauma, and as such, we are committed to being a trauma-sensitive school by providing safe people, policies and places for our students, continuing to learn and share about trauma and the many ways it affects the brain, fostering opportunities for staff to speak about and access support resources for self-care, as well as encouraging choice, collaboration and connection by listening, noticing, and responding with care.
- We have also observed that our students are often lacking independence and confidence with literacy – particularly reading and writing. Although we noted growth in this area last year, this is still a school priority, especially since many of our students are still feeling the effects of learning interruptions during Covid.
- Bamfield students also showed growth in numeracy skills last year, particularly with fact fluency. However, we have noted a discomfort and lack of confidence when faced with more complex problem-solving in mathematics. We will continue to focus on building strength and confidence in all strands of numeracy, with a strong focus building confidence with problem-solving skills.

## Our School Celebration Story

We are so proud of Bamfield Community School's expansion to Grade 12! We just hosted the first Bamfield graduation ceremony in many years and we have many exciting plans to continue to collaborate with our communities as we build K-12 programming that matches our student skills and goals. While we are still building systems and structures that work for all learners, we will continue to be innovative, continue to use the First Peoples Principles of Learning as our foundation, and continue to create meaningful learning opportunities for each student.

We are confident that our attention to social, emotional, and academic needs combined with our commitment to meaningful educational programming will lead to great things! We have a vision of a learning environment that encompasses the vision of all learners and families, working together to craft a path that leads to each child's successful future. Bamfield Community School will continue to celebrate learning with our community and Huu-ay-aht First Nations, connecting our learners to family, community, and each other.

Learning at Bamfield Community School is an active and engaging experience! We will continue to walk alongside our students, families, Communities, and community partners to create supportive, engaging, educational environments for our students.

