

Burnaby School District – School Plan

Our Story

Who we are?

École Cascade Heights is a vibrant and inclusive school community that offers a wide range of programs and services to meet the needs of our diverse and ever-evolving student population. We are committed to fostering a sense of belonging and respect for all learners, including our Indigenous students, by embedding Indigenous perspectives and ways of knowing into our teaching and school culture. Our French program for Grades 4–7 continues to grow, alongside a steadily increasing number of English Language Learners, reflecting the rich cultural diversity of our school. We are fortunate to have a highly engaged and supportive PAC, whose involvement enhances both academic and social programming. Our Grade 7 Leadership Program plays a vital role in shaping a positive school culture through service initiatives, buddy class partnerships, and awareness and fundraising campaigns. We are also committed to reconciliation and building relationships with Indigenous communities by creating space for learning through land-based activities, storytelling, and cultural celebrations. Our school spirit and sense of community are further strengthened through large-scale events such as our bi-annual Walk-a-Thon.

What are we doing well?

Our school continues to thrive both academically and socio-emotionally through a variety of intentional and inclusive practices. Literacy is a strong focus, with initiatives such as home reading programs, Story Champs, Story Workshops, and structured literacy groups supporting student growth across all grade levels. We are proud of our inclusive approach to education, ensuring that all learners feel supported and valued. Social-emotional learning is embedded in our daily routines through programs like MindUP, growth mindset practices, and calming routines that foster a sense of safety and well-being. Strong student-teacher connections and the use of technology to support diverse learners further enhance our supportive environment. Our students feel deeply connected to the school, as reflected in our high attendance rates and enthusiastic participation in a wide range of learning opportunities, including extracurricular clubs like gardening, diversity, Dungeons & Dragons, and various sports teams. We also value community collaboration, as seen in our partnerships with Moscrop Secondary for Literacy Week and a vibrant dance program. Together, these efforts create a nurturing and dynamic learning environment where every student can thrive.

How do we know?

We know we are making strong progress in Numeracy and Literacy through a variety of meaningful assessment tools and reflective practices. Student learning is regularly monitored using school-wide assessments such as the School Wide Write, School Wide Numeracy assessment, reading assessments, and the Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA). These are complemented by teacher observations, learning updates, and feedback from the Ministry's Satisfaction Survey, providing a comprehensive picture of student growth. Our staff engages in ongoing collaboration and reflective dialogue, which strengthens our instructional practices and ensures consistency across classrooms. In mathematics, the use of a common language supports student understanding and helps build a cohesive learning experience from year to year. These practices collectively affirm that we are on the right track in supporting student success in both literacy and numeracy. The Term 3 numeracy assessment data for 2026 indicates a moderately strong overall performance, but with important gaps that require attention. While the largest proportion of students are achieving at the Proficient level, there remains a substantial number of learners performing below expectations, alongside a relatively small group demonstrating advanced understanding.

Our focus:

Goal Statement: We will continue to improve students' ability to read with understanding across curricular areas, thereby strengthening both literacy and numeracy skills.

Rationale: Reading to understand—comprehending and applying information from texts—is a foundational skill that supports success in all subject areas. In literacy, it enables students to engage meaningfully with a variety of texts. In numeracy, it is essential for interpreting word problems, instructions, and mathematical reasoning. This goal aligns with the BC Curriculum's focus on developing thoughtful, reflective learners who can apply their understanding in real-world contexts.

Objectives: Increase student confidence and accuracy in reading and interpreting texts for understanding. Improve students' ability to extract and apply key information from texts in both literacy and numeracy tasks.

Foster critical thinking, sequencing, and inferencing skills through explicit instruction and practice.

STRATEGIES: (to support Focus)

Integrate reading-to-understand strategies into daily literacy and numeracy instruction (e.g., close reading, think-alouds, guided reading).

Use graphic organizers (e.g., main idea/detail charts, flowcharts) to support comprehension.

Provide targeted small-group instruction for students requiring additional support.

Incorporate student-created texts and reflections to reinforce understanding.

Assessment: Use formative assessments such as reading conferences, comprehension checklists, and teacher observations.

Track student progress through performance tasks that require reading and applying information.

Analyze student work samples and numeracy assessments for evidence of improved comprehension.