



Enhancing Learning Plan

School: Merritt Secondary School

School Year: 2025 - 2026

Principal Submitting:

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Nicola-Similkameen School District

GOAL AREA 1 **ANTI-RACISM**

Merritt Secondary will advance as an anti-racist school by implementing and embedding its updated, decolonized Code of Conduct by June 2026, ensuring it is student-friendly, visible, and actively understood by staff and students.

Rationale

Strategic Plan ~ Appreciation and Respect

Aids in helping students feel physically and emotionally safe in school and community.

Equity Scan ~ Learning Environment

Review for and address bias throughout the district at every level and in every school.

Evidence

- The student-friendly Code of Conduct poster is displayed in all classrooms, hallways, and common areas.
- The Code is accessible online and referenced in newsletters or communication to families.
- 25% increase in students that can articulate the core values of the Code as measured through student surveys (Oct. and June.)

Review Dates

Monthly at staff meeting in conjunction with behavior report data.

<u>Strategies</u>	- Design posters with inclusive, culturally responsive visuals and accessible language. - Indigenous Secondary Coordinator position to support Code of Conduct implementation. - Display posters prominently in classrooms, hallways, common areas, and the school website. - Integrate Code discussions into grade meetings and assemblies. - Launch a student-led awareness campaign (e.g., videos, social media, murals, presentations). - Share the updated Code and its purpose in newsletters, parent nights, and family gatherings. - Policy and practice changes align with the Code (e.g., language in referrals, disciplinary decisions, classroom management).
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<u>GOAL AREA 2</u> <u>NUMERACY</u>	To improve numeracy skills in Grades 8 and 9, Merritt Secondary will strengthen classroom instruction through targeted, high-impact teaching strategies and increased use of formative assessment.
<u>Rationale</u>	Merritt Secondary Data from classroom assessments, observations, and provincial benchmarks indicate that many students enter secondary school with numeracy skills below grade level, impacting their confidence, problem-solving abilities, and overall academic achievement. Strategic Plan ~ Meaning & Purpose Foundational numeracy skills are essential for student success in all subject areas and are directly connected to developing critical thinking, reasoning, and applied competencies needed for future learning, employment and life opportunities (Goal 1b).
<u>Evidence</u>	- Learning Updates: 5% percent increase of students Proficient or Extending in Mathematics from previous school year. - Pre- and Post-Assessment Data: 5% increase in students that show Proficiency in at least 4 out of 6 subcategories on the SNACC numeracy assessment. - Student Voice and Self-Reflection: Reflections showing improved mindset toward math, greater willingness to take risks, or deeper understanding of mathematical concepts as measured through student surveys.
<u>Review Dates</u>	Mid-year (February) and year-end reviews of progress toward numeracy goals (June).

Strategies

Alignment with Critical Numeracy Concepts: Implement high-impact instructional strategies anchored in the Grade 8/9 *Critical Numeracy Concepts* from SD83, focusing classroom instruction on those “must-have” building blocks.

Grade 8

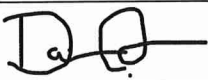
- **Proportional Reasoning:** Use ratio tables, double number lines, and visual models to compare rates and scale problems.
- **Operations with Rational Numbers:** Encourage estimation first, then apply concrete–representational–abstract progression (e.g., fraction strips → algorithms).
- **Algebraic Thinking:** Teach patterns through manipulatives and visuals before moving to symbolic expressions. Promote “explain your reasoning” tasks to deepen understanding.

Grade 9

- **Linear Relations and Functions:** Integrate graphing technology (Desmos, spreadsheets) to show slope and intercept dynamically. Use real-life contexts like speed/distance/time.
- **Data Literacy:** Have students design surveys, collect class data, and analyze variability using multiple representations (dot plots, histograms, boxplots).
- **Financial Literacy:** Connect to lived experiences—budgets, discounts, tax, and interest—through problem-based tasks. Encourage students to justify financial decisions with calculations.

<u>GOAL AREA 3</u> <u>LITERACY</u>	To develop a Literacy Assessment for Grade 8 and 9 students that identifies specific subcategories such as fluency, reading comprehension, vocabulary, and writing.
<u>Rationale</u>	Merritt Secondary Data from classroom assessments, observations, and provincial benchmarks indicate that many students enter secondary school with reading skills below grade level, limiting their access to learning and long-term achievement. Strategic Plan ~ Meaning & Purpose Foundational literacy skills are critical to student success across all subject areas and directly support students in developing the competencies needed for future learning and life opportunities (Goal 1b).
<u>Evidence</u>	- A locally developed assessment tool for Grade 8 and 9 Literacy created by the end of the school year.
<u>Review Dates</u>	Mid-year (January) and year-end reviews of progress toward goal (June).
<u>Strategies</u>	• Tool Development: Collaboratively design an assessment framework that measures fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, and writing, drawing on existing district and provincial tools (e.g., NLPS Reading Assessment, BC Performance Standards). • Pilot & Refine: Pilot the assessment in selected Grade 8 and 9 classrooms; collect teacher and student feedback; refine the tool based on data and observations.

<u>GOAL AREA 4</u> <u>MENTAL</u> <u>HEALTH</u>	Merritt Secondary will offer comprehensive school wide Social and Emotional Learning programs through Open Parachute and Preventure.
Rationale	Merritt Secondary The 2023 BC Adolescent Health Survey (McCreary Report) indicated that 45% of student in Grade 7-12 rated their mental health and well being as fair or poor. Strategic Plan ~ Appreciate & Respect The district will develop and maintain a streamlined and comprehensive educational/ support process for student and staff mental wellness.
Evidence	- Grade 8-12 students will participate in 8 Open Parachute lessons throughout the 2025-2026 school year. - Approximately 40 Pre-screened Grade 8 students will take part in three 60 minute Preventure workshops.
Review Dates	Monthly (Oct. -Jun.) for Open Parachute and Dec. 1 st 2025 for Preventure.
Strategies	• Program Oversight: Health and Wellness Secondary Coordinator to oversee the scope, sequence, and fidelity of the <i>Open Parachute</i> program. • Partnerships: Collaborate with the district Health Promoting Schools Coordinator to facilitate the <i>Preventure</i> program and provide follow-up supports for identified students.

Date Submitted	Sept. 19 th , 2025
Signed Principal	
Signed Superintendent	