

# New Horizons School

*The vision of the New Horizons School is to enable gifted students to strive for excellence in an environment that is positive with social and emotional support for each student*

## A Place for *Gifted Learners*

New Horizons is the only school in the Capital Region that provides instruction in a congregated setting to gifted learners from K-9. Since opening its door to 79 gifted students in 1995, NewHorizons School has grown to an enrolment of 318 students in the current year. While the majority of our students live in Sherwood Park and Strathcona County, we attract students from Edmonton and surrounding communities.

## Our *Accomplishments*

### Academic Achievement

The October Accountability Pillar (2017) indicates that our students are performing at the "Very High" level on Provincial Achievement Tests, with respect to achievement at both the acceptable standard and the standard of excellence. The 2017 results have met the "Excellent" rating overall. Students also continue to meet or exceed their prior level of achievement.

### Excellence in Education Quality

The October Accountability Pillar (2017) also indicates that our school is performing at the "Very High" level and was rated as "Excellent." We continue to integrate inquiry approaches into the programs of study. Other practices such as math acceleration, independent study, and Imagine and Create events provide students with engaging and challenging learning activities.

### Nighthawks Make a Mark

Our junior high boys and girls Nighthawks earned their first team medals this year in basketball and volleyball. The girls earned a bronze medal in volleyball league play, while both teams earned bronze and silver medals in tournaments.

## *Highlights and Challenges*

### Facility

In November, after almost two years of planning, 2017, our \$8 million modernization of the school facility began in November 2016. Fillmore Construction of Edmonton was awarded the construction contract for the project. The project is expected to be completed by December 2017.

The renovations created a brighter and appealing appearance, and the newly renovated gym area, foods lab, and learning commons are welcomed upgrades. The fourteen outdated modular units were replaced with six new units with extra learning spaces in the hallways.

### Listening to Our Community

Approximately thirty-five parents, staff members, our MLA, our Strathcona County Ward Councillor, and students participated in a Stakeholder Forum held on February 1, 2017. Facilitated by the Community Development Unit of Alberta Tourism and Culture, the Forum provided opportunity for participants to generate input into the development of the school's Three-Year Education Plan for 2017-18 to 2019-20.

Feedback from this session will be included in the 2017-2020 Education Plan.

### Population Growth

The school is presently assigned an enrolment cap of 300 students (not including kindergarten). In response to the growth experienced by the school during recent years and to continued strong demand for enrolment at the school, the Board submitted a request (November 2016) to the Minister of Education for the enrolment cap to be increased to 450 students. This request has since been denied by the Minister (May 2017), presenting the Board with a challenge moving forward.

## *Priorities: Continuous Growth*

The October Accountability Pillar suggests areas for continued growth. We are performing at an "Intermediate" level with programs of study, and that area is being addressed with the acquisition of a music teacher in the 2017-2018 school year.

Other areas such as "Safe and Caring Schools" and "Work Preparation" scored in the "High" achievement range, and strategies in the 2018-2020 Education Plan will be in place to increase those results.

Other strategies and initiatives are included in the 2017-2020 Education Plan, and includes feedback from our Parent Forum.

## *Financial Stability*

New Horizons School continues to remain financially stable.

The 2016/2017 budget anticipated a surplus of \$25,419.00 however, the year ended with a surplus of \$113,971.00.

Revenues from Alberta Education grants for the year ending August 31, 2017 were \$3,072,866 or 94.95% of revenues. Other Government of Alberta and School Authorities were \$15,474 or 0.48% and the remainder of \$147,894 or 4.57% came from other sources such as student fees, other sales and services, and gifts and donations.

For more detailed financial information visit <https://www.newhorizons.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/NHS-AFS-2016-2017.pdf>

## *Annual Education Results Report (AERR) 2016-2017 Summary*

# Summary 2016-2017