



# CONNECT CHARTER SCHOOL

## AERR Summary 2016/17

Connect Charter School offers an enhanced, publicly-funded program that provides authentic, real-life learning opportunities to develop students as extraordinary citizens.

Our collaborative teaching and learning practices benefit our students, teachers and other educators to improve Alberta's education system.

### Fast Facts

- Public Charter School
- Inclusive
- 615 students – over 1000 on the first come first serve wait list
- Grades 4 to 9
- Located in Southwest Calgary

### Vision

“Preparing students as extraordinary citizens” - A lofty vision that captures the significance we place on the key pillars of our program:

- Outdoor & environmental education
- Collaboration
- Inquiry-based learning
- Research
- Technology integration
- Real-life learning experiences

### Research & Innovation

#### Mandate

As a public charter school, Connect has the additional responsibility to engage in research and innovation to improve education. We share our work on our Connect! Blog, by hosting hundreds of visitors each year, by presenting at major conferences, and more.



### 2016/17 Priorities & Accomplishments

There were many highlights in the 2016-2017 school year....

- Continued strong academic success of our students:
- Worked collaboratively with Alberta Education, universities and other partners in education to serve as a crucible for change
- Mr. Greg Neil was awarded one of Canada's top medals in education, the Innovation in Geography Teaching Award.
- Hosted over 200 visitors, including teachers, administrators, pre-service teachers, university professors, kinesiology students, educational assistant practicum students, Bridges to Education students, and Alberta Education personnel
- Hosted and participated in two Professional Networking Days - Physical Education and Outdoor Education - attended by 32 educators
- Third year of an integrated practice program with the Faculty of Education, Mount Royal University
- Enhanced student competency and teachers' and administrators' professional capacity using the descriptors of exemplary learning, teaching and leadership as frameworks for action

## Parental and Community Engagement



The School Council at Connect is a highly involved and invested group. Working with the school staff, they undertook a number of initiatives in 2016–17 that encouraged parental and community engagement:

- Connect School Council hosted the four Parent Summits over the course of the year with over 260 participants in attendance.
- Organization of parent information sessions throughout the year on topics such as raising a resilient youth, dealing with stress and anxiety, high school transition, and more
- Open forum, “Forum with Phil” sessions at each school council meeting
- Thousands of hours of parent volunteer time on field trips (including many overnight trips), supporting special events, fundraising, supporting learning in the classes and much more

## 2016/17 Student Accomplishments and Priorities

There were many highlights in the 2016/17 school year:

- ❖ 78% of Connect students report they are highly skilled and yet challenged by their work, compared to 57% nationally
- ❖ Connect outscored the provincial average on Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) in all subjects at both grade 6 and 9
- ❖ Overall, 35% of Connect grade students achieved the standard of excellence on the PATs, which is 16% above the provincial average
- ❖ The percentage of students meeting the acceptable standard on the PATs is 20% higher than the provincial average
- ❖ Accountability Pillar Survey results and OurSCHOOL survey results indicate a very safe and supportive environment
- ❖ 93% of students, parents, and teachers agree that students are safe, learning the importance of caring and respect, and are treated fairly at school
- ❖ We are an inclusive charter school and do not discriminate in our entrance process – we are stronger for our diversity
- ❖ Student achievement remains very high, coupled with high levels of student engagement and challenge. A disposition of inquiry is a highly effective means by which we can address both the fundamentals of learning as well as deeper learning and knowledge creation

