

Newcombville Elementary School

Classroom Communication Plan

Grade 2 and 3
2017-2018

Vision Statement: Newcombville Elementary School promotes life-long learning and critical thinking in a safe and healthy learning environment.

Mission Statement: A collaboration among staff, students, parents, and community members will result in a balanced approach to education that will meet students' educational, social, and emotional learning needs.

Grade 2/3 Teachers

Integrated Literacy and Integrated Math: Selena Wentzell and Catherine Wamboldt

Integrated Literacy: Erin Harmes

Integrated Math: Jalena Faulkner Childs

Physical Educations: Jason Snow

Music: Alison Sheffield

Classroom Teaching Assistant: Cathy Wentzell

Grade 2/3 Integrated Curriculum

The Department of Education is continuing to streamline the curriculum for grades P-3. "We are making improvements in the classroom and beyond, including an innovative curriculum with an emphasis on math and literacy and the early introduction of coding to support problem-solving and

critical thinking.”(Nova Scotia Action Plan, 2016). In the grade 2/3 classroom, many of the current academic expectations for students have remained, but there are also a number of changes to the curricula.

The Department of Education has increased the [daily instructional hours](#) to 158 minutes per day in literacy and 90 minutes per day in math for grade 3 students. In grade 2 literacy is 90 minutes and math is 75 minutes. Specialty subjects with regards to visual arts, science, social studies and health will be taught in units connected with literacy and math. The integration of these subjects means an increased amount of instructional time can be allotted to learning to read, and write, as well as math related skills such as numeracy, operations, patterning, measurement and geometry.

The integration of curriculum is not a new instructional strategy, and many teachers have often incorporated specialty subjects into literacy and math. The difference is a stronger emphasis will be placed on prioritizing the important competencies and indicators outlined in the math and literacy outcomes. This can be accomplished because more time has been allotted to math and literacy and there has also been a reduction in the amount of outcomes. Fewer outcomes means more time can be spent on the important aspects of reading , writing and math, and teachers will be less focused on secondary outcomes.

We hope this summary helps you to understand some of the necessary changes that will continue to take place in Nova Scotia with regards to curriculum. Please visit the following link : [NS Annual Report](#) for additional information.

Grade 2/3 Competencies

The grade three year plans have been outlined by the NS Department of Education for all subjects, and will be used for the duration of the 2017-2018 academic year. Please see the above link for a detailed description of the guiding competencies of the NS curriculum. The competencies help guide teachers and school members of the ultimate educational goal of each child. The learner profile section of the report card is a good indicator of how well your child is doing in this area. Your child will be evaluated on his or her report card using the following descriptors :

- completes classwork
- completes homework
- strives to produce quality work
- interacts positively
- resolves conflict appropriately
- works collaboratively

- comes prepared for class
- manages own materials and belongings
- use time efficiently
- accepts responsibility for own actions
- follows instruction/directions/rules and routines
- respects school property and the property of others
- works independently

English Language Arts:

The Language Arts curriculum will focus on the four areas of development: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Reading: Students will participate in a variety of reading methods including read alouds, shared reading, guided reading and independent reading. They will also take part in learning various comprehension strategies, using the C.A.F.E method; Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expanded Vocabulary. Text appropriate, material will be read for each student's ability. Literacy activities will vary on a daily basis.

Writing: Students will be involved in creative, responsive, and reflective writing activities. Students will learn and focus on writing activities including journal writing, narratives, poetry and descriptive writing. We will also look at learning the process of writing, including mechanics, paragraph structure and descriptive detail, which will be emphasized during word work and spelling.

Listening and Speaking: These components are ongoing throughout each day. Students will listen and respond to text before, during and after reading. Students will learn to listen and share their opinions, ideas and stories with classmates. They will be asked to complete assignments that they will present to the class. These presentations will develop good listening and social skills and build confidence in one another.

Mathematics

The mathematics program in grade 2/3 involves a mini lesson, student practice in partners or independently, and sharing time. In addition to the workshop lesson, students are engaged in math

centres for further practice and reinforcement and daily mental math activities or number talks. The following units will be covered:

Number Concepts/ Number Relationship Operations: counting, estimating and place value, estimating, ordinals, fractions, representing and partitioning whole numbers

Operations Sense and Number Operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, working with word problems, mental math , estimation,

Patterns and Relations: Creating and interpreting pattern, and begin to develop an understanding of pattern using numbers

Shape and Space: Measurement (length, volume, mass, capacity, perimeter, area, time)

Geometry (2-D Shapes and 3-D objects)

Data Management Collection & Analysis

Science

The grade three, science program involves active hands on activities and experimentation surrounding observation, inquiry and reasoning. The following units will be explored this year:

- Life Science: Animal Growth and Changes (Gr.2) Plant Growth and Changes (Gr.3)
- Earth and Space Science: Exploring Air and Water (Gr.2) and Exploring Soils(Gr. 3)
- Physical Science: Motion (Gr. 2) Invisible Forces (Gr. 3) & Liquids & Solids (Gr. 2) Materials and Structures (Gr. 3)

Health

Students will:

- participate in the PATHS Program: Emotions, Healthy Relationships, Communication
- communicate to promote a healthy active lifestyle (gr2) and friendships (grade 3)
- demonstrate empathy (gr 2) and make decisions that promote a healthy mind and body (gr 3)
- demonstrate ways to safe at school and in the community (gr 2) and how to ask for help in unsafe scenarios (gr 3)

Social Studies

In grade 3, students will explore Nova Scotia and the Atlantic Provinces. They will recognize the land, people, culture, heritage, and citizenship of these areas. Students will also learn the rights and

responsibilities within their own and others communities and how they affect the above mentioned areas. The following units will be covered in social studies. Students will:

- explore change in their lives (gr 2) and locate their regions in the Atlantic Provinces (gr.3)
- understand changes in various cultural groups (gr 2) and examine the origin of diverse peoples in Nova Scotia and Nova Scotia's expression of culture (gr 3)
- make decisions as consumers (gr 2) and take action to promote positive interactions between peoples (gr 3)
- understanding sustainable development (gr 2) and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy (gr 3)

Visual Arts

Using different mediums, students will explore making, looking and reflecting on art and art culture.

Curriculum Information

If you would like to access further [curriculum information](#), please visit the listed link.

Assessment:

Assessment is the day-to-day checking of student work or performance by a teacher. This involves using the program outcomes and indicators as described in the Nova Scotia curriculum guides to assign grades and/or descriptive comments and report to parents. Students are assessed prior to beginning a unit (assessment for learning), and they are assessed after they have completed several learning and exploring opportunities (assessment of learning). Some assessment and evaluation tools may include: oral and written tests, student participation, standardized tests, conferences, checklists, work samples, running records, rubrics, observations, journals, self-assessments, interviews, and photos.

Evaluation:

Parents can expect report cards three times a year (November 22, 2017, March 30, 2018, June 30, 2018). Report cards for grades P-3 will look slightly different than they have in the past. There will no longer be a mark for science, social studies, and visual arts. Students in grade three will be given a letter grade for Math and Language Arts, and in term two and three students will receive a letter grade in Physical Education and Music . The letter grades are defined as:

A The student demonstrates thorough understanding of the expected learning outcomes addressed during the current reporting period.

B The student demonstrates good understanding of the expected learning outcomes addressed during the reporting period. The student's work meets program expectations.

C The student demonstrates basic understanding of the expected learning outcomes addressed during the current reporting period. The student's work approaches program expectations.

D The student rarely demonstrates limited understanding of the expected learning outcomes addressed during the current reporting period. The student's work does not meet program expectations.

Communication

Parents are encouraged to actively communicate using the communication book in homework folders, or phone calls. We will communicate with you using phone calls, notices, formal and informal meetings, parent teacher night, report cards, and the school webpage (<http://newcombyville.ednet.ns.ca/>). During school hours, you may reach us at 541-8230. Please leave a message and we will return your phone call, as soon as possible.

NS Provincial School Code of Conduct

“Students, parents, teachers, support staff, principals, and school boards share responsibility for creating a school-wide approach to maintaining a positive and inclusive school climate where all students are supported to develop healthy relationships, make good choices, and achieve success in their learning. policies and procedures for teachers, parents and students to develop healthy relationships, make good choices, and achieve success in their learning.”

Homework Policy

Homework in grade three should not be overwhelming for your child. The new policy states :

Homework has one or more of the following three purposes:

- Prepare information or materials for future learning activities (e.g., gather resources, read something for a class discussion, or rehearse for a presentation).
- Practice new knowledge or new skills (e.g., read for pleasure, practice physical skills, practice a musical instrument, use new knowledge to complete a project, or practice basic literacy and math skills).

- Enrich students' understanding of a topic and apply it in new ways (e.g., research local news, investigate a science experiment, write daily or weekly reflections in a journal, or apply skills to a class project).

If for any reason, you feel your child is being overwhelmed by assignments or projects, please contact me right away.