

THE CAMROSE BOOSTER

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Battle River School Division

Focused on high quality teaching, to ensure optimal learning.



Reflecting on Excellence

Battle River School Division's (BRSD) 2022-23 school year was a remarkable one, not only for our students, but for the entire division. Throughout the year, our students had many opportunities to engage in a wide range of activities, including assemblies, concerts, field trips, sports and clubs.

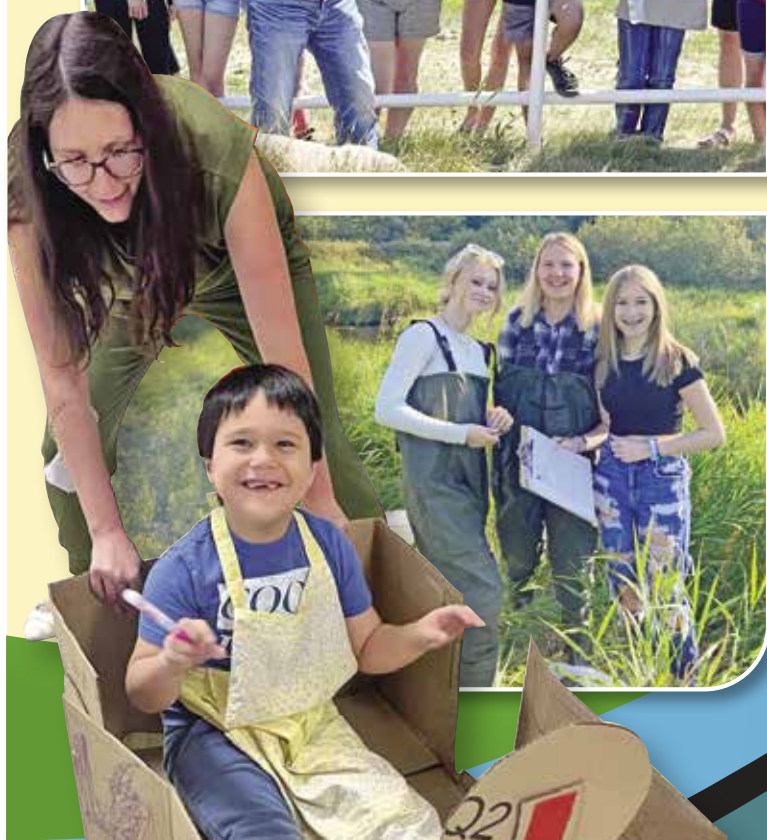
While these experiences enriched their education, each student was able to develop valuable skills beyond what one may master in the classroom. From showcasing their talents in school performances to exploring the world through educational field trips, each student was encouraged to engage in an individualized learning journey.

As a school division, our three key priorities of Literacy and Numeracy, High-Quality Teaching and Learning, and Equity were at the forefront of our efforts during the 2022-23 year. Throughout the year, this focus on excellence in education was evident in our classrooms, CTS labs, sports and performance venues, and during our numerous extracurricular activities.

Creating safe and caring environments for our students was a top priority throughout the year. We recognized that students thrive when they feel supported and valued, and that our schools fostered a culture of inclusivity, respect, and well-being.

Our dedicated educators and staff have worked, and continue to work, tirelessly to provide the best learning experiences for our students, and to embody their commitment to our vision, Every Student, Every Day, a Success. These individual and collective efforts have been evident in the progress and achievements of our students which will be celebrated during awards ceremonies this fall.

In conclusion, and as the new school year unfolds after a year of growth, learning, and achievement, we continue to focus on our key priorities. We are excited to celebrate the successes of our students, and are committed to ensuring that every student has access to a high-quality education that supports their individual needs and aspirations. The heightened level of student engagement resulting from BRSD's unwavering commitment to our priorities and vision makes it clear that Every Student, Every Day, a Success is not just a motto, but a reality in our school division.



Did you know?

On an annual basis, Battle River School Division is required to report to the communities we serve.

This publication was produced and distributed to households throughout the Division at a cost of approximately 51.7 cents per copy.



A focus on literacy and numeracy

It's been a very full of year learning – by students and also by staff.

The school division has been deeply focused on piloting new resources and programs to support the Literacy and Numeracy development of students; as well as learning and implementing new elementary curriculum and preparing for more curriculum changes ahead.

From supporting our earliest learners in Pre-K and Kindergarten programs, to building literacy foundational skills for students up to Grade 3, and emphasizing vocabulary for students all the way up to Grade 12, teachers have been using new ideas and resources and collaborating on ways to address literacy gaps.

Elementary teachers have also been preparing for implementation of new curriculum and becoming familiar with new resources for math instruction.

Supporting wellbeing

We know students have been struggling, both at school and at home. Levels of anxiety and stress appear to be on the rise in students of all age levels.

From ensuring students have nutritious food and full tummies, to providing trained staff to support their needs and offering a range of programs – from athletics to art, drama and music – that allow students to express themselves in meaningful ways, everyone at Battle River School Division wants to support students to regain their sense of wellbeing and belonging.

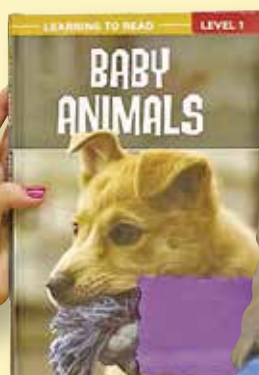


Our Mission

The Battle River School Division, in collaboration with our communities, will support every student to be a lifelong learner and contributing member of society.

We believe...

- Every student can learn.
- Our fundamental purpose is to promote student learning, growth and understanding.
- Everyone will be treated with dignity and respect in a safe and caring environment.
- Positive relationships build healthy, resilient students and staff.
- When a student is in need, we will provide support.
- We will support every student to the best of our ability every day.
- All staff must be skilled, committed and dedicated to their own continuous learning.
- Optimal learning occurs when it is engaging, meaningful and active.



Building a sense of equity

For the last two years, Battle River School Division has been pleased to be working on matters related to Equity. Our efforts were acknowledged with an Innovation and Excellence Award from the Alberta School Boards Association in the fall of 2023. Much of the focus has been on Truth and Reconciliation, ensuring staff and students in schools are exposed to the culture, history, and artifacts of Canada's First Peoples.

In addition, members of the Equity Committee, and beyond, have been learning more about how unconscious bias, racism, and other factors can impact the ways in which people from non-traditional backgrounds feel in our schools. The student and staff population of the school division is increasingly diverse and Battle River is committed to ensuring all people can feel safe, welcome and that they belong.



Languages in our Division

Over 41 additional languages are spoken in BRSD.



- Afrikaans
- Albanian
- Amharic
- Arabic
- Azerbaijani
- Bisaya
- Cantonese
- Chinese
- Cree
- Croatian
- Filipino
- French
- German
- Greek
- Gujarati
- Hindi
- Iloco
- Italian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Low German
- Lithuanian
- Malayalam
- Mandarin
- Nepali
- Plautdietsch
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Punjabi
- Russian
- Serbian
- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Tamil
- Thai
- Tigrinya
- Twi
- Ukrainian
- Urdu
- Vietnamese
- Visaya



Inviting input from stakeholders

Battle River School Division created several online opportunities for input from stakeholders during the 2022-2023 school year, in topics ranging from the next year's school calendar to feedback on how our literacy and numeracy programs are meeting student needs.

The Board's intent to undertake an attendance boundary review and host a series of community discussions was delayed by changes to the Transportation eligibility requirements announced by Alberta Education in the spring of 2023. The attendance boundary discussions will happen in the 2023-2024 school year.



A time of transition

The end of the 2022-2023 school year also saw the closure of a leadership chapter for Battle River School Division, as Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rita Marler announced her retirement after nine years in the top job and a 34-year career in teaching.

The BRSD Board of Trustees recognizes and appreciates the contributions that Dr. Marler has made, particularly in the area of developing instructional leadership.

Incoming Superintendent of Schools, Rhae-Ann Holoiien, began her new role in August. The Board welcomes her to Battle River and is looking forward to a long, positive working relationship!



Where is the money allocated for 2023-2024?

Battle River School Division ensures resources are allocated in ways that serve the best interests of students. For the 2023-2024 school year, Battle River School Division has an overall budget allocation of \$84,410,956.

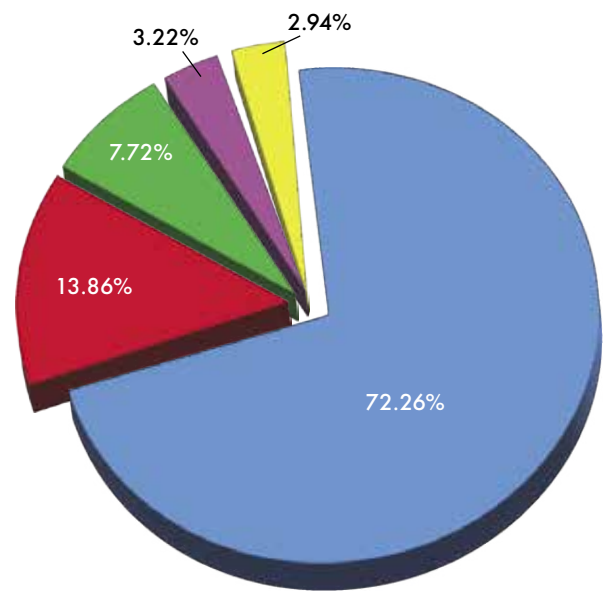
More than 72% of our spending is directly on Instruction, to support the board's priorities that directly impact the learning of our students.

Operating and maintaining school facilities, creating positive learning environments in which students and staff can comfortably spend their days, accounts for nearly 14 percent of budgeted spending.

A further 7 percent of expenditures is budgeted to transport children to and from school each day. This includes the purchase and maintenance of school buses and the salaries and training of the people who drive them. For the 2023-2024 school year, this includes providing service levels that align with Alberta Education's new eligibility rules.

Just over 3 percent of funding is directed to external services, which includes providing mental health and personal support programs for students, as well as promoting our schools and programs internationally, in order to welcome students from across the globe to Battle River to extend the diversity in our schools.

The School Division is permitted to allocate 3.47 percent of its spending for Administration, which includes Board costs, the Superintendent's office, the Human Resources and Finance Departments.



- Instruction
- Facilities
- Student Transportation
- Board/Administration
- External Services

	% OF BUDGET	EXPENDITURES
Instruction	72.26%	\$ 60,989,777
Facilities	13.86%	\$ 11,699,232
Student Transportation	7.72%	\$ 6,517,469
Board/Administration	3.22%	\$ 2,720,231
External Services	2.94%	\$ 2,484,247
TOTAL	100%	\$ 84,410,956

Looking forward to another great year!



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The Board of Trustees of Battle River School Division was elected to their four-year term in the fall of 2021 and will be in place until the fall of 2025.

As they mark the halfway point in their term, the Board is looking forward to a great year ahead.

They held their Organizational Meeting for the 2023-2024 school year in June, in order to be ready to go when the new school year started in September. City of Camrose Trustee Patrick McFeely will serve as Board Chair for the next year, while City of Camrose Trustee Doug Algar will continue in the role of Vice Chair. Camrose County Trustee Karen Belich will be in the position of Past Chair, after serving as Chair from 2020-2023.



Battle River School Division

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Every Student. Every Day.
A Success.