



Bison Run School

60 Frontier Trails Winnipeg, MB R3Y 2H1

Be Inclusive

Be Community

Be Innovative ...

Be a Bison

Principal

Caterina Romeo-Mzakar

Vice Principal

Kendra Gowler



Board of Trustees Three Expectations for Student Learning

1. All students in Pembina Trails will be personally and intellectually engaged in their learning at school.
2. By the end of grade 8, all students in Pembina Trails will meet the provincial curricular standards in literacy and numeracy, allowing them the greatest possibility for success in high school.
3. All students in Pembina Trails will graduate from high school.

2024 2025 School Plan Priorities:

- **Belonging and Culture of Inclusivity:** By June 2025, a culture of belonging Inclusivity, diversity and hope will be established throughout the school Community.
- **Indigenous Learning:** June 2025, 100% of students will describe and understand (developmentally appropriate) Treaty, Land Acknowledgement, Broken Promises, Residential Schools, Circle of Courage.
- **Setting Learning Goals / Critical Thinking:** By June 2025, 100% of students will chart growth and articulate their learning goals in the areas of literacy and numeracy using classroom data collections systems.

Progress Toward School Plan Priorities:

Belonging and Culture of Inclusivity: As meaningful school traditions continue to take root at Bison Run School, we are deepening our efforts to foster authentic connections within and beyond our school community.

Key highlights include:

- **Cultural Learning:** Through fundraising, grants, and student led initiatives, cultural books were purchased to further enrich the work with our elders and cultural leaders to bridge individual and collective identities. Thus embedding diverse voices and perspectives into classroom learning while strengthening the Bison identity.

- **Cross-Grade Connections:** Activities such as the **Grade 12–Kindergarten Graduation Parade** and the **Learning Buddies program with Pembina Trails Collegiate** are strengthening relationships between younger and older students, building mentorship and campus spirit.
- **Community Partnerships:** We are enhancing connections with local organizations through programs like **See Spot Read** with the **Humane Society**, offering students unique literacy experiences. Student-created sculptures were showcased at **Assiniboine Park Zoo**, celebrating student creativity and public engagement.
- Bison Run School continues to work in collaboration with **Bison Run Parent Advisory Council (PAC)**. Bison Run PAC has worked tirelessly to fundraise and write grants in support of building a play structure, not only for the students of Bison Run School but for the community at large. Through **plant and cookie sales**, monthly culturally diverse “**Fun Lunches**” and **grant applications**, Bison Run PAC is moving closer to realizing the dream of a **universally accessible school and community play structure**.
- **Social Responsibility:** Our students are actively involved in supporting local causes and provincial state of emergencies, including contributions to **Winnipeg Harvest**, and **Manitoba Wildfires Support**, fostering empathy and a sense of civic duty. These initiatives support our school plan’s focus on inclusive, culturally responsive, and community-connected education—ensuring that every student feels valued, engaged, and empowered.
- **Indigenous Learning:** Approximately one-third (33%) of the student population is currently able to describe and understand **Treaty, Land Acknowledgement, Broken Promises, Residential Schools**, and the **Circle of Courage** at a developmentally appropriate level. This represents significant progress but indicates that continued effort is required to meet the target of full student understanding by the end of the school year. Students who have reached this benchmark are demonstrating a deeper awareness of Indigenous history, rights, and values, and are beginning to engage with these topics through meaningful discussion and reflection.

Progress Toward the Three Expectations for Student Learning 2024—2025:

First Expectation

- **Engagement:** Bison Run School continues to advance its phone-free initiative by extending the policy beyond the classroom to include field trips and overnight excursions. Notably, students participated in **phone-free experiences** during curricular extensions such as the ski trip and the band trip. Teachers stayed in touch with parents through Edsby. By removing mobile phones from these activities, there was greater student engagement, stronger social connections, and an environment free from digital distractions.

Second Expectation

- **Literacy:** During the 2024–2025 school year, a targeted literacy intervention initiative was implemented across Grades 1 to 6, with a specific focus on students performing more than two grade levels below in reading and literacy development. This initiative represented a strategic and intensive effort to close persistent literacy gaps and support student achievement across diverse learning profiles.

- **Numeracy:** Teachers at Bison Run School have actively engaged in ongoing professional development opportunities designed to enhance their instructional practices, particularly in the area of mathematics. One of the key initiatives has been participation in “Lunch and Learn” sessions, informal yet highly effective workshops held during lunch breaks. These sessions provide a collaborative space where educators can come together to share ideas, explore new strategies, and deepen their understanding of teaching tools. A major focus of these sessions has been learning how to effectively incorporate Digi Blocks and Learning Carpets into math instruction.
- Innovative math centres have been established, particularly in Grade 3. Inspired by real-world contexts, one centre operates as a “store” to support students’ readiness to purchase goods from the weekly canteen.

Third Expectation

- **Graduation:** Our school has implemented a strategic intervention aimed at helping students manage dysregulation by fostering a deeper connection to their cultural roots and identities. Recognizing the important role that culture plays in emotional well-being and self-regulation, this approach encourages students to explore and celebrate their heritage as a foundation for personal growth and resilience.

One of the key components of this intervention is our engaging “Cooking Around the World” program, which introduces students to diverse culinary traditions from various cultures. Through hands-on cooking experiences, students learn about Nigerian, Indian, French, Malian, and Chinese cuisines—representing both northern and southern regions of China. This program not only builds practical skills and cultural awareness but also creates a calming and inclusive environment where students can connect with their backgrounds and develop a sense of belonging.

To further support our diverse student population, the school has organized Parent Evenings designed to welcome families to the school community. These events provide essential information, resources, and a platform for parents to connect with staff and other families through open dialogue. Given the positive response, we plan to continue these initiatives into the fall, offering ongoing support and engagement opportunities for newcomer families as they continue to settle and thrive.

Together, these initiatives represent a holistic approach to student well-being that combines cultural connection, community involvement, and targeted support to foster regulation, engagement, and success.

Bison Run Value Statements

Be Community: Our Bison community is a safe place with shared values where everyone belongs, and each member has their unique contributions making the community stronger as a whole.

Be Inclusive: Everyone is welcome and appreciated at Bison Run School. We seek to understand, appreciate and value the differences in each of us.

Be Innovative: At Bison Run School, we feel safe to take risks, make mistakes and become groundbreakers in Science, Technology, Pre-engineering and Math.

Be a Bison: To be a Bison is to respect everyone, to include everyone, to work together to create community where everyone belongs.