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Three Year Educational Plan

**2008/2009
To
2010/2011**

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The Annual Education Results Report for NorthStar Academy for the 2007-2008 school year was prepared in accordance with requirements of Alberta Education and Golden Hills School Division. The school is committed to using the results in this report to improve outcomes for students. We use the results to develop sound strategies for our Three Year Education Plan to ensure all our students can acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to be self-reliant, responsible, caring and contributing members of society.

This publication can be found at www.northstaracademycanada.org

Introduction

NorthStar Academy Canada is a Christian on-line school offering an online or a home school program.

The NorthStar Academy Canada administrative office is located in Didsbury, Alberta. The teachers work from their homes. All teachers are Alberta certified.

NorthStar Academy Canada is a member of A.C.S.I..

Mission

NorthStar Academy Canada exists to advance Christ's kingdom by enabling missionary families, local home school families and small Christian schools to provide a high quality, well-rounded, Christian education for their children.

Vision

The vision of the board and administration of NorthStar Academy (NSA) over the next three years of this plan includes the following elements:

1. An educational standard at least on par with provincial standards
2. A partnership between on-line teachers and Christian adults, in homes and schools, providing an encouraging, stimulating learning environment for students
3. A Biblical world-view permeating all courses
4. An enrollment of 100 FTE students registered with NSA.
5. An enrollment of 10 FTE students registered with local Koinonia schools, but taught through NSA-C on-line courses.
6. An enrollment of 5 FTE students registered with non-Koinonia schools, but taught through NSA-C on line courses.
7. An enrollment of 15 FTE students registered as home schoolers
8. Revision of lessons and assignments to meet the learning needs of high and low end students.
9. Addition of an ESL class
10. Making on line education a pleasant experience for students and parents

Statement of Faith

1. We believe the Bible is inspired by God, and is the only infallible, authoritative Word of God (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21)
2. We believe there is only one God, who exists eternally in three equal persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and who created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them by the power of His spoken word. (Genesis 1:1; Matthew 28:19; John 1:1-3; John 10:30)
3. We believe in the deity of Christ (John 10:33); His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:35); His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 7:26); His miracles (John 2:11); His substitutionary death (I Corinthians 15:3; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 2:9) His physical resurrection (John 11:25; I Corinthians 15:4); His ascension to the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19); and His personal return in power and glory to judge the living and the dead (Acts 1:11; Revelation 20:11-15; Revelation 22:12)
4. We believe that man was created by God in His own image (Genesis 1:27), but was spiritually separated from God because of sin (Romans 3:23), and is incapable of being reconciled to God apart from the work of Christ on the cross (Romans 5:6).
5. We believe in the absolute necessity of rebirth by the Holy Spirit for salvation; and that people are justified on the single ground of faith in the shed blood of Christ and that only by God's grace and through faith alone are we saved (John 3:16-19; John 5:24; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:8-9; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5)
6. We believe in the physical resurrection of both the saved and the lost; those who are saved will rise to eternal life, and those who are lost to eternal punishment. (John 5:28-29; Matthew 25:26).
7. We believe that the Church is the body of born-again believers in fellowship with Christ and with fellow believers. (Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:12-13)
8. We believe in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who indwells believers enabling them to live a Godly life (Romans 8:13-14; I Corinthians 3:16; I Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 4:30; Ephesians 5:18).

NorthStar recognize that there are other doctrines held by various Christian believers, which they believe to be consistent with, and in addition to, the above, but NorthStar Schools shall not promote these.

Beliefs

Our philosophical/theological beliefs lead to beliefs about who students are, what life is about, etc. NorthStar Academy is focused on its mission and vision, but the following draft statement of core values drives it.

Lordship of Jesus Christ. We acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord and submit ourselves to His will and good pleasure. We worship Him as Lord in our chapels, pray often to acknowledge His will, and seek to honor Him through our lifestyles and in all we do. We also acknowledge that we ourselves, and all we have, belong to Jesus Christ. He has the right to command us to teach our children to love and obey Him. We do so in obedience to His command.

Koinonia

We believe that God calls Christian families to share with each other in their task of nurturing and discipling their children. In our society this includes establishing local parent-operated Christian schools, working together as a system of Christian schools, and sharing the burden of helping parents start Christian schools in communities that do not have them. We also believe that this spirit of fellowship and sharing should exist within each school between parents, teachers, and students.

Truth

We are passionate about teaching our children the truth about God, the truth about themselves as created in God's image, and the truth about God's world. We are equally concerned that our children develop a vibrant personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who is the Truth. We teach Bible as the foundation of truth and integrate Biblical truths into all subjects.

Spiritual Excellence

We believe that spiritual excellence means knowing Jesus Christ and responding to Him in love. Such genuine faith will result in worship, obedience and service. It will also result in development of Christian character, in the display of the fruits of the Spirit, and in a desire to lead other people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In other words, we want our students to become committed disciples of Jesus Christ, and we want them to become involved in helping others become His disciples as well.

Academic Excellence

We believe that excellence in academics is a natural outgrowth of a personal Christian faith because God displays excellence in all He does. We challenge students to polish their skills so they are able to serve Jesus Christ effectively through a wide variety of vocations including full-time ministry at home or abroad.

Stewardship

All we have belongs to God. Stewardship involves responsible and ethical use of resources entrusted to us as individuals, as schools, and as a school system so that God can entrust us with an ever-expanding ministry and the resources to carry out that ministry.

Those beliefs and core values also translate into some very practical goals for education in NorthStar Academy Canada:

Spiritual and Moral Goals

1. To teach the Bible according as God's inspired Word and to develop attitudes of love and respect towards it.
2. To teach the basic doctrines of the Bible commonly accepted by Evangelical Christians
3. To lead each student to a personal relationship with Christ as Savior and Lord
4. To develop a desire to know and obey the will of God as revealed in the Scriptures.
5. To equip students to carry out the will of God daily
6. To impart an understanding of each Christian's place in the church and its worldwide task of evangelism and discipleship and to stimulate the students' involvement in this task
7. To develop the "mind of Christ" towards godliness and sin, and to teach students how to live an overcoming life through exercising of self-restraint and consideration of others
8. To encourage the development of self-discipline and responsibility in students based on respect for and submission to God and God-ordained authority.
9. To help students develop a passion for the truth and to help them develop a Christian world view by integrating life and studies with the Bible.



Personal and Social Goals

1. To help students develop their character and personality based on a proper understanding and acceptance of themselves as unique individuals, created in the image of God, and on the fullest possible development of their own capabilities.
2. To teach students to treat everyone with love and respect since everyone is made in God's image.
3. To encourage students to become contributing members of society who realize their dependence on others and their dependence on Him.
4. To promote an understanding of time as a God-given commodity which is to be used for His glory.
5. To show a Biblical view of life and work, and provide skills needed for developing mature personal and career relationships.
6. To develop godly attitudes toward marriage and the family with the understanding and skills needed to establish a God-honoring home.
7. To impart Biblical attitudes toward material things, and to encourage individual responsibility for using them for God's glory.
8. To help students accurately assess their strengths and weaknesses, recognizing their responsibility to develop their talents fully and use them for the benefits of others.

Academic Goals

1. To promote high academic standards within the potential of the individual as uniquely created by God and to help students realize their full academic potential
2. To help students gain a thorough comprehension and command of the fundamental processes used in communicating with others, such as reading, writing, speaking and listening
3. To develop an understanding of fundamental mathematical concepts and skill in their application to every day life situations
4. To develop creative and critical thinking and the proper use of Biblical criteria for evaluation
5. To teach and encourage the use of good study habits
6. To teach students how to do independent research and to reason logically
7. To motivate students to view education as a lifelong process
8. To promote good citizenship through developing the understanding and appreciation of our Christian and Canadian heritage of responsible freedom, human dignity and Biblical acceptance of authority
9. To discuss current affairs in all fields and to relate them to God's plan for man
10. To produce an understanding and appreciation for God's world, an awareness of man's role in his environment and how to care for and use it properly
11. To promote an appreciation of the fine arts through the development of the students' understanding and personal expression
12. To relate curriculum to real-life situations in the community

Family Goals

1. To cooperate closely with the parents in every phase of the students' development especially as it relates to the school program.
2. To help the parents to understand the school's purpose and program
3. To aid families in Christian growth and to help them develop Christ-centered homes

Profile/Context

NSA is unique in that it does not have a local parent community. Canadian evangelical Christian families are potentially part of the NSA community, regardless of where they live in the world.

While this is a strength in terms of potential, it is also a hurdle because it is difficult to connect with such a broad community.

Canadian families living overseas, who are our primary target for students registering directly with NSA. Although this is a relatively small target market, it is a highly motivated market. For many of these families, NSA is their only option for an acceptable education if children are to live with their parents.

NSA's other primary market is small Koinonia schools. Although students in these schools will be registered through the local school, a number of courses will be delivered for them on-line. Koinonia has been pursuing such an option for over ten years. It will allow smaller Koinonia schools to offer a well-rounded K – 12 program.

NSA supports home schooling families who recognize their responsibility to home school their children. We support this decision and these families.

NSA C will need to begin a trend more than ride a trend. Its success will depend on its ability to provide a high quality, economical program. This will require careful planning and extensive professional development.

Issues and Trends

One significant environmental factor for NSA is the availability of economical internet hardware and software. To make courses available to missionary families who generally acquire computers at the beginning of a 3 – 5 year overseas assignment, NSA is committed to using 5 year old hardware and software.

As two-way satellite internet becomes economical, many more Canadian families overseas will be able to access NSA . Current low speed, high cost internet services require heavy reliance on print materials and limit audio and video communications. Based on the principle of 5 year old technology, we will develop with changes to technology.

Families living in remote areas overseas are also particularly concerned about keeping elementary age children living at home. We are investigating using on-line instruction coupled with using local key adults to provide quality elementary education as well.

We expect the potential market to increase over the next decade. However, we do not expect to remain as the only Canadian evangelical Christian on-line school. Our early entry into this market gives us a temporary edge, which we need to capitalize on quickly. We believe that the internal market in Koinonia, together with a large organizational structure will give us the ability to become a long-term leader in this field.



Priority Areas for Improvement

PROVINCIAL GOAL 1: High Quality Learning Opportunities for All

Outcomes	Measures	Last actual	Target 2008/09	Target 2009/10	Target 2010/011
1. The learning system meets the needs of all learners, society, and the economy.	Parental and school satisfaction with NSA	95%	95%	95%	95%
2. All Albertans can participate in quality Christian learning.	Increase in enrollment	15%	15%	10%	10%
3. The learning system is affordable.	Increase in local enrollment	15%	15%	10%	10%
4. Financial need is not a barrier to learners participating in learning opportunities.	Increase in local enrollment	15%	15%	10%	10%
5. Children at risk have their needs addressed	Number of students in optional strands	8 students	6 students	7 students	8 students
6. Stakeholders agree students are safe at school and learn the importance of caring for others, learning respect for others, and are treated fairly at school.	Parental and school satisfaction with NSA.	95%	95%	95%	95%

Strategies:

- a. Continue to promote learning excellence through the continuous improvement of lessons.
- b. Promotion of RAP
- c. Adding more classes to our non academic strand
- d. Increase funding and professional development opportunities for teachers.

PROVINCIAL GOAL 2: Excellence in Learner Outcomes

Outcomes	Measures	Last actual	Target 2008/09	Target 2009/10	Target 2010/011
1. Learners demonstrate high standards.	Students who achieved standards on grades 6, & 9 Provincial Achievement Tests and grade 12 diploma examinations				
2. Learners complete programs.	Course completion rate	90%	90%	90%	90%
3. Learners are well-prepared for lifelong learning.	Stake holders satisfied with NSA C's ability to offer courses to meet all learners	90%	90%	90%	90%
4. Learners are well prepared for employment.	Employment rates of post-secondary graduates.	na	90%	90%	90%
5. Learners are well prepared for citizenship.	Stake holders satisfied	95%	95%	95%	95%

Strategies:

- a. Promotion of RAP
- b. Enhance accessibility of learning programs for all students.
- c. Provide in-service for teachers regarding Alberta Education Curriculum requirements and best practice in teaching
- d. Use electronic resources to enhance Math learning



NSA’s Yearly Targets for Students “Writing” Provincial Achievement Tests

Grade 6:		Acceptable Excellence	Acceptable Excellence
		Last Actual	Target
Language Arts	NSA	100/0	90/10
	Province	80/20	
Mathematics	NSA	100/0	90/10
	Province	8 18	
Science	NSA	100/0	90/10
	Province	80 26	
Social Studies	NSA	90/10	90/10
	Province	78 22	
Grade 9:			
Language Arts	NSA	100/0	90/10
	Province	78 15	
Mathematics	NSA	90/10	90/10
	Province	68 20	
Science	NSA	90/10	90/10
	Province	69 14	
Social Studies	NSA	92/7	90/11
	Province	71 18	
-			
-			
Overall:	NSA	86/14	90/11
	Province	76.1 18.9	

NSA’S Yearly Targets for Students “Writing” Provincial Diploma Exams

		Last Actual	Target
		Acceptable Excellence	Acceptable Excellence
English 30-1	NSA	100/0	90/10
	Province	89 18	TBD
English 30-2	NSA	100/0	90/10
	Province	89 10	TBD
Social Studies 30	NSA	100/0	90/10
	Province	85 24	TBD
Social Studies 33	NSA	100/0	90/10
	Province	85 18	TBD
Pure Math 30	NSA	100/0	90/10
	Province	81 26	TBD
Applied Math 30	NSA	50/25	90/10
	Province	88 22	TBD
Biology 30	NSA	50/0	90/10
	Province	82 27	TBD
Chemistry 30	NSA	60/20	90/10
	Province	88 33	TBD
Physics 30	NSA	67/0	90/10
	Province	84 28	TBD

PROVINCIAL GOAL 3: Highly Responsive and Responsible School Authority

Outcomes	Measures	Last actual	Target 2008/09	Target 2009/10	Target 2010/011
1. Staff satisfaction will increase.	Increase the average tenure of teachers to an average of two years:	100%	90%	80%	80%
2. Improve results through effective relationships with partners and stakeholders	Percentage of teacher and parents satisfied with parental involvement in decisions about their child's education.	95%	90%	90%	90%
3. Demonstrates leadership and continuous improvement.	Percent of teachers and parents indicating the school has improved Percent of teachers who feel PD opportunities have been effective and available	90%	90%	90%	90%

Strategies:

- a. Increased PD
- b. Have annual teachers PD retreat
- c. Regular Curriculum updates newsletter sent to staff
- d. Meet with parents to set up students schedules



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