

## About Us

Southwood School originated in 1947 and currently has 493 students, 30 teachers, 18 educational assistants, 2 secretaries, 1 library clerk, and 3 custodians.

Our school offers a variety of hands-on and experiential learning opportunities for students. We have focused on providing a variety of learning spaces and experiences that promote creativity, imagination and engagement. These spaces include a Maker Space, an outdoor learning classroom, and our nature playground.

As part of Hanover School Division's Priorities, we have made a strong commitment to improving our pedagogical practices that incorporate technology and the development of community partnerships. We believe this provides a richer and more relevant learning experience for students.

At Southwood School we strive to provide a balanced learning experience for all students that focuses on literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional development.

Above all, the staff of Southwood School recognize the impact that meaningful relationships has on the social, emotional, and academic development of each child.

## Contact Us

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# Southwood School

## Community Report for 2021-22



*Care. Learn. Grow.*

### Planning Priority #1 - Learning Environments/Partnerships

- Students were provided with opportunities and resources so they can be actively involved in classroom and whole-school activities that support collaboration and learning with others. Some of the activities which contributed to this were school clubs, assemblies, seasonal celebrations, a variety of learning trips, and the student learning expo.
- Student well-being and activities that promoted positive mental health choices were a focus. These included Music Therapy, *Zone of Regulation*, *Project 11*, and *Roots of Empathy*. In the spring of 2022, all students participated in planting and caring for young trees on the school playground.
- Communication with parents and guardians was enhanced with the use of Parent Portal, SeeSaw, and Brightarrow. This communication allowed for smooth shifts through various versions of remote and flexible learning. .
- Community partnerships were made to deepen experiences for students. Southwood staff partnered with Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers for lessons which included Indigenous perspectives. Students participated in Terry Fox fundraising, Jump Rope for Heart fundraising for Heart and Stroke Foundation, Pink Day, Student Learning Expo, Truth and Reconciliation Activities including Orange Shirt Day. Students also brought in non-perishable items to support Steinbach's Local Food bank during two fundraisers in the school year.

### Planning Priority #2 - Numeracy

- Southwood staff continued the Numeracy Assessment Project. This project helped direct and pace our teaching of numeracy concepts resulting in better student understanding. Many of the staff also attended specific professional development sessions to enhance methods for teaching number sense and mental math strategies.
- Numeracy support was provided to students and staff throughout the year, filling some of the learning gaps resulting from the past years of shifting learning environments.
- Balanced School Day schedule continued to result in a reduced number of transitions during the school day, provided longer learning blocks and improved the nutritional, physical activity and social needs of the students.

### Planning Priority #3 - Literacy

- Teachers spent significant time throughout the year, exploring and working on developing various methods to address literacy challenges and gaps. Staff analyzed the trends at grade levels - when students were acquiring certain reading skills. As a result, teachers implemented various phonics lessons and activities to their daily literacy schedule.
- In addition to our school-based literacy support teacher, we were able to offer additional literacy support under the direction of the divisional literacy clinician to students and teachers. This has had a significant positive impact on our program.
- Teachers participated in initiating an intensive literacy program to begin in the fall to bring all of our students' reading levels to within grade level range.