

## About Us

Southwood School originated in 1947 and currently has 540 students, 33 teachers, 23 educational assistants, 2 secretaries, 1 learning commons clerk, and 3 custodians.

Two important focal points for Southwood this year include prioritizing literacy and building mental math skills in order to close the gaps that developed in these areas in the past several years. To do this, we also need to increase our students' resilience, responsibility and sense of belonging. We also know that utilizing technology and developing our community partnerships will help students grow as whole people. As well, we include play-based learning, MakerSpace Challenges and lesson planning practices focused on inquiry among other learning practices to enhance the richness of student learning.

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

## Contact Us

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# Southwood School

## Planning Priorities for 2023-2024

*Care. Learn. Grow.*



### Planning Priority #1 - Growth in Literacy for Every Student

All Southwood students will engage in effective, frequent guided reading instruction and "check-ins" with their teachers. This practice is to provide timely feedback to the reader, focusing on the accomplishments and suggestions for the next steps. For 6-8 weeks of the year, students will be supported in their classrooms with additional literacy support teachers conducting reading sessions, planning with the classroom teacher to maximize literacy learning in the classroom and address literacy challenges as they arise.

School wide home reading programs for students will be strengthened and monitored for its effectiveness for increasing literacy at Southwood.

Teachers will participate in data analysis to address literacy challenges and engage in collaborative planning to increase research based interventions to address literacy learning in their classrooms.

All classes will participate in a variety of phonemic awareness and phonics based work during literacy blocks. Literacy team, clinicians, and learning coaches will support literacy training (guided reading, home reading, assessment training and continued review of the new ELA curriculum) including strategic writing and reading instruction.

### Planning Priority #2 - Student Engagement and Citizenship

All students will have the opportunity to engage daily with the Care. Learn. Grow program (school wide prosocial behavior plan) by setting daily goals and recognizing achievement of those goals. Students will understand the benefits of responsibility and citizenship and refer to their classroom contracts and routines. All students will participate in Project 11 lessons and be able to practice the Zones of Regulation.

Students at Southwood will continue to celebrate diversity through cultural celebrations at assemblies and special events and through the daily announcements highlighting cultural days and events. Activities include Celebrating Diversity announcements, STEAM Month, Pink Day, Orange Shirt Day, Terry Fox Run, Literacy and Numeracy Months. Families will be invited in to participate in these events at Assemblies, and other community and parent evenings.

Learning partnerships with community members including parent volunteers will be leveraged to support a variety of curricular objectives and to celebrate the diversity of those in our local and global communities. We will also make connections with our Elders and Knowledge Keepers to help us learn about Indigenous ways of knowing and interacting with our world around us. Teachers will continue their professional learning in this area through book studies, Treaty Training PD and in school professional development.

### Planning Priority #3 - Numeracy

Teachers will collaborate with each other to explore a variety of teaching practices to increase mental math skills and expand flexible thinking in students. Teachers will set short term goals based on the numeracy data for the purpose of targeting specific math skills in student learning activities. Southwood School will continue with the Numeracy Assessment Project, in partnership with the Manitoba Rural Learning Consortium. This project focuses on teaching foundational outcomes and revisits concepts that students do not master. Richer learning tasks will be implemented, using hands on and real world learning experiences to teach numeracy concepts.