



Rocky Christian School

"Learning, Loving, Living for our Lord"

2006/2007 Annual Education Results Report

Submitted by:
Mr. Robert Duiker, Principal
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ROCKY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT

1) **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTABILITY:**

The annual education results report for the Rocky Christian School Society for the 2006-2007 school year was prepared under the direction of the society's Board of Directors in accordance with the responsibilities under the *School Act* & the *Government Accountability Act*. The Rocky Christian School Society Board of Directors is committed to using the results in this report, to the best of our abilities, to improve the outcomes for our students. We will use the results to develop sound strategies for our next three-year education plan to ensure that all our students can acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to be self-reliant, responsible, caring and contributing Christian members of society.

_____ Chairperson

_____ Administrator

_____ Date

2) **FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS**

a) **Vision and Mission**

Our Vision and Mission Statement read as follows:

i) Vision Statement

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the home, church, and school will work together to equip students to live lives that honour and serve God and contribute to society in a positive way.

ii) Mission Statement

Rocky Christian School is an interdenominational community of Christian believers dedicated to developing and pursuing excellence in Christ-centered education.

b) Statement of Beliefs and Objectives

i) PREAMBLE

The Rocky Christian School Society believes that the whole of life must be brought under the authority of the Word of God; that the Lord Jesus Christ is King of the home as well as of the individual life; that schools are complements of the home and therefore must partake of the same character; and that our children are included in the Covenant of Grace.

Therefore, we who are dedicated to this principle have organized a society to establish, support, and maintain a school or schools for the education of our children.

ii) BELIEFS AND OBJECTIVES

Believing that the Lord God, by graciously giving us the scriptures, has revealed to His people certain basic principles intensely relevant to education, we confess:

- (1) LIFE: That human life in its entirety is religion which means that we may, because of Christ, serve God in every area of our life, in obedience, and out of thankfulness. We are, therefore, also required to direct the training of our children in accordance with this statement.
- (2) BIBLE: That the Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God, and we accept:
 - (a) That it enlightens our understanding.
 - (b) That it directs our life and all our activities.
 - (c) That it reveals the origin of man and of all creation.
 - (d) That its truth must form the basis of all curriculum and disciplines taught to our children.
 - (e) That it is the key to knowledge of God, ourselves, and the world.
- (3) GOD AND CREATION: That God the Father has created all things; that He now preserves His creation; that He continues to reveal His power and dominion in the cosmos for Christ's sake. We further profess that the ultimate purpose of creation is to glorify His name.
- (4) SIN: That man, by disobeying God's laws and forsaking His office, separated himself from God and his neighbour, and brought God's curse upon the creation. As a result, fallen man has become blind to the true meaning of life which confronts him in creation and in scripture. Christ died for the atonement of our sin. In order to be justified before God, we must accept Him as Saviour and Lord of our lives.
- (5) CHRIST: That the Christ of the Scriptures, the only begotten Son of God, the Word of God incarnate, reconciles the world to God; redeems our life in its entirety; restores our fellowship with God and our neighbour; and renews our mind to rightly know God, ourselves, and the world in which we live.
- (6) THE HOLY SPIRIT: That the evidence of Christ's presence in our life is the work of the Holy Spirit. Our children, placed in their educational environment, must be made aware that the presence of God the Father, and the saving work of Christ through the working of the Holy Spirit remains with us always. It inspires and enables us to do God's will and to seek His glory in all things.

- (7) **THE KINGDOM OF GOD:** That in God's Kingdom the rule of Jesus Christ over all things is established and, therefore, it makes the acquisition of all knowledge possible and meaningful. Since we must subject every thought in obedience to Christ, we therefore, reject every attempt to withdraw any aspect of life from the divine commandment to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind. We will constantly endeavour to express and apply this kingdom vision in all of learning.
- (8) **MAN:** That man is created in the image of God, who also established a covenantal relationship with us and with our children (through the work of Christ, our Saviour). This bond and promise requires us to reflect the excellence of our Creator and to serve Him in loving obedience.
- (9) **PURPOSE OF EDUCATION:** That the purpose of education at this Society's school is:
- (a) To instill in the child an awareness of God's presence in his life.
 - (b) To provide the child with an understanding of himself as he relates to God, to others, and to the world around him so as to serve the Lord faithfully in all areas.
 - (c) To provide learning experiences suitable to the needs and the abilities of each child.
 - (d) To promote the development of each child to his/her full potential
- (10) **PARENTS:** That God has given parents the responsibility to nurture and educate their children. In order to fulfill part of their educational task, parents should establish Christian schools.
- (11) **THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL:** That the school, established and controlled by an association of Christian believers in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, possesses the freedom to function in the field of education in complete and voluntary submission to Kingship of Christ.

c) Admissions Requirements

In the light of the foregoing perspectives, we declare:

- i) That the Rocky Christian School exists to educate the children of Christian parent(s).
- ii) That the parent(s) must be in basic agreement with the aforementioned Beliefs and Objectives which is By-Law III of the Society.
- iii) The child must be able to benefit from the school's program and not be a dismissal or discipline case from another school.
- iv) The child must be of suitable age and maturity for the grade placement requested. Grade placement will be determined by the administrator and is subject to review in the first six weeks.
- v) Those entering grade one must be six years old by December 31 of the school year applied for.
- vi) No child shall on grounds of race, colour, or national origin be excluded from admission to Rocky Christian School.

3) CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

a) Profile

Rocky Christian School is situated in the town of Rocky Mountain House, a growing town of about 7000 people serving a fairly extensive surrounding rural area. Rocky Mountain House is located on the western edge of agricultural activity and on the eastern edge of forestry activity. The oil and gas industry plays a major role in the area. We are therefore affected by economic swings in these three areas.

The school enrolment at the end of June 2006 was 128. We provide instruction for students in ECS to grade nine using the Alberta Department of Learning curricula and employing only teachers certified to teach in Alberta. The majority of our students are rural residents, transported to school on Wild Rose School Division buses. Rocky Christian School also operates two of its own buses whose routes go beyond the Wild Rose School Division's Rocky bussing area.

Rocky Christian School is a non-denominational school. The families represented by our students attend many different churches in the area. Christ centered education is emphasized. Excellence in achievement based on individual ability levels and training students for a lifetime of discipleship, self-discipline, service, and leadership are goals we strive towards (see the Mission Statement).

We are a member of Prairie Association of Christian Schools. They provide us with Christian curriculum resources and teacher in-servicing. Christian Schools International provides us with medical, long term disability, life insurance, and a retirement plan. We are also a member of the Association of Independent Schools and Colleges in Alberta (AISCA).

Rocky Christian School offers a general program of learning from E.C.S. to Grade 9 as approved by Alberta Education.

The school attempts to give students the knowledge, skills and dedication needed to live a responsible, joyful Christian life. The school stimulates its students to excel in all areas of learning as their ability allows. Along with the core studies, the school provides classes in Art, Home Economics (foods, textiles), Industrial Arts (shop), information technology, band and music. In addition, a fairly extensive extra curricular sports program is offered.

4) HIGHLIGHTS

We are pleased overall with the performance of the 2005/06 school year. Student accomplishments are a reflection of dedicated parents and staff. Projects such as AISI did well to complement our programs. Opportunities for students to serve and go beyond the required expectations are indications that education is happening at Rocky Christian School.

The information provided below is from data gathered through a survey of applicable stakeholders in the autumn of 2006. These results have been applied to this 2005/2006 results report.

Highlights for 2006/07

Funded Programs

1. AISI: In September 2006, we began year one of the third AISI cycle. Our new project has been called the "School Culture Transformation Project." We are pleased to report that students who were previously on the periphery of the life of the student body are being included more often and in more meaningful ways and the student body at large is becoming more engaged in the school as a community of people.
2. ECS: We continue to offer a Kindergarten program that gives children an excellent preparation for full time elementary school education.
3. Home schooling: For families with the time and the conviction to offer children a Christian education in the home setting we offer a home school program. Our home school students participate in some of the activities of the regular day school students. These activities include inclusion on our school sports teams as long as roster spaces are available.
4. Special Education: With the growth of the reputation of our school as a safe and caring environment for students with special needs, interest in our special education program has grown. We are pleased that our school community has been able to meet the requirements of a large number of students with academic and behavioural learning needs.

Provincial Goal One: High Quality Learning Opportunities for All.	
<i>Outcome 1.1: The education system meets the needs of all K-12 students, society and the economy.</i>	
Performance Indicators:	Current Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of parents satisfied with the knowledge level and quality of the education provided at RCS. 	100%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of parents, staff and students satisfied with the opportunity for students to receive a broad program of studies including fine arts, technology, health, and physical education. 	98%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of students and parents who report the school helps improve students' technology integration skills. 	93%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of teachers who enhance learning through the integration of computer technology into teaching. 	78%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of parents who are satisfied that the school's Kindergarten program provides their child with a transition to all aspects of elementary schooling.. 	100%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher, parent and student satisfaction with the accessibility, effectiveness and efficiency of programs and services for students at Rocky Christian School. 	97%
Key Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement surveys to gain information on the degree of satisfaction of parents, students and teachers with the various educational programs and opportunities provided at RCS. Maintain relatively small class size. Ensure Teacher Growth, Supervision and Evaluation procedures are implemented to enrich the quality of teaching at RCS. All staff will be required to participate in both school-wide and at least one out-of-school Professional Development programs to enhance pedagogy throughout the school year, as well as attending the annual Christian Educators Association convention. Make integration of technology into the classroom a matter of priority when making professional development available. Improve learning through effective use of information and communication technology. Continue to maintain an open door policy within the framework of the communication policy. Early Literacy grants will be incorporated into student learning. Continually assess and update curriculum as changes in programs are implemented by Alberta Education, or as needed to enhance programs. 	

<i>Outcome 1.2: Schools provide a safe and caring environment for students</i>	
Performance Indicators:	Current Result
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of parents, staff, and students satisfied with services for student life and student wellness (counselling etc.). 	89%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of parents, staff and students who feel the school is safe, caring and Christian in atmosphere. 	96%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of parents who feel they are getting educational and spiritual value for tuition paid 	100%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher, parent, and student agreement that students learning the importance of caring for others, learning respect for others, and are treated fairly at school. 	92%
Key Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement surveys to gain information on the degree of satisfaction of parents, students and teachers with the safety and care provided at RCS. Maintain relatively small class size. Ensure Teacher Growth, Supervision and Evaluation procedures are implemented to enrich the quality of teaching at RCS. Continue to maintain an open door policy within the framework of the communication policy. AISI grants will focus primarily on enhanced happiness of students. Increase emphasis of the AISI "School Culture Transformation" project A school wellness nurse will continue to support students and their families with counselling as necessary. Continue to employ Student life liaison to initiate activities to enhance joy, gratitude, and shalom among students. 	

<i>Outcome 1.3: Children at risk have their needs addressed through effective programs and supports.</i>	
Performance Indicators:	Current Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentages of teachers, parents, and students who agree that programs for children at risk are easy to access and timely. 	83%
Key Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treat 'at risk' students with dignity and respect Work for continuous improvement in the development and implementation of effective IPPs. Continue to identify at risk students at an early age Increase community awareness of the effectiveness and scope of our services for at risk students. 	

Provincial Goal Two: Excellence in Student Outcomes										
<i>Outcome 2.1:</i> <i>Students Demonstrate High Standards</i>										
Performance Indicator #1: Percentage of students in Grades 3, 6 and 9 who achieved the acceptable standard and the percentages who achieved the standard of excellence on provincial achievement tests										
	Subject	Standard	Actual 2003/04		Actual 2005/06		Actual 2006/07		Target 2007/08	Target 2008/09
			RCS	Province	RCS	Province	RCS	Province	RCS	RCS
Grade 3	Language Arts	Acceptable	89	82	92	81	93	80	89	90
		Excellence	11	15	17	14	67	18	22	23
	Math	Acceptable	88	82	100	81	87	79	89	90
		Excellence	56	27	42	27	47	23	22	23
Grade 6	Language Arts	Acceptable	89	79	78	79	82	80	89	90
		Excellence	22	16	17	16	35	20	22	23
	Math	Acceptable	78	79	83	75	65	73	89	90
		Excellence	33	21	11	15	12	14	22	23
	Science	Acceptable	100	81	89	78	71	75	89	90
		Excellence	44	26	11	28	12	27	22	23
	Social Studies	Acceptable	89	79	89	78	82	77	89	90
		Excellence	33	20	17	23	24	23	22	23
Grade 9	Language Arts	Acceptable	100	78	90	77	73	78	89	90
		Excellence	15	12	20	14	9	15	22	23
	Math	Acceptable	77	66	80	66	73	65	89	90
		Excellence	23	19	70	17	9	18	22	23
	Science	Acceptable	67	68	90	67	64	69	89	90
		Excellence	0	13	10	14	9	15	22	23
	Social Studies	Acceptable	69	73	80	72	64	71	89	90
		Excellence	8	20	10	19	0	19	22	23
Overall (all subjects and grades combined)	Acceptable	84.6	76.7	87.1	75.4	75.4	74.7	89	90	
	Excellence	24.5	18.9	22.5	18.7	22.4	19.2	22	23	
Key Strategies:										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provincial time requirements per subject are met or exceeded. · Maintaining relatively small class sizes. · Continued budgeting for teacher assistants to help meet student learning challenges. · Continue to develop the Early Literacy Program to ensure the success of emergent readers. · Effective programs will be provided for students with special needs. · Continue to support Home school families through monitoring and assisting as needed. 										

<i>Outcome 2.2: Students are well prepared for lifelong learning.</i>	
Performance Indicators:	Current Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentages of teachers and parents satisfied that high school graduates demonstrate the knowledge and skills for lifelong learning. 	100%
Key Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers model lifelong learning in their personal lives by being avid readers and active participants in professional development Teachers are encouraged to pursue advanced degrees Students are continuously presented with the reality that they are in an active process of preparing themselves for a lifetime of Christian service and the spiritual maturation that that entails. 	

<i>Outcome 2.3: Students are well prepared for employment.</i>	
Performance Indicators:	Current Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher and parent agreement that students are taught attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful at work when they finish schooling. 	100%
Key Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers model the character of faithful employees and diligent workers Students are continuously presented with the reality that they are in an active process of preparing themselves for a lifetime of Christian service which extends into whatever workplace they may enter. Students are led through a process of recognizing and utilizing the gifts that God has given them including gifts which enable them for a calling in the world of work Students are taught to do all things as “unto the Lord” 	

<i>Outcome 2.4: Students model characteristics of active citizenship.</i>	
Performance Indicators:	Current Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher, parent and student agreement that students model the characteristics of active citizenship 	94%
Key Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers model active participation as citizens in the various communities to which they belong Students are taught to recognize that, “This is my Father’s World,” and that they are to care for the planet and the cultures that populate it. Students are taught that to be a Canadian is a great blessing from God 	

Provincial Goal Three: Highly Responsive and Responsible Independent School.	
<i>Outcome 3.1: The jurisdiction demonstrates effective working relationships with partners and stakeholders.</i>	
Performance Indicators:	Current Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher and parent satisfaction with parental involvement in decisions about their child's education. 	100%
Key Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued scheduling of semi-annual society meetings. Continued monthly newsletters. Continued "as needed" news bulletins 	

<i>Outcome 3.2: The jurisdiction demonstrates leadership and continuous improvement.</i>	
Performance Indicators:	Current Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentages of teachers and parents indicating that their school has improved or stayed the same in the last three years. 	94%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of teachers who agree that professional development opportunities made available through the school authority are focused on school priorities, effectively address their ongoing professional development needs, and contribute significantly to their professional growth. 	89%
Key Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to survey society members annually. Administrative review to be completed by the Education Committee and the Board. Conduct a school evaluation. Offer early intervention activities. Complete Long Range, Strategic Planning (in progress) 	

Local Goal 'A': Christ-centered education in all areas of school life.	
<i>Outcome A.1: Christian perspective is presented throughout the curriculum.</i>	
Performance Indicators:	Current Results
Percentage of parents satisfied with the Christian perspective in their child's classes.	100%
Key Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire Christian certified teachers. • Maintain daily devotional times with all classes. • Maintain weekly all-school chapels. • Continued emphasis of Christian role modeling by all staff. • Continue practice of students signing behaviour pledge form. • Periodic Christian perspectives courses for all teachers according to policy. • Hold a weekly staff prayer time. 	

Financial Highlights

We increased teacher salaries by 6%

We plan to increase the percentage of total tuition collected.

Highlights of Facility and Capital Plans

We plan to make improvements to our front entry and offices in order to improve lockdown capabilities, better secure the building from unwanted intrusion, make the building appear more welcoming, and to increase office productivity. A capital drive is planned to cover the estimated cost of approximately \$200,000.

Future Challenges

Rocky Christian School presently faces an ominous financial challenge with the Premier's order to discontinue the educational services contract that we have with the Wild Rose School Division. Since the school opened in 1970, transportation to and from school has been provided for by the WRSD which in turn accessed monies through the ministry. Our school already struggles to collect the tuition that we charge from the many struggling families in our school society. The prospect of having to collect more than \$1000 per rider in addition to what we already charge appears impossible to many. A solution to this problem is, by far, our greatest challenge.