

Annual Report 2002-2003  
School District 8  
June, 2003

**Mandate:**

Given clearly defined and high expectations, all children can and want to learn. The mission of School District 8 is to responsibly and cooperatively provide all students with the opportunity for learning, to a measurable standard, through quality instruction in a safe environment.

**Achievements in 2002-2003 (educational):**

- First Steps Tutor Training – Five Tutors trained to deliver First Steps Reading to District 8 teachers
- Implementation of the 90 minute uninterrupted Literacy Hour in elementary schools.
- Grade 3 Writing Challenge-
- In-service for Grade 3 to 5 Health Curriculum
- In-service for Grade 3 to 5 Science Curriculum and instructional resources
- Field Test of “You and Your World”- an integrated approach to teaching Science, Health, Social Studies and Personal Development at K to 2
- An enhanced Professional Math Practices Program was established for teachers of Grades 3 through 5. Forty-five teachers participated.
- The District SPR for Middle Level Science supported by released time provided several in-service programs to teachers of Middle Level Science. Model lessons for several units were developed.
- Math Power Assessment introduced and modeled in Grades 7 through 10.
- Grade 7 Math district-wide math assessment fully implemented in English and French.
- Grade 6 Math assessment piloted in six schools.
- Math 11 implemented in all schools. Teachers met during the year to consult and collaborate on implementation process.
- Math 12 implementation plan organized. HVHS piloted the 12 program. Several in-services have been held for teachers of Math 12.
- Expanded work by Math Mentors in K-11 with support and in-service provided through a variety of activities from individual classrooms, to staff in-service, grade level meetings, focus hours, and district professional development.
- All elementary schools participated in a “Train-the-Trainer” workshop to implement the new Grade 3-5 Health Curriculum
- The District Elementary P.E. Mentor has provided extensive in-service to classroom teachers, concentrating on classroom management techniques
- All Middle School P.E. specialists have been in-serviced on the new Middle School P.E. Curriculum, and received appropriate resources
- Grade 6 and 7 students are participating in Math Assessments that parallel the Provincial Grade 8 Assessment, and will write this on the same day as the Grade 8 Provincial Assessment.

- A Language Arts Assessment tool for Grade 7, developed last year, will be used in the later part of the school year as a preparation for the Grade 8 Provincial Language Arts Assessment to be held in the Fall
- Two Middle School students finished in first and third place in the Provincial Oratorical Competition, held at St. Thomas University
- Guidelines and Standards; Educational Planning for Students with Exceptionalities has been implemented in the District with every student receiving the services of a resource teacher having a Special Education Plan in place.
- A new focus on assisting recent immigrants to Canada to gain a greater mastery of the English Language by hiring graduates from the TESL program.
- In- service teachers at the 9/10 level Let's Live program (a School-Based Suicide Awareness and Intervention Program)
- Trained 48 high school students plus 4 teachers as student leaders for 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens Student Achievement Workshop
- Implemented the program "Responding to Harassment and Intimidation" in High Schools
- Participated in a pilot program for the grade 8 Human Growth and Development curriculum
- In-Serviced teachers grade 3-5 for the new Health curriculum
- Continuation of Literacy/Numeracy- based program for grade 9 students in 2 of the 4 high schools
- Reading assessments were undertaken with all French Immersion students in Grades 1, 2, & 3. This took place in the Fall 2002 and will again in May/June 2003.
- A series of after school meetings for representatives of all the Early Immersion Schools culminating in a January in-service day for District 6 & 8 on literary, guided reading, running records and resources.
- New resources for F.I. literacy distributed to the 5 Early Immersion Schools in the fall (2002) and spring (2003) after in-services.
- F.I. Middle School teachers met over the academic year, prepared and created a web site on process writing for F.I. students. This site provides valuable examples, tips, and guidelines for process writing and useful links related to the subject.
- Meetings on Core French at the Middle School level. District submitted Simonds Middle School and they have been chosen as a pilot site for new Core French Middle School Curriculum and resources this fall (2003).
- Meetings during winter (2003) for Elementary Core French teachers regarding recent new resources and up-coming new curriculum guide. All day in-service on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003. Meeting in August 2003 to review new curriculum guide and resources.
- Grade 7 F.I. math teachers in-service on the Grade 7 math program. Teachers also reviewed and translated District 8 Math Assessment test slated for June 2003. First time assessment is available in French to immersion students.
- In-service and introduction of a new elementary art program, Art Connections 4.
- Institution of a Fine Arts Certificate program for all high schools in the district.
- Pilot of a new grade 6 Music curriculum at Forest Hills.
- Continued development of band and orchestra programs shows an ever increasing standard of musical accomplishment with the correlative demonstration of student

leadership and accomplishment, including academic, athletic as well as musical, for students participating in these ensembles.

- All four D8 high schools participated and received awards at the annual High School Drama Festival in Fredericton.
- Musical productions at St. Malachy's, Saint John High, and Harbour View all show increasing levels of artistic achievement.
- All school trophies at the NB Competitive Festival of Music were awarded to District 8 schools.
- 15 District 8 schools participated in the Sobey's Stars of Christmas CD, with over \$30,000 being earned by District 8 schools.
- All four high schools participated in an art show at the Saint John Art Centre (formerly the ABEC).
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Achievements in 2002-2003 (administrative):

- District Participation in the performance Review Process as External Reviewers
- Two sessions (fall and winter) of the Professional Seminar Series Development and delivery of Curriculum Delivery Day for K to 8 teachers
- The District Leadership Program continues to provide practical information to its participants, many of who have attained or applied for administrative positions.
- Participation in a Review of Student Services in partnership with the Department of Education.
- New format for evaluating Paraprofessionals introduced.
- Twelve Teacher Assistants trained level 1 American Sign Language.
- Numerous initiatives have been under taken in support of Policy 703, Positive Learning Environment: Yes You Can Pamphlet, When Conflict Arises Pamphlet, The Positive Learning Environment Policy (2002 revised), NBTA Discipline and Classroom Management Handbook, continuation of the Joint Provincial Committee On Positive Behavior in Schools
- On going discussion with administrative staff about growth plans during the current school year (met twice with each individual during the school year)
- Mock external school review evaluations at all four high schools
- Continuation of the Beginning Administrators Program
- Implementation of the locally developed Professional Growth Model for educators.
- New and more extensive evaluation procedure for probationary teachers.
- First term-position for administrators reviewed and decided.
- First stage of a revamped transportation system implemented successfully.
- Balanced budget for fiscal year 2002-2003
- Implemented orientation program for all new employees.
- District strategic plan developed.

Partnerships (Continuations and New):

- NBCCSJ – coordination of common curriculum issues and sharing of expertise.
- Career Centre at Simonds High School in partnership with Training Employment and Development, the center will help to address the immediate and long-term needs and

concerns of students and others. It will respond to those needs by providing counselling, consultation, referral, information and training.

- With a number of agencies including FCSS, Mental Health, Saint John Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative (BAPCI), Atlantic Health Science Corporation to introduce HealthNet to three middle schools and one high school in the district.
- With the Atlantic Health Science Corporation the continuation of the Psychiatry Consultation Project.
- Student Services Department continues to forge strong partnerships with Community and Advocacy groups for students with exceptionalities.
- With the NBTA local 0820 Professional Development Committee on the development of a Wellness Day held in August 2002.
- With a number of agencies to promote the “Talk With Me” Early Language Program for preschool children.
- Promote community police connections within our high schools
- Dialogue with Probation officers about school regulations
- With the separation of the D6 & 8 Superintendency, Music Alive, which supported music programs in both districts, was dissolved. District 8 has formed the District 8 Musical Opportunities Organization comprised of parents, teachers, and community members with the mandate to support the musical activities of the entire district through the establishment of scholarship programs, funding and opportunity for private music instruction, assistance with the purchase of instruments, providing extra musical opportunities, such as workshops for students, assisting with trips, and undertaking fund raising to assist the district in providing equipment not ordinarily possible under capital expenditure projects.
- Through the efforts of a number of D8 Art teachers, a NB Visual Art Educators Association has been formed. This is a group of like-minded professionals with the aim of advancing the cause of Art education in New Brunswick through their own level of artistic involvement.

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Priorities for 2002-2003 (educational):

- Implementation of the K-2 initiative in the Quality Learning Agenda
- Acquisition of appropriate French resources to support the Grade 1-2 intervention
- Continued implementation of “You and Your World”
- Implementation of new Math curriculum at Grade 12 level.
- Implementation of year-end assessment in Grade 6 Math.
- Implementation of District-wide assessment in Math 9.
- Continued support and encouragement to schools in formulating strategies to enhance the Comprehensive and Developmental Guidance Program K - 12
- Promote and encourage communities of learning at the High School Level
- Encourage Literacy /Numeracy based programs at grade nine for students in all four high schools
- Differential Instruction
- Learning styles workshops
- Introduction of Music and technology programs at Simonds High School, and Harbour View High School.

- Continuation of the pilot of the new Music curriculum into Grade 7 at Forest Hills.
- Introduction of Art Connections 2, in all D8 elementary schools.
- Continued development of the music program at the Middle School level. Ultimately, this program should also move into Grade 8.
- Continued development and expansion of the instrumental music program at the Middle School level, particularly at Prince Charles, Bayside, and River Valley.
- It is also hoped that an instrumental ensemble will be developed at Harbour View.
- To ensure that the Fine Arts programs continue to engage students in a meaningful way while retaining curricular integrity.
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Priorities for 2002-2003(administrative):

- Continue to enhance the knowledge of elementary school principals in best practices in classroom instruction.
- Continued use of Guidance teams to address behavioural; issues in the schools.
- Establish a position for a Behaviour Consultant to work with teachers, parents and students in the area of behaviour issues. This person will also coordinate the work of the Behaviour Intervention Workers at the K-5 level as well as with Student Psychological Services.
- Continue to actively participate in the Joint Provincial Committee on Positive Learning Environment as well as support these initiatives/ projects and implementation in District 8
- Continuation of partnership ventures to support and enhance the new Career Centre at Simonds High School
- Continued enhancement of the BTIP
- Continued work on partnerships with Community agencies, such as city police, probation officers, etc.
- Support High School Principals in delegating and continuing their educational leadership role.
- Full implementation of the revamped transportation system for the district.