

2026-27 Burnaby School District – Capitol Hill Elementary

Our Story:

Who we are?

Capitol Hill Elementary is a vibrant and inclusive school community, offering a variety of programs to cater to diverse student needs:

- Mainstream school program for grades K-7.
- Elementary alternate program.
- Multi-age Cluster Class for highly able learners in grades 4/5 and 6/7.

Our school staff committed to meeting students where they are and creating learning experiences that enrich their daily lives and educational journeys. Over the past several years, Capitol Hill Elementary has welcomed an increasingly diverse group of learners, strengthening both our community and our learning environment. We are a welcoming and inclusive school where diversity is recognized as a strength. Our students come from a wide range of cultural, linguistic, and lived experiences. This includes learners with Ministry designations, English Language Learners, students with Indigenous ancestry, and those connected to youth care services. Each student and family contributes to the rich fabric of our school. Across our divisions, students bring varied home languages, traditions, and perspectives that shape our collective identity. We are committed to fostering a school culture that is caring, respectful, and safe—where every student and family feels a sense of belonging, connection, and value within our community. As a staff, we learn with and from each other to ensure we meet the needs of all students, helping them feel safe, valued, and connected.

Our Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) plays a vital role in creating opportunities for families to connect and engage with the school community. PAC-hosted events such as movie nights, fundraising initiatives, and the annual pancake breakfast not only bring joy and excitement but also foster a strong sense of belonging among students, parents, and staff. Beyond school-based events, we actively collaborate with community organizations to broaden our impact and provide enriching experiences for students. For example, our partnership with Burnaby North Secondary offers mentorship opportunities for intermediate students, while our work with Big Sisters of BC promotes positive role modeling and personal growth. In addition, our collaboration with the Greater Vancouver Food Bank reflects our commitment to social responsibility and supporting families in need.

What are we doing well?

At Capitol Hill Elementary, we are proud of the meaningful steps we are taking to support student learning and well-being. Here are some of the initiatives that are making a positive impact:

Targeted Reading Assessments and Supports

This year, we collaborated on targeted reading assessment, with a particular emphasis on early literacy in grades K–3. These assessments help us establish a strong baseline to determine phonemic awareness which helped us to develop targeted supports for both individual and small group work.

Collaborative Support in Literacy

Our Grade 1–3 teams have launched a collaborative initiative to support reading development. By forming cross-class reading groups and implementing a tiered approach, we're fostering growth and ensuring students receive the support they need to thrive.

Core Values Initiative

Beginning with our district-wide Pro-D and continuing through our Anti-Racism Working Group, staff have been deeply engaged in conversations about our school's core values. The shared belief that school should be a place where everyone feels safe and experiences a sense of belonging has emerged as a fundamental value. This has led to a renewed understanding of what it means to be a Capitol Hill community member.

We are Safe, Caring, and Respectful. We all belong at Capitol Hill

Student Voice and Perspective

To better understand how students experience safety and belonging, we are inviting classes to participate in a school-wide survey. Their insights will help us strengthen our supportive environment and ensure every student feels seen, heard, and valued.

How do we know?

Kindergarten Literacy Assessments (Acadience Reading)
Development Reading Assessment (DRA)
CASEL Student Surveys
Student Learning Surveys
Classroom Data
FSA Data

Our Focus:

Literacy:

- Students (K-3) will improve their reading accuracy, fluency, and stamina as shown through classroom and school-wide reading assessment data.
- Students (K-7) will use developmentally appropriate reading strategies and skills to make meaning of what is being read as shown through classroom and school-wide assessment data

Social-Emotional Learning:

- To create an inclusive and supportive school environment where every student feels safe, valued, connected, and that they **belong**. We are redefining what it means to be a Capitol Hill community member by living our core values every day in that We are **Safe, Caring, and Respectful. We all belong at Capitol Hill.**

STRATEGIES: (to support Focus)

Strategies to Support Literacy

- Daily guided reading groups for targeted instruction.
- Repeated reading and fluency practice with familiar texts.
- Literacy centers for phonemic awareness, word work, and comprehension.
- Explicit strategy instruction (predicting, questioning, summarizing).
- Cross-curricular reading in science and social studies.
- Regular progress monitoring using running records and school-wide assessments.
- Collaboration with District Staff for Reading Intervention: Partnership with Literacy Support teams to provide tiered interventions for students who need additional help.

Strategies to Support Social-Emotional Learning (Belonging)

- Morning meetings and daily check-ins to build community.
- Core values integration in announcements, assemblies, and classroom norms.
- Student-voice surveys to measure belonging and safety.
- Peer mentorship and buddy activities to foster connection.
- Celebrating diversity through cultural days, Diversity Club and inclusive displays.
- Extracurricular student opportunities: School-wide musical, choir, handbell choir, dance club, tinkering club, lunch time sports/intramurals, lunch time dance parties, student musical livestreams.
- Conflict resolution and restorative practices for respectful problem-solving.
- Staff Professional Development on trauma-informed practices, inclusive language, and positive mental health strategies.
- Family engagement through PAC conversations about district supports and community programs.
- Collaborating with Indigenous Resource Team: Embed Indigenous ways of knowing and cultural teachings to help support our SEL practices.