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PRESS RELEASE

Golden Hills Sees Growth in Student Achievement

Students in the Golden Hills School Division are performing well and are improving in many areas according to the most recent results on the 2013-2014 Provincial Achievement Test and Diploma Examinations.

“We provide students with the tools they need to be successful 21st century learners” said Bevan Daverne, Superintendent of Schools. “This is made possible by the partnership of teachers, support staff, and parents through their commitment and dedication to student learning”.

In Golden Hills School Division, the percentage of students achieving the Acceptable Standard improved over the previous year in two of the ten Achievement tests from grades 3, 6, and 9. The percentage of students achieving the Standard of Excellence improved over the previous year in four of the ten Achievement Tests. Grade 3 English Language Arts and Math were both above the Provincial average for the number of students achieving the acceptable standard. Furthermore, grade 3 Math, grade 6 Science, grade 9 English Language Arts, Social and Science achieved above provincial average in the Standard of Excellence.

Golden Hills saw increases in the number of students achieving Acceptable Standard over the previous year in four of the nine diploma courses (English 30-1, English 30-2, Biology 30, and Social 30-2). Golden Hills’ students exceeded the provincial Standard of Excellent benchmark of 15% in four of the nine diploma courses (Biology 30, Chemistry 30, Physics 30, and Math 30-1). There were also increases over the previous year in the number of students achieving the Standard of Excellence in four of the nine diploma courses (English 30-1, English 30-2, Social 30-2, and Math 30-2).

“We are facilitating students in becoming strong critical thinkers, problem solvers, innovators and creative doers while ensuring foundational skills in literacy and numeracy. Our teachers are using high yield strategic instructional practices that improve student learning.” Dr. Kandace Jordan, Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Services. “Our investment in professional development and teacher collaboration has supported the development of teaching practices that best enhance student learning”

The Provincial Achievement and Diploma Examination results are measured in the Provincial Accountability Pillar. Other indicators include dropout rates, high school completion, post-secondary transition rates and a variety of stakeholder satisfaction measures.

Principals will communicate their school's results, along with important contextual information, to parents at School Council meetings and Annual Educational Plan and Results Report which will be posted on their school's website by November 30.

The Board of Trustees reviewed the school division results in accordance with the provincially developed protocols. "The Board has reviewed the 2013/2014 provincial testing results for the diploma exam and provincial achievement test as presented in the annual monitoring report" said Dave Price. The system result graphs and multi-year reports were presented. The patterns and trends were discussed along with the actions moving forward. The School board appreciates the work schools have been focused on including using best practices to increase student learning and providing ideal learning opportunities for all students. I encourage parents to attend the School Council meeting where principals review the results and discuss the school's annual education plan."

Further information about these provincial tests can be found at:

<http://education.alberta.ca/parents/resources.aspx>

For Further information, please contact Bevan Daverne, Superintendent of Schools.