



SCHOOL: Forest Park Elementary

YEAR: 2024-25

PRINCIPAL: David Cooper

OUR SCHOOL

Forest Park Elementary School is a Kindergarten to Grade 7 school with a population of 394 students. For this 2024-2025 school year our students will be organized into 18 divisions.

Our families come from a range of socioeconomic backgrounds and we have seen an increase of families who are dealing with poverty and young children who are vulnerable based on Kindergarten EDI scores. Our community is ethnically diverse, and we celebrate and honour different cultures throughout the year. We acknowledge that we live, work, learn and play on the unceded and traditional territories of the Snuneymuxw peoples.

Our ethos is to develop a strong sense of community and belonging with our students, families, and staff. As a team, everyone at Forest Park works to educate the whole child knowing that children need to develop academic skills, and also understand how they learn best, how they can regulate emotionally to support their learning, and how they can identify and meet their unique needs.

OUR SCHOOL GOALS

Student Success

Increase numeracy success rate for all students

To improve student number sense efficiency and confidence in problem solving and math facts with a focus on developing number sense.

Select a Board Goal

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OUR CELEBRATION STORY

In 2023-2024 staff began to explore new ways to approach math in the classroom. Time was spent at professional development days and staff meetings learning new strategies and resources.

Feedback from teachers was that many of the new initiatives created more engagement from students.

The following are two stories of success in numeracy during the 2023-2024 school year.

Story #1:

I had the privilege of helping a student overcome her struggles with math by introducing her to innovative learning strategies. Together, we explored problem-solving on vertical surfaces, which encouraged her to think visually and engage more actively. I also fostered collaboration with her peers, creating a supportive environment where she could exchange ideas and learn from others. By guiding her to take focused, meaningful notes, she gained a clearer understanding of key concepts. Over time, her confidence and skills improved dramatically, and she began to exceed her own expectations in math. Seeing her pride in her accomplishments was an incredible reminder of the power of creative teaching and persistence.

Story #2:

Over the past 18 months, I have refined my approach to teaching mathematics to my Grade 6/7 students. As part of this shift, I have incorporated "Esti-Math" into our morning routine three times per week. Each lesson begins with presenting an image featuring various items, such as marbles, erasers, or rocks. Students are invited to apply their prior knowledge to make thoughtful and logical estimates about the number of items shown. Depending on the grade level, they are then guided through a series of five clues to refine their estimates. While this activity appears straightforward, it has proven highly effective in engaging students across all ability levels in mathematical reasoning. Advanced learners are encouraged to share their thought processes on the board, fostering a collaborative learning environment where peers struggling with the concepts can learn from these shared insights. Since adopting this approach, I have observed a notable increase in student engagement and enthusiasm, as they begin to see mathematics as an integral and enjoyable part of their daily routine.

In addition to incorporating Esti-Math, I have introduced play-based learning into my mathematics instruction. My classroom features a variety of bins designed to support the reinforcement of basic math facts and the development of number sense. Students are highly engaged in these interactive activities and frequently express that it feels more like play than traditional math learning. After completing their math station activities, students transition to writing in their math journals. They are encouraged to reflect on their experiences by describing them through both written explanations and illustrations. This process not only deepens their understanding but also fosters their ability to communicate mathematical ideas effectively.