



# Medicine Hat Public School Division

*Developing Tomorrow's Citizens Through Improved  
Learning, Living and Relationships*

Alexandra Middle School



## Provincial Achievement Test Summary Report

November 2024

### Division Comments:

This year marked the third year of reportable data since the 2020-2021 school year. Our data analysis includes the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 Provincial Achievement Test results. The school's 2024 results are compared to the school's 2022 – 2024 3 Year Rolling Average.

It is important to note a few key items:

- Participation in the Provincial Achievement Tests was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic from 2019/20 to 2021/22. School years 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 are not included in the rolling 3-year average. Caution should be used when interpreting trends over time.
- Security breaches occurred over the last few days of the 2021-22 PAT administration window. To maintain the validity and comparability of provincial results, students most likely impacted by these security breaches have been excluded from the provincial cohort. However, all students have been included in school and school authority reporting and, therefore, caution should be exercised when interpreting these results.
- Participation in the Provincial Achievement Tests was impacted by the fires in 2022/23 and 2023/24. Caution should be used when interpreting trends over time for the province and those school authorities affected by these events.

### School Comments:

#### General Notes

In 2024 Alexandra Middle School had an average of 110 students writing mainstream core tests and 18 students writing Knowledge and Employability tests. Approximately 17% of grade 9 students were excused from writing the PATs.

PAT data has been reviewed by school administrators; this review was facilitated by the school division leadership team; initial data was then presented to the school-based leadership team. As a leadership team a process was developed to engage AMS teachers to review data, reflect, and to identify key curricular outcomes and progressions from grades 7 to 9 that impact student learning. A key component of presenting the PAT data to teachers was that the PAT reflects our work as a school teaching team, PAT data is not attributed to just our grade 9 students and teachers. Student success reflects the student learning experience from K-9.

#### Strategic Learning Plan 2022-Current

Alexandra Middle School has been leveraging multiple whole school approaches to positively impact our Optimal Learning Environment and student success, not only the grade 9 PAT results but also to support student transition and success in high school. These approaches include *outcomes-based assessment*, creating clarity between curricular outcomes, assessment, and reporting. Students receive instruction aligned with curriculum progressions from grade 7 to 9. Teachers leverage consistent feedback routines to provide students with an authentic assessment experience that includes students in the process as assessment capable learners. *Explicit Literacy Instruction* is more than the ability to read and write. It

involves the knowledge, skills, and abilities -the competencies - that enable individuals to think critically, communicate effectively, deal with change and solve problems in a variety of contexts such as PATs. According to research, the ability of teachers to deliver effective reading instruction is the most powerful factor in determining student academic success. As PAT success relies heavily on the student's ability to interpret a significant amount of information, we strive to create a literacy-rich environment blended with instruction and assessment. Teachers focus on background knowledge building and vocabulary, leverage small group instruction, and incorporate assessments that are skill based to identify areas for improvement and intervention. Data gathered about student learning from both outcomes-based assessment and explicit literacy instruction were integral in our decision to schedule a *Knowledge and Employability* stream for our grade 9 students in the 2023-2024 school year. Students enrolled in grade 9 Knowledge and Employability for their core classes had an opportunity to be enrolled in a smaller class size that was paced to provide learning opportunities that 'filled the learning gap' that most likely opened during their Covid years school experience.

### **Celebrations**

In all core subject areas, we improved in student achievement at the standard of Acceptable and/or Excellence. English Language Arts and Social Studies data demonstrated significant growth in both standards categories, as well as performing above the school division results. Science data demonstrated growth in the Acceptable standard, also above the Division data.

The implementation of a grade 9 Knowledge and Employability stream is also a celebration. Our goal in creating this student cohort was to provide a reduced class size environment that focused on essential student skill development: literacy, numeracy, study skills, and executive functioning. By focusing on these learning goals and providing students an opportunity to rediscover success in school we hope to positively impact high school success and graduation rates. A residual impact is on PAT data, we see the celebrations for students writing the K & E PATs, but we also get more accurate school data by supporting students that would generally not achieve at the acceptable standard in an appropriate learning environment.

### **Plan for Growth**

After reflecting on PAT data teachers have made a commitment to continue to instruct students in each curricular areas in specific background knowledge and deeper vocabulary understanding. For example, our science department identified specific 'Skill' questions that students were not successful on, however in class students demonstrated a high level of understanding related to the learning outcome. The PAT questions had specific assessment language and curricular vocabulary that had to be understood to be successful. Our department teams are also identifying essential outcomes and essential skills that progress from grade 7 to 9, by identifying these key progressions teachers can work as core teams to impact student success, providing focused instruction and assessment throughout the student learning experience at AMS. To support subject area improvement and collective efficacy, core teacher instructional roles have been reorganized this school year. Teachers are now instructing in one core subject area, but at multiple grad levels. This will improve teacher understanding of curricular progressions and deepen teacher team collaboration and planning.



## PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

| Subject    | ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 9 |             |             |                |             |             |                |             |             |                |
|------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
|            | Alberta                 |             |             | Med Hat Public |             |             | School Results |             |             |                |
| Standard   | 22-24 Avg.              | 2023 Result | 2024 Result | 22-24 Avg.     | 2023 Result | 2024 Result | 22-24 Avg.     | 2023 Result | 2024 Result | +/- 22-24 Avg. |
| Acceptable | 70.4                    | 71.4        | 69.5        | 62.6           | 62.3        | 62.9        | 60.0           | 55.4        | 64.6        | +4.6           |
| Excellence | 12.6                    | 13.4        | 11.8        | 9.8            | 10.9        | 8.7         | 7.8            | 7.2         | 8.3         | +0.5           |

| Subject    | MATHEMATICS 9 |             |             |                |             |             |                |             |             |                |
|------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
|            | Alberta       |             |             | Med Hat Public |             |             | School Results |             |             |                |
| Standard   | 22-24 Avg.    | 2023 Result | 2024 Result | 22-24 Avg.     | 2023 Result | 2024 Result | 22-24 Avg.     | 2023 Result | 2024 Result | +/- 22-24 Avg. |
| Acceptable | 53.5          | 53.2        | 51.4        | 40.3           | 39.8        | 38.4        | 33.5           | 34.8        | 32.2        | -1.3           |
| Excellence | 13.7          | 13.0        | 13.7        | 6.5            | 7.1         | 5.8         | 5.3            | 5.1         | 5.6         | +0.3           |

| Subject    | SCIENCE 9  |             |             |                |             |             |                |             |             |                |
|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
|            | Alberta    |             |             | Med Hat Public |             |             | School Results |             |             |                |
| Standard   | 22-24 Avg. | 2023 Result | 2024 Result | 22-24 Avg.     | 2023 Result | 2024 Result | 22-24 Avg.     | 2023 Result | 2024 Result | +/- 22-24 Avg. |
| Acceptable | 66.9       | 65.5        | 66.8        | 61.5           | 59.7        | 61.7        | 58.6           | 55.4        | 61.8        | +3.2           |
| Excellence | 20.5       | 20.1        | 20.9        | 11.9           | 13.4        | 10.3        | 8.8            | 9.4         | 8.3         | -0.5           |

| Subject    | SOCIAL STUDIES 9 |             |             |                |             |             |                |             |             |                |
|------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
|            | Alberta          |             |             | Med Hat Public |             |             | School Results |             |             |                |
| Standard   | 22-24 Avg.       | 2023 Result | 2024 Result | 22-24 Avg.     | 2023 Result | 2024 Result | 22-24 Avg.     | 2023 Result | 2024 Result | +/- 22-24 Avg. |
| Acceptable | 59.4             | 57.6        | 60.0        | 48.4           | 46.9        | 49.9        | 49.2           | 46.4        | 52.1        | +2.9           |
| Excellence | 15.8             | 15.9        | 15.9        | 8.0            | 10.0        | 6.3         | 6.0            | 5.8         | 6.3         | +0.3           |

| Subject    | K & E ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 9 |             |             |                |             |             |                |             |             |                      |
|------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|
|            | Alberta                       |             |             | Med Hat Public |             |             | School Results |             |             |                      |
| Standard   | 22-24 Avg.                    | 2023 Result | 2024 Result | 22-24 Avg.     | 2023 Result | 2024 Result | 22-24 Avg.     | 2023 Result | 2024 Result | +/- 2024 Prov Result |
| Acceptable | 49.9                          | 50.2        | 49.6        | N/A            | N/A         | 55.3        | N/A            | N/A         | 66.7        | +17.1                |
| Excellence | 5.6                           | 5.7         | 5.6         | N/A            | N/A         | 7.9         | N/A            | N/A         | 9.5         | +3.9                 |

| Subject    | K & E Math 9 |             |             |                |             |             |                |             |             |                      |
|------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|
|            | Alberta      |             |             | Med Hat Public |             |             | School Results |             |             |                      |
| Standard   | 22-24 Avg.   | 2023 Result | 2024 Result | 22-24 Avg.     | 2023 Result | 2024 Result | 22-24 Avg.     | 2023 Result | 2024 Result | +/- 2024 Prov Result |
| Acceptable | 52.4         | 52.7        | 52.2        | 38.0           | 25.0        | 51.1        | N/A            | N/A         | 50.0        | -2.2                 |
| Excellence | 10.6         | 11.3        | 9.9         | 8.4            | 8.3         | 8.5         | N/A            | N/A         | 9.1         | -0.8                 |

| Subject    | K & E Science 9 |             |             |                |             |             |                |             |             |                      |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|
|            | Alberta         |             |             | Med Hat Public |             |             | School Results |             |             |                      |
| Standard   | 22-24 Avg.      | 2023 Result | 2024 Result | 22-24 Avg.     | 2023 Result | 2024 Result | 22-24 Avg.     | 2023 Result | 2024 Result | +/- 2024 Prov Result |
| Acceptable | 52.6            | 53.1        | 52.3        | N/A            | N/A         | 57.1        | N/A            | N/A         | 57.1        | +4.8                 |
| Excellence | 9.9             | 11.1        | 9.0         | N/A            | N/A         | 11.9        | N/A            | N/A         | 4.8         | -4.2                 |

| Subject | K & E Social Studies 9 |  |  |                |  |  |                |  |  |  |
|---------|------------------------|--|--|----------------|--|--|----------------|--|--|--|
|         | Alberta                |  |  | Med Hat Public |  |  | School Results |  |  |  |

| Standard   | 22-24<br>Avg. | 2023<br>Result | <b>2024<br/>Result</b> | 22-24<br>Avg. | 2023<br>Result | <b>2024<br/>Result</b> | 22-24<br>Avg. | 2023<br>Result | <b>2024<br/>Result</b> | +/-<br>2024 Prov<br>Result |
|------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Acceptable | 50.0          | 49.6           | 50.4                   | N/A           | N/A            | 59.0                   | N/A           | N/A            | 66.7                   | +16.3                      |
| Excellence | 10.9          | 10.6           | 11.3                   | N/A           | N/A            | 30.8                   | N/A           | N/A            | 42.9                   | +31.6                      |