

August 29, 2022

Dear parents, guardians, community members and students,

Welcome back to a new school year! Aboriginal Education (ABED) supplemental services of School District No.8 are designed at the school, aligned with the district's Strategic Plan, to support the success of our Aboriginal students (Status First Nations and Non-status, Metis, Inuit), supporting pathways to graduation from Kindergarten to grade 12. We are looking forward to a great year, working together toward Reconciliation and equity for all learners.

ABED supplemental supports are designed through the Aboriginal Education Focus Areas:

- Hold high hopes and expectations for all students.
- Provide opportunities to share stories of Aboriginal history, culture, and diversity: "The truth about stories, is that is all we are." T. King
- Aboriginal students, families, and communities guide Truth before Reconciliation.
- Nurture holistic Aboriginal resilience and brilliance through belonging, pride, identity.

Full [ABED Focus Area Document](#). This Aboriginal Education Focus Areas document represents the results of community consultations throughout the district from 2018 to 2022, as a continuation of the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement process and history. This document was designed in consultation with as many Aboriginal voices as possible to help us move forward with pathways to success for Aboriginal students. Fun fact: the district self-identified Aboriginal student population is 20% of all students!

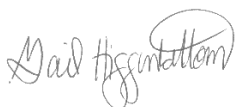
The ABED programs vary from school to school but may include traditional cultural teachings, field trips, land based learning, grad planning, scholarship support, academic support, and Elder teachings. To view our programs and services offered, please visit the District Aboriginal Education Department website at: <https://aboriginal.sd8.bc.ca>.

We post regularly on our website, including weekly blogs, so take some time to learn about the incredible, supplemental programming happening at schools! The ABED staff are an incredible group of kind, respectful, and caring adults!

We are looking forward to a year of support, awareness, active learning, and community! Together, we are stronger. Take care as we transition from sleep in's, to end-of-summer-sniffles, to packing lunches, and organizing after-school play dates.

Please be in touch at any time.

With respect,



Gail Higginbottom  
District Principal, Aboriginal Education

