



Annual Operating Plan Community – 2019-20

We will foster and celebrate inclusive school communities to enhance the learning experiences of all students.

Goal: Facilitate opportunities for the use of strategies to encourage and support family involvement in our schools and learning at home.

Supporting Strategies for Family Involvement (Responsibility: B. Blancher and K. Newhouse)

Strategies (What will we do?)	<p>Strengthen the connections between home and school to support family involvement in our schools and learning at home.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support awareness of and accessibility to the new PowerSchool Parent Portal through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications Plan • Promotion of information access through the Portal • Gathering feedback on the usage of the Portal • Work with the Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee (GEPIC) for input 2. Ensure that learning resources and facilities are accessible to our community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with schools to identify needs for accessible resources that support learning and engagement • In partnership with schools and GEPIC develop a process for communicating the Board's willingness to provide accessible access
Evidence of Progress (How well did we do it?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of families accessing the Parent Portal • Feedback from families on their Portal experience • Resources and facilities are accessible as required
Status (Is anyone better off? How do we know?)	<p>Parent Portal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Collaborative Professionalism session was held with union leaders on October 17, 2019 (as follow-up to an initial session on the Parent Portal held October 5, 2018) to discuss the move to a single platform for communication with parents • A presentation on the Portal and the use of the Bright Space platform took place with union leaders on January 9, 2020 • Trustees were provided with an overview of Brightspace and its connections to the Parent Portal at the March 9, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting • Messaging regarding the Parent Portal has been on the Grand Erie website since the fall and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the platform • How to access the Portal • How to create an account and passwords • How to navigate through the Portal

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on Bright Space • Packages for parents are distributed through the classroom teacher • Roll-out was not complete this year due to job action • An intended survey for families was postponed to 2020-21 <p>Accessibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Principal Leader for Elementary Program led a group this year to review accessible formats in school libraries • Grand Erie has connected with a provincial committee to keep apprised of developments in this area and to share best practice • Information on the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) has been shared with school administrators – Grand Erie educators can sign out materials on behalf of their students with print disabilities (including comprehension impairment such as dyslexia, and visual disabilities) and can assist student registration for their own CELA account • Information on AERO – Alternative Education Resource for Ontario – free of charge to elementary and secondary schools – all fiction and non-fiction materials in digital format/braille/large print by downloading • The CELA and AERO information has been stored in 3 locations for all stakeholders to access – the Grand Erie Staff Portal and Virtual Learning Environment in addition to information on each Elementary and Secondary school Library home page in Destiny • Other information shared and stored includes: GEDSB Digital Supported Resources (e.g., Kurzweil, Word Q, and Microsoft Tools) • Grand Erie has partnered with the Rick Hanson Foundation School Program which provides lessons for students Kindergarten to Grade 12 tied to the Ontario curriculum promoting the inclusion of all learners in all aspects of school life – these materials support ways of re-thinking barriers to inclusion
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