



2022 Assurance Framework and Education Plan



Our Mission Statement

NorthStar Academy utilizes both traditional learning and innovative technology to deliver excellent Christian Education experiences. We partner with families to guide students in the development of a Biblical worldview that will forever shape their lives.



School Profile

NorthStar Academy is an alternate status, Grade 1 to 12 school within the Golden Hills School Division. With our mission to provide exemplary Christian education for students at home and abroad, NorthStar Academy partners with parents to offer students a quality educational program within a rich and supportive community that honours Christ as Lord.

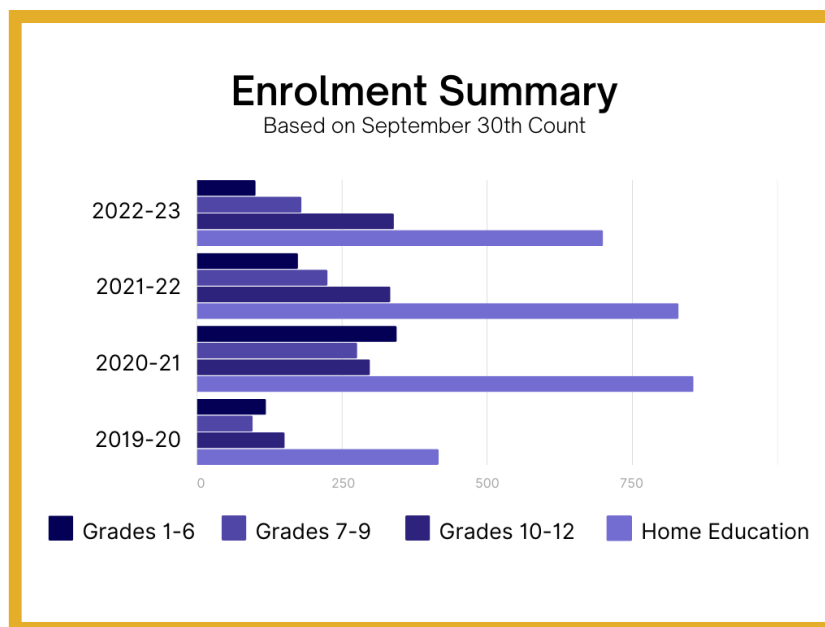
Established in 2001, NorthStar Academy has a history of excellent Evangelical Christian education. Currently home to 1400 students, NorthStar Academy offers a dynamic learning environment with multiple program option. This allows students and their families to choose a program specifically designed to meet their individual educational goals. Our Biblically integrated online, and print-based programs are teacher-directed and written to meet the Alberta Learning outcomes. While our home education and shared-responsibility programs provides parents greater opportunities to support their student’s unique learning needs.

Christ-Centered ~ Learner Focused ~ Flexible ~ Community



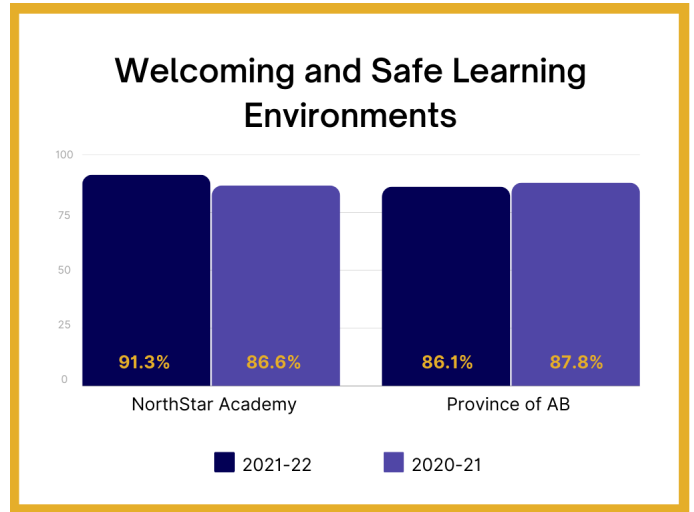
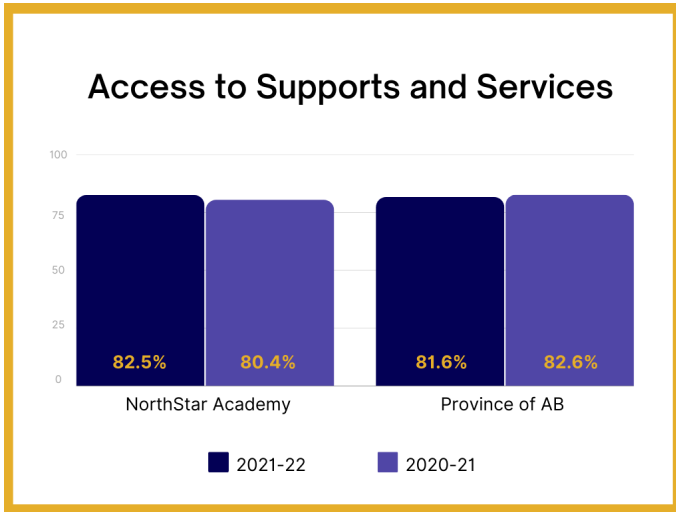
Trends and Opportunities

Coming out of COVID, alternative program options continue to increase in popularity. Having experienced a peak population of 1800 students during the 2020/21 academic year, NorthStar continues to see enrolment numbers that are double those that prior to the pandemic. We are now consistently providing anywhere learning to 1400 students.

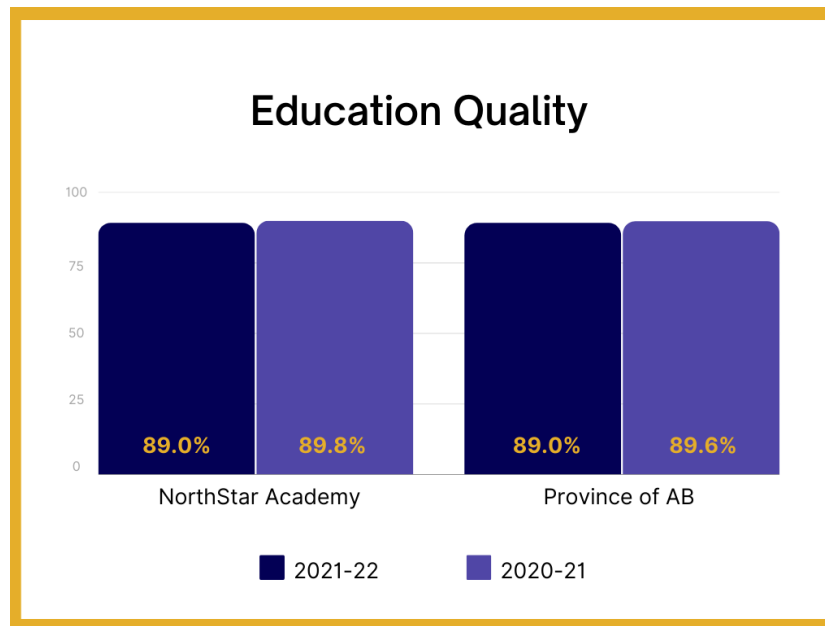


Although we have seen a decrease in numbers within our elementary grades, as COVID fears lessen and students and families look to reconnect with in-person learning, our high school enrolments continue to grow. COVID introduced students in the upper grades to new ways of learning. Recognizing this growing trend, NorthStar Academy has established a new partnership program that offers non-primary high school credits to other community and Christian schools. Currently, we enjoy four such partnerships.

With our enrolment growth, NorthStar has also experienced a continuous increase in the number of students with identified learning needs. We are also seeing at all grade levels, an increase in the number of students experiencing challenges around mental health, anxiety and motivation. To support these students and the growing diversification of needs, North Star Academy has established a Collaborative Response model for their Learning Supports program. This approach has allowed our teachers and Learning Supports team to better coordinated and provide targeted accommodations that maximize all level of supports including those provided by our parents, school division and local communities.



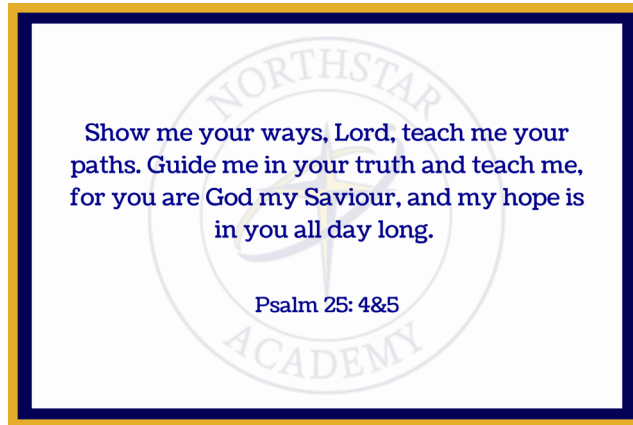
However, despite our enrollment growth and the diversification of our students’ learning needs, NorthStar continues to prioritize quality education. Our teachers work hard to balance the regular demands of classroom teaching with the individual needs of their students. In our current course re-design process, we continue to prioritize powerful learning opportunities that allow students to develop deep understanding and that helps them become critical, Biblical thinkers. Building off our previous year’s online learning essential elements research and tapping into our school division’s professional development opportunities, we are also working with Katie White to create more meaningful course assessments and descriptive feedback.



Goals and Strategies

This year our school’s theme verse is Psalm 25:4&5.

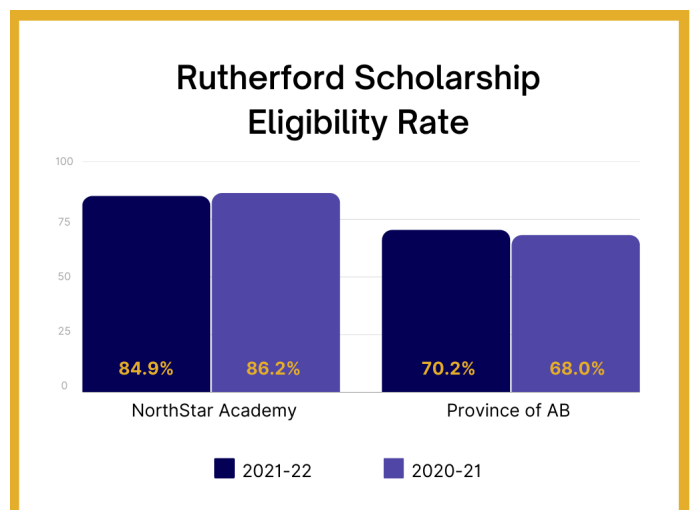
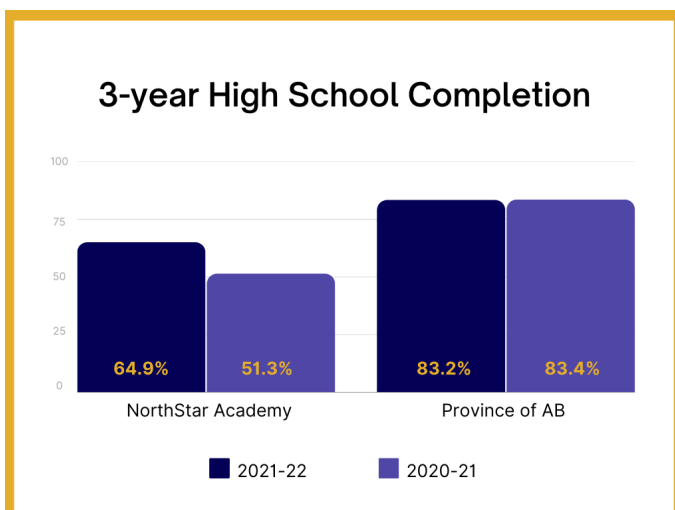
In identifying our schools’ goals and strategies for the next few years, it is our priority to provide our students with exemplary Christian education that will guide them in the development of a Biblical worldview that will forever shape their lives.



Goal #1 - Every student is successful.

Outcome: Students achieve student learning outcomes

As Diploma exams and provincial achievement tests continue to return to normal operations, we look forward to receiving more specific data on our students’ achievement.



Priorities for Improvement:

- Re-develop our courses with a focus on improving student understanding and developing critical, Biblical thinkers. This will coincide with the implementation of Alberta's new grade 1 to 6 curriculum, and a re-evaluation of our print-based program and its resources.
- Improve our high school course and school completion rates.
- Ensure that all students achieve a minimum of acceptable standard on both the PATs and diploma exams.
- Increase the number of students who achieve the standard of excellence on both the PATs and diploma exams.

Strategies:

- Teachers will prioritize the provision of ongoing descriptive feedback to students and use this feedback to make appropriate instructional adjustments.
- Teachers and school administrators will re-evaluate and explore new ways to build a greater sense of belonging within our school community. Current strategies include:
 - ◇ Grade level homerooms with live Google Meets
 - ◇ Virtual hallways and You've Been Framed boards
 - ◇ Celebration days and events
 - ◇ Monthly highlight reel
 - ◇ Activity Days program which includes field trips, learning clusters, and workshops
 - ◇ High School limitless program
 - ◇ Moodle Grad cafe
- Teachers, in coordination with NorthStar's technology facilitator and support staff, will utilize our online course design checklist and online learning essential elements rubric to improve our online course design.
- Grade 1 to 6 teachers will participate in Golden Hill's new curriculum professional development opportunities and work collaboratively with their grade level groups to re-design their print-based resource courses.
- Teachers and school administrators will review provincial and school-based achievement data to identify areas of need and improve instruction accordingly.

- Teachers, school administrators, and NorthStar’s learning supports team will provide regular feedback to parents regarding their student's progress and actively work with them to support growth and learning success.
- NorthStar’s student learning coach will provide one-on-one and small group instruction to students identified with specific learning and executive functioning needs.



Outcome: First Nations, Métis and Inuit students are successful.

NorthStar currently has 61 identified First Nation, Métis and Inuit students. We are also blessed to have, Kimberley Brown, a Métis Knowledge Keeper and member of the Alberta Métis Education Council on staff.

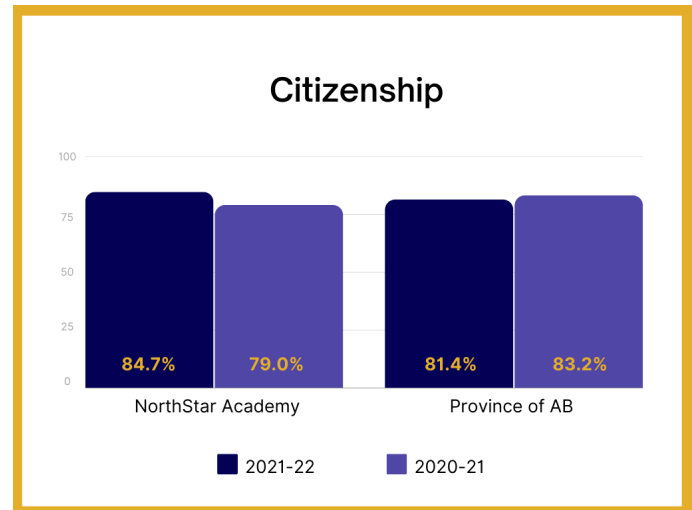
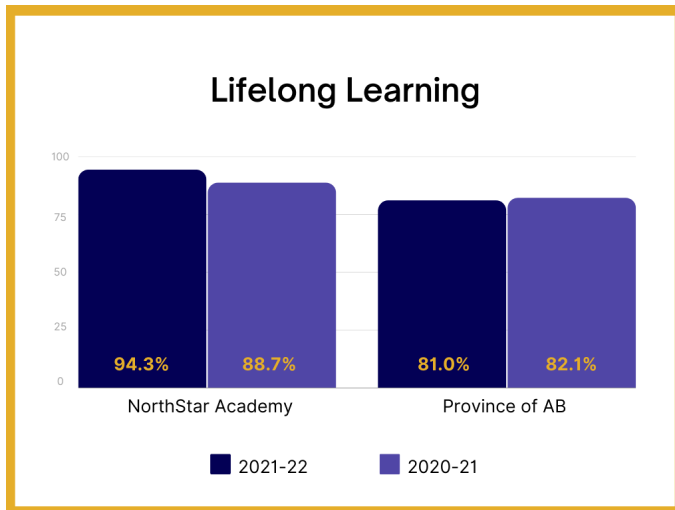
Priorities for Improvement:

- Continue to develop our school community's knowledge and understanding of First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture, history, and contributions.
- Ensure that our First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students experience a strong sense of belonging within our school community.

Strategies:

- NorthStar's First Nation, Métis and Inuit liaison will connect with our First Nation, Métis and Inuit students and their families to identify how we can support their learning.
- School administrators will provide opportunities for our First Nation, Métis and Inuit liaison to facilitate a variety of professional development activities. Current strategies include:
 - ◇ Kookum's Korner, a virtual discussion board
 - ◇ *Five Little Indians* by Michelle Good book club
 - ◇ First Nations, Métis and Inuit teachings at staff meetings
- Teachers will include First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture, history and contributions in their course design.
- NorthStar will honour the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, Métis week, and Indigenous Veterans Day through various school events and classroom activities.
- Activity Days program will include opportunities for students to develop their knowledge and understanding of First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture, history, and contributions.

Outcome: Students are prepared for life after high school.



Priorities for Improvement:

- Ensure that all students are developing critical, Biblical thinking skills that will help them become lifelong learners.
- Ensure that all students are developing successful learning skills and work habits.
- Increase the opportunities for students to connect and contribute to our school community, as well as their local community.

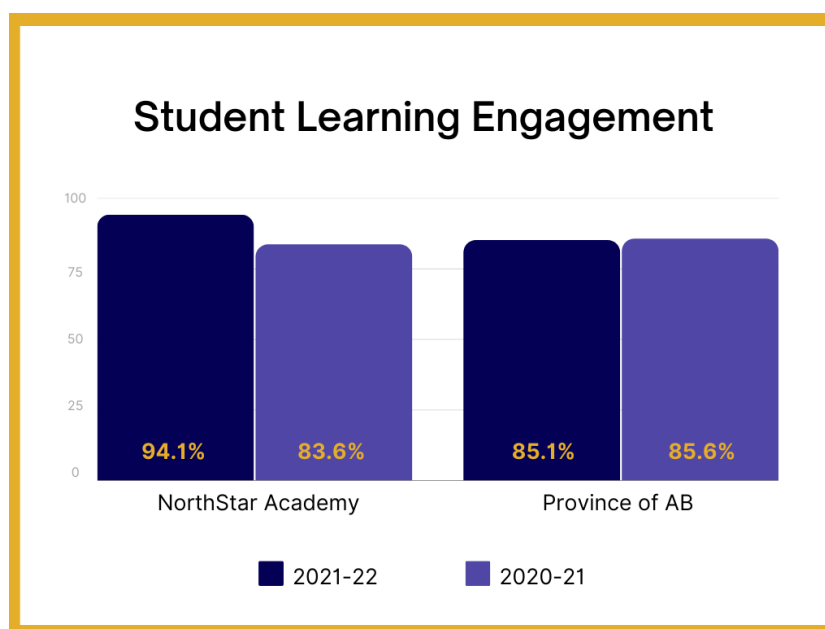
Strategies:

- School administrators will provide ongoing professional development opportunities in the areas of Biblical integration, assessment, and critical thinking.
- Teachers will prioritize the integration of a Biblical worldview into their course instruction and assessments.
- Teachers will add community connection opportunities into their course instruction and assessments.
- Teachers and school administrators will evaluate and explore how to improve NorthStar's new homeroom and go-to-educator program.

- Students, with support of their homeroom teacher, will complete Learn Moodle, a course designed to teach students how to be a successful online learner.
- Teachers along with NorthStar’s Activity Day coordinator and school administrators will identify how to integrate our school’s Activity day program more fully into our academic program.
- NorthStar’s student learning coach will provide one-on-one and small group instruction to students identified with specific learning and executive functioning needs.
- Teachers and school administrators will provide greater opportunities for student-led initiatives and leadership development.
- NorthStar’s Bible program will continue to actively encourage Christian service and discipleship.

Goal #2 - Quality teaching and school leadership.

Outcome: Teacher preparation and professional growth focus on the competencies needed to help students learn.



Priorities for improvement:

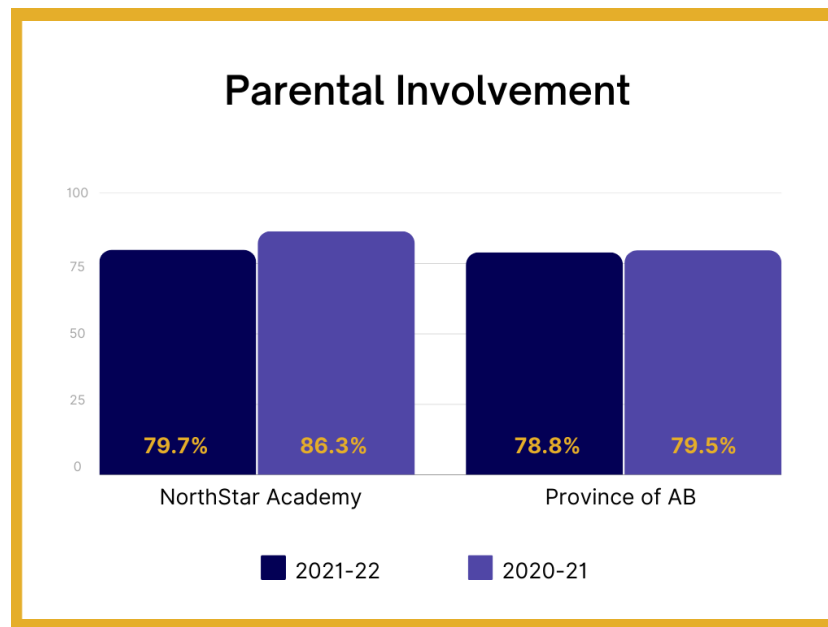
- Provide ongoing professional development opportunities in the areas of Biblical integration, assessment, and critical thinking.
- Increase the opportunities for teachers and staff to support each other's professional learning.
- Increase the opportunities for teachers to participate in peer observations and feedback.
- Improve the collection and use of school-based data to inform school priorities and programming decisions.

Strategies:

- School Administrators and teachers will use NorthStar's Moodle Staff room for ongoing collaboration, professional discussion, and resource sharing.
- Teachers will participate in school and division-led professional development opportunities. Current commitments include:
 - ◇ Katie White's Leading Assessment sessions
 - ◇ ACSI's professional enrichment workshops
 - ◇ Golden Hill's new curriculum working groups
 - ◇ Golden Hill's Collaborative learning days
 - ◇ NorthStar's Powerful Learning PD
- School administrators will establish a "Lunch 'n Learn" program where teachers and office staff provide instructional sessions for each other.
- School administrators will establish a "pineapple chart" system that allows teachers to invite one another into their Moodle classrooms for informal observation and feedback.
- School administrators will support teachers in attending the various conventions, workshops, and book studies offered through ACSI, BlendED, ATLE, iNACOL, the Moodle Hub, and Moodle Moot.
- School administrators and teachers will develop a new course evaluation form to collect strategic information regarding our online and print-based course design.
- School administrators will identify other key metrics that they will track and use to inform future school priorities and programming decisions.

Goal #3 - Engaged and Effective Governance

Outcome: The education system demonstrates collaboration and engagement.



Priorities for Improvement:

- Improve communications with parents regarding their student's learning engagement and academic progress.
- Increase opportunities for parents to provide input into our school programs.
- Improve communications with our greater school community celebrating the great things that are happening at NorthStar Academy.

Strategies:

- School administrators will establish a NorthStar Academy Parent Advisory Council.
- Teachers and school administrators will include more strategic parent communication and involvement in our new homeroom program.
- School administrators, along with teachers and the appropriate school support staff will evaluate and explore how to improve NorthStar's new Moodle Parent Cafe.

- School administrators, along with teachers and the appropriate school support staff will evaluate how to maximize their school newsletter, website, and social media accounts for school communication and celebrations.
- School administrators along with NorthStar’s Activity Day coordinator and teachers will evaluate our Activity day program and identify how it can support greater family and community connections.

Budget 2022-23

