

Annual
Report
2020/2021

Footprints for Learning Academy



Chair Message



Board Members

The FFLA Board of Governance is responsible for ensuring that the mission and vision of FFLA are being fulfilled through strong leadership, effective planning, and sound fiscal management.

Thank you to the FFLA Board of Governance for their hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm.

Board Chair: Jane Anderson

Vice Chair: Corina Jeppesen

Treasurer: Laura Bancroft

Secretary: Karina Altvater

Directors: Ann Burt, Linda Kamitomo, Kate Smith and Kaylee Terriff

If you would like to reach a specific Board Member please contact our administration at 587-775-9303 or admin@footprintsforlearning.com.

About Us

Footprints for Learning Academy (FFLA) is a charitable, non-profit, private school in Airdrie, Alberta. We currently provide Kindergarten to Grade 12 education for students in Alberta as regulated and defined by the Government of Alberta's Education School Act and as per the Government of Alberta's definition of an accredited funded Private School.

Our school opened its doors in 2011/2012, with community and parent support, and offered a Kindergarten class of 19 students. By 2013/2014 we had expanded to a full K-7 school, in a brand new building, and were full to capacity (225 students) with a large waitlist. Over the past 10 years we have continued to grow and currently offer a dynamic, interactive, student-centered program for 407 students in grades K-10 with 2 campuses (both located in our small community of Airdrie).

FFLA's educational community is focused entirely on the best education possible for each learner - one based on excellence, on fundamentals mastery, and on personalization. One also grounded in a philosophy that values both the global and growth mindsets in their inherent sense of respect, responsibility and resourcefulness, allowing the students to ACHIEVE, EXPLORE, and EXCEL. Our goal is to provide the means to enable each student to become an enthusiastic, engaged, and effective learner within the greater community of learners and over a lifetime of new experiences.

Mission and Vision

Each step in the journey of living and learning leaves FOOTPRINTS, lasting impressions from its explorations and environment. At FFLA, we take care to mark this pathway with the best of opportunities for student success as we VALUE:

Heritage – Following in the footsteps of those before us is essential to our learning process; we must be aware of the past and its invaluable impact on both the present and the future. Our heritage on this beautiful planet is being built together, as a collective.

Innovation – Following a model that combines the best of resources and teaching methods makes us mindful of the innovations possible for learning. It is a process where we will give our students every opportunity to advance in their individual learning – to use today for their best tomorrow.

Progress – Following the progress of each learner ensures that each is ready for that next step, those directions that allow all to become citizens of the future – ready to embrace the challenges of this world and for each to forge their own pathway towards new ideas, solutions, and discoveries.



Languages Program

We include two different language studies programs for our students - Spanish for grades K-12 and French for grades 4-6, with an added option for a continuation in grades 7-12. These learning opportunities align with the FFLA agenda towards Global Mindedness and provide another platform for literacy enhancement.

At FFLA, our students are immersed in the Spanish language program starting in Kindergarten and continues through all grade levels. We use Total Physical Response (TPR) and Total Physical Response Story Telling (TPRS) to teach our students Spanish as a second language. The main goal in our Spanish classrooms is to utilize comprehensible input with a focus on the verbs, in order to help our students become proficient in understanding, reading, writing, and eventually speaking their new language.

In addition to the in-class Spanish learning we provide our FFLA middle school students with the opportunity for a 10-day cultural, humanitarian and Spanish language immersion experience by traveling to the Mayan Riviera in Mexico. It is during this trip that students not only learn about the culture but they learn to serve others globally.



Athletics Program

FFLA believes that strong physical education and extra-curricular athletics programs are essential to a balanced and quality education. That is why our K-12 classes receive daily physical activity. We have Physical Education classes in a large gym or mini-gym with climbers, intramurals and electives with rotating team sports, and multiple extra-curricular athletics programs.

Students can participate in our extra-curricular athletics program at our Jr. High (Grades 6-9), Junior Varsity (Grade 10), and Senior Varsity (Grade 10/11/12) levels. All of FFLA's athletic programs are offered through ASAA's South Central Zone and the CAAA. For our Varsity program, certain sports are offered directly from FFLA and others are offered in partnership with Bert Church High School.

All of FFLA's extra-curricular athletics and sports teams unfortunately were put on hold for this past year due to COVID restrictions but we are excited to compete again in the upcoming 2021/2022 school year.

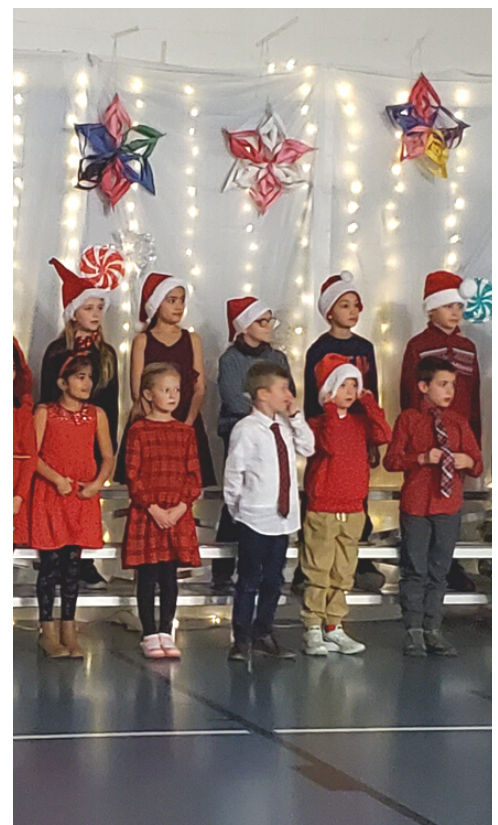


Music and Drama Program

At FFLA, we believe that Music and Drama are essential components of a balanced education. These arts provide opportunities for students to discover and express their own abilities to create and contribute individually and as a group. We take our Music and Drama program seriously and as such we have an experienced and dedicated specialist teacher who engages students with thematic productions each year.

In December, our grade 1 through 6 classes filmed a virtual holiday concert that was shared digitally with all of our FFLA families. We were so glad that we could connect in this unique way to celebrate the season.

Our spring musical unfortunately had to be put on hold one more year due to COVID however we are hopeful that soon our grade 4 to 6 students will be able to resume those amazing performances in the coming years!





Literacy Program

Literacy learning begins in the home and community as children listen to language in conversation, literature and media and where they learn to speak, view and represent their first circle of words. It continues to build on that foundation in school where literacy should be a balanced menu of activities to stimulate, teach, and extend the learner's development of communication and thinking skills.

A unique addition to our literacy programming is the inclusion of the D'Nealian cursive method. Our students learn to work with words and develop their writing, reading and handwriting skills daily and cross-circularly.



Science Program

At FFLA, we believe in the value of Project and Inquiry-Based Learning, most especially within our Science Classroom. In such, we follow Alberta Education program of Studies in all levels of learning from Elementary to High School – to determine what knowledge and skills outcomes we will study. We then explore each topic through student directed practices (e.g. demonstrations, simulations, experiments, modelling, visualization, and field trips) so that the curricular lessons unfold in a circle of understandings that are tied to the learners' interests and questions.

We celebrate our students achievements and learning with a school-wide Science Fair each year. This year the classroom science fair projects were filmed and then shared with all of the students and parents virtually.



Social Studies Program

The FFLA Social Studies program aligns directly with the Alberta Education Program of Studies. Learning in Social Studies is related to the core concepts of citizenship and identity and is achieved through focused content at each grade level.

Global Awareness is an additional area of study that we have incorporated into our K-12 social studies program. We believe it is important to learn about all seven continents on this earth, with an added focus on geography. It is a weekly block of time where students trek across the globe to become familiar with its lands, waters, flora, and fauna. This is designed as extension to the Lands, Places, and Peoples strand of Alberta's Social Studies Program of Study and is intended to grow our global understandings to those cultures found both inside and outside of our immediate community.

Math Program

At FFLA we have a unique approach to Mathematics and have blended the recommended Alberta Education resources (e.g. Math Makes Sense) with Math U See and other innovative resources like Khan Academy to find the ideal BALANCE for learning math.

By including all of these methods in our classrooms we ensure that our math program aligns with Alberta Education's curriculum but also offers our students more flexibility and independence in their learning pace. Mastery is the key to our approach and each individual student must master a concept before moving onto the next.

In our planning we also highlight the need in numeracy studies to be touched upon in all curricula (e.g. Entrepreneurship) to discover the value of numbers, the meaning of equations, and how to problem solve both logically and creatively in the real world.



Entrepreneurship Program

In addition to all of the core subjects and electives at FFLA we also offer an entrepreneurship program to provide an economic edge to our learning. This will prepare our students to graduate with business skills, economic understanding and financial literacy.

We have partnered with Jr. Achievement Canada (JA), BizWorld (BW), and use the National Content Standards for Entrepreneurship Education (NCSEE). We created an FFLA Entrepreneurship Curriculum for our school that will prepare our students for the 'work world' and provide them with knowledge and skills sets that will enable them to achieve their goals and aspirations.



Our Staff



Terry-Ann Robertson
Principal



Lianne McMullin
Assistant Principal



Jenelle Iannuzzi
Kindergarten



Mallory Vanderveen
Kindergarten



Kristie McLeod
Grade One



Hailey Tata
Grade One



Carley Laakso
Grade One/Two



Jessica Bryant
Grade Two



Fraser Pettifor
Grade Two



Lyndsay Harris
Grade Three



Niki Warford
Grade Three



Cory Gaudet
Grade Four



Rachel Jay
Grade Five



Taylor Waters
Grade Five/Six



Erika Yates
Grade Six



Mike Enman
Grade Seven



Megan Vandale
Grade Seven



Ben Porter
Grade Eight



Amber Ma
Grade Nine/Ten



James Sylvester
Fine Arts



Bianca Morvillo
4-8 Spanish



Theresa Hornales
K-3 Spanish



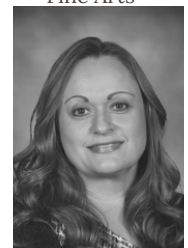
Brandin Bergner
Teaching Assistant



Candace Bergner
Teaching Assistant



Karen Forsyth
Teaching Assistant



Christal Holland
Teaching Assistant



DeeAnn Prince
Teaching Assistant



Valene Siakaluk
Teaching Assistant



Lynn Tyers
Teaching Assistant

The best teachers are those who show you where to look but don't tell you what to see.
ALEXANDRA K. TRENFOR

Our Supporters



Magic Mountain Child Development Centre Ltd. – Provider of the School Facility and Equipment for the 2013 Expansion. “Magic Mountain Child Development Centre Ltd. has been serving the community of Airdrie for over 20 years. They continue to serve this growing community by offering quality child care and education programs to Airdrie’s families. Their goal is to create a standard of excellence in childcare and education, providing programs that meet the diverse needs of Airdrie and the surrounding communities.”



Kinsmen Club of Canada – \$7,000 Grant for Gym Equipment. “KinCanada is an all-Canadian service organization made up of dedicated member volunteers who serve their community’s greatest needs through hosting and sponsoring events and community service projects. Since its founding, Kin, Kinsmen and Kinette clubs across Canada have contributed more than \$1 billion to Canadian communities and disaster relief programs beyond our borders.”



Staples (Airdrie) – Since 2015 Staples has supported FFLA through a variety of ways, such as sponsorship donations, in-kind printing, and gifts of both school and office supplies. They have also been an amazing partner by providing our school tools program and many of our technology purchases.



WestJet – Since 2013 WestJet has been donating annually “a gift of flight” to our school. This has raised over \$20,000 to date for our school.



Alberta Computers for Schools – Our partnership began in 2018 and it has brought technology into the hands of our students in a way we didn’t believe we ever could. “Computers for Schools is a national program that refurbishes computers donated from government, private business and individuals for use by schools, libraries, not-for-profit organizations, Indigenous communities and eligible low-income individuals.”



Save On Foods (#6602) located in Kingsview – Since this store opened in 2016 our school has been invited to visit them on field trips and even set-up a table for fundraising at various times through the year. Most recently we have also collaborated in a cash back program where Save On Foods donates 5% of the sum of receipts brought in from parents back to the school and also provides a pizza lunch for 5 lucky classrooms each year.



Accro Woodworking – Over the past 5 years Accro Woodworking has provided sponsorship donations to many FFLA events and has also been a supporter of our athletics program.



Atlas Glass – Over the years this generous company has donated both materials and time for special projects around the school.



Canadian Website Solutions – This local Airdrie professional provided FFLA with much assistance and time in coding and developing our new Website. The digital expertise will give us the ability to keep our public platform updated on an ongoing basis. Thank you!

Clothing for a Cause – FFLA and Clothing for a Cause have been collaborating since 2016. “Clothing for a Cause has utilized the recycling of reusable clothing and household textiles to provide assistance to international groups since 2005, and has now recently starting providing the same opportunity to local schools, clubs and organizations.”

Thank you for generously supporting us!

In the past 10 years our FFLA families have helped to raise over \$100,000.00!!!

This through a variety of donations and fundraisers.



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