



Nisga'a Elementary School

Learning Improvement Plan 2025-26

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SCHOOL VISION, MISSION and VALUES

VISION

Nisga’a Elementary School will become a courageous and collaborative learning community where curiosity, lifelong learning, and **yuuhlimk’askw** provides support, redirection, and guidance, empowering everyone to thrive.

MISSION

Each day, we grow hearts, spirits, and minds through culture, compassion, and connection. Guided by **yuuhlimk’askw**, we foster curiosity and collaboration to support lifelong learning and community well-being.

VALUES

Curiosity
 ahlisg oot – to wonder
 aguyima'a – to wonder what
 naayima'a – to wonder who
 ndayima'a – to wonder how
 ndayima'a – to wonder why

Learners and Community Context

Adaawagam – Our Story

Nisga’a Elementary School has a student population of approximately 86 students. In collaboration with Nisga’a Secondary School our students and their families are welcomed at the beginning of the year in a ceremony where our 4 Nisga’a Villages and Nisga’a Lisims Government pass the authority of the k’aat’im siwilye’enskw – a representation that unites the Nisga’a Nation, the administration, teachers and staff of our school – the responsibility to care and provide for the education of our children. NES students are creative, active and interested in the outdoors as well as learning through hands-on activities. They enjoy science, numeracy, art, crafts, PE and oral language activities including Nisga’a Language class. We are learning how to respect diversity, and to be kind to ourselves and others. According to the Student Learning Survey, most students are happy at school and feel good about themselves.

What We Know

Strengths and Accomplishments



- K-5 Numeracy**
 - Developing to Proficient in most areas
 - Moderate to high percentage of students assessed
- Nisga’a Language and Culture**
 - Good participation in cultural sharing events by all students
- Playground**
 - Students demonstrate a willingness to play cooperatively and to self-regulate

Challenges To Overcome



- Increase willingness to attempt all assessment criteria
- Increase attendance



With Purpose & Intention

Leading For Learning

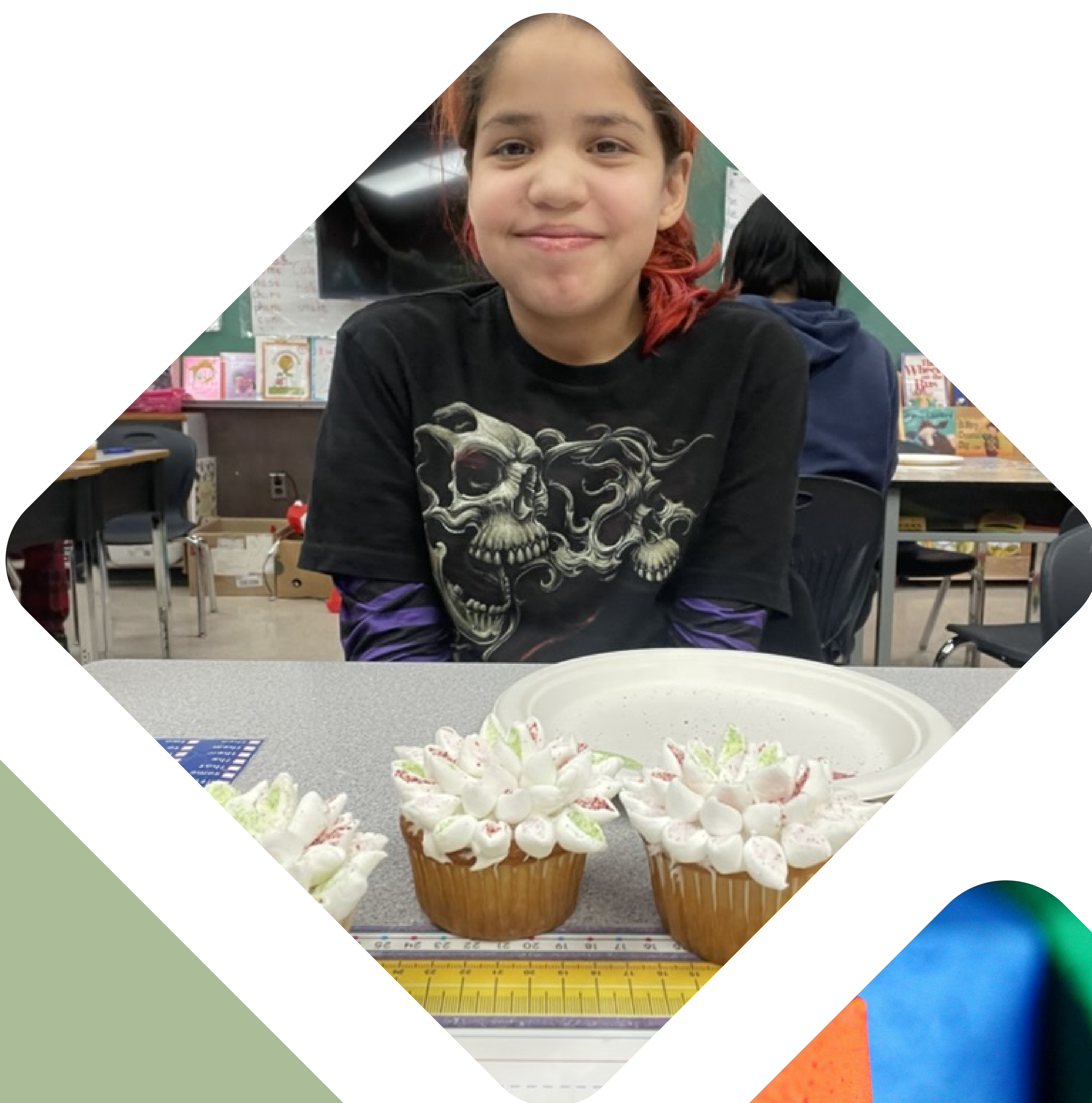
Leadership begins with clarity of purpose. By aligning school-level planning with the district's strategic vision, leaders ensure that every decision, initiative, and learning experience is rooted in shared values and community commitments. This coherence strengthens trust, empowers staff, and keeps learners at the heart of every action.

Planning For Impact

School impact plans are not simply accountability or operational tools, they are roadmaps for transformation. When grounded in the district's strategic priorities, these plans become vehicles for equity, cultural integrity, and learner success. They help schools move from intention to measurable outcomes, ensuring that efforts are focused, inclusive, and responsive to local context.

Building A Culture Of Learning

Strategic alignment fosters a culture where learning is continuous for learners, educators, and leaders. It encourages reflection, collaboration, and innovation, while honoring the wisdom of the Nisga'a Peoples. By leading for learning and planning for impact, school teams contribute to a district-wide movement that grows every learner—mind, heart, body, and spirit.



Learning Priority One

Goal Culture and Language

To foster a deep sense of identity and pride in Nisga'a heritage by integrating Nisga'a language, Ayuuk (traditional laws and customs), and cultural practices into daily learning experiences, ensuring that every student develops fluency, cultural understanding, and respectful relationships rooted in Sayt-K'il'im-Goot (one heart, one path, one nation).

Rationale

1. It helps us know our roots.

Learning the Nisga'a language and traditions helps us understand our families, our history, and our land.

2. It keeps our culture strong.

When we speak Nisga'a and celebrate our customs, we help keep them alive for future generations.

3. It brings us together.

We learn to work as a team, respect each other, and follow the idea of Sayt-K'il'im-Goot — one heart, one path, one nation.

4. It makes learning fun and meaningful.

We get to sing, dance, hear stories, and go on adventures that connect us to our culture.

5. It helps us become proud and confident.

Knowing our language and traditions helps us feel proud of who we are and where we come from.

Targets

By the end of the school year, we will be able to:

- speak and understand at least 50 Nisga'a words and phrases,
- share one story or teaching from our culture, and
- show respect for our traditions in class and at school events.

Measuring Our Success

1. Language Learning Tracker

- Use **monthly check-ins** or mini-quizzes to see how many words students remember and can use in sentences.
- Students demonstrate their learning by using graphic cards to make increasingly complex sentences.
- Students use Nisga'a language to ask or answer simple questions; to comment on daily events (ie. Weather).

2. Cultural Sharing Projects

- Students **participate in sharing their songs, dances, language with other schools; during school events; and in their general classes.**
- **Students incorporate elements of culture or language in their everyday assignments, projects.**

3. Participation in Cultural Activities

- Track student involvement in **ceremonies, songs, crafts, and field trips.**
- Use a simple **reflection sheet** where students write or draw what they learned and how they felt.

4. Respectful Behavior

- Observe how students show respect for elders, traditions, and each other.

5. Community Feedback

- Invite **elders, parents, and cultural leaders** to share what they notice in students' language use and cultural understanding.

Key Strategies & Actions

1. Daily Nisga'a Language Practice

- **Action:** Set aside 10–15 minutes each day for learning and using Nisga'a words and phrases.
- **Why it works:** Regular practice builds vocabulary and confidence. It also helps students see the language as part of everyday life.
- **Example:** Use morning greetings, classroom commands, and calendar activities in Nisga'a.

2. Monthly Cultural Learning Projects

- **Action:** Each month, focus on a different aspect of Nisga'a culture (e.g., stories, traditional foods, ceremonies, art).
- **Why it works:** It gives students time to explore, reflect, and share what they've learned in creative ways.
- **Example:** Students can create posters, perform skits, or write short reflections about what they learned.

3. Elder and Community Engagement

- **Action:** Invite Nisga'a elders or cultural leaders to visit the classroom regularly.
- **Why it works:** Elders bring authentic knowledge and help students connect learning to real-life traditions.
- **Example:** An elder shares a story, teaches a song, or explains the meaning of a ceremony.

Learning Priority Two

Goal Empowered and Inspired Learners

To empower students to become confident and capable problem-solvers by developing strong numeracy skills through culturally relevant, hands-on learning that connects math to everyday life in the Nisga'a Nation.

Rationale

1. **Math is part of everyday life.**

We use math when we cook, fish, build, and plan – just like our families and ancestors do.

2. **It helps us solve problems.**

Learning math helps us think clearly, make good decisions, and solve challenges in smart ways.

3. **It connects us to our culture.**

We learn how math is used in Nisga'a traditions, like measuring cedar strips for weaving or counting fish during a harvest.

4. **It makes us confident learners.**

When we understand math, we feel proud and ready to take on new challenges – in school and in life.

5. **It helps us work together.**

We learn to share ideas, help each other, and grow as a team.

Target

By June, all students will show measurable growth in solving age-appropriate math problems, using math vocabulary to explain their thinking, and applying math skills in at least two real-life or cultural activities connected to Nisga'a life, as demonstrated through classroom assessments and experiential learning evidence.

Measuring Our Success

1. **Student Growth in Math Skills**

- Use **grade-appropriate assessments** (e.g., quizzes, math journals, performance tasks).
- Track progress in **core areas** like number sense, operations, patterns, and problem-solving.
- Compare student growth from the beginning to the end of the year using **rubrics or portfolios**.

2. **Use of Math Vocabulary and Thinking**

- Encourage students to **explain their thinking** during math talks, group work, and written reflections.
- Teachers can use **checklists** to monitor how often students use math terms correctly and confidently.

3. **Real-Life and Cultural Math Applications**

- Have students complete **at least two projects or activities** that connect math to Nisga'a life (e.g., measuring cedar strips, calculating feast supplies, mapping land).
- Use **student presentations, posters, or journals** to show how math is used in their community.

4. **Teacher Observations and Anecdotal Records**

- Teachers can record **daily or weekly notes** on student engagement, problem-solving strategies, and cultural connections.
- Use these notes during team meetings to adjust instruction and support.

5. **Family and Community Feedback**

- Share student work with families and community members during **school events or open houses**.
- Collect feedback through **short surveys or conversations** to understand how math learning is seen outside the classroom.

Key Strategies & Actions

Embed Numeracy in Real-Life and Cultural Contexts

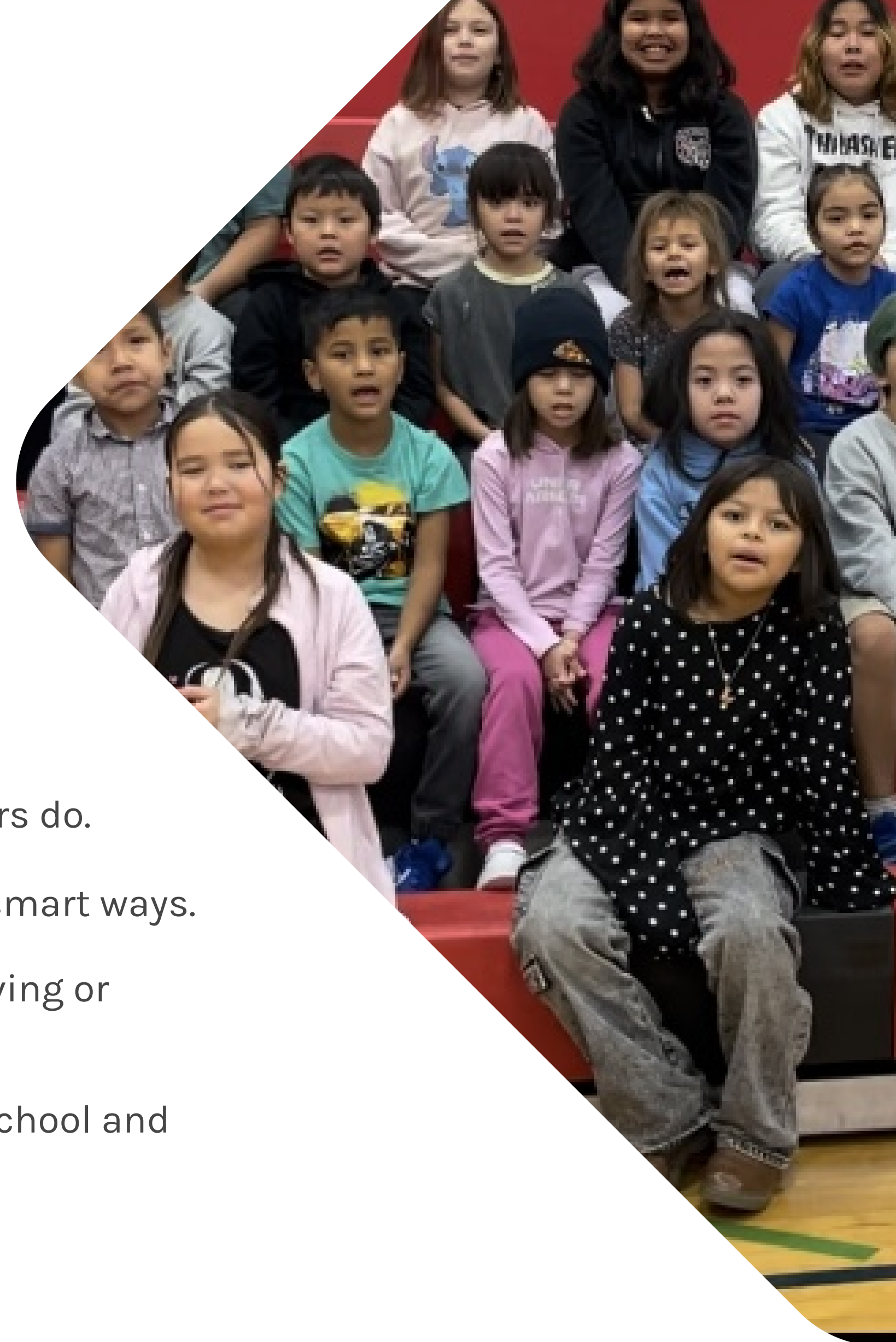
- Use examples from Nisga'a life such as fishing, weaving, cooking, and land measurement to make math meaningful and relevant.
- Create projects that connect math to community traditions and seasonal activities.

2. **Use Consistent and Culturally Responsive Assessment Tools**

- Track student progress using math journals, portfolios, and performance tasks that reflect both skill development and cultural understanding.
- Include opportunities for students to explain their thinking using math vocabulary.

3. **Foster Collaborative Learning and Community Involvement**

- Encourage students to work together on math challenges and share strategies.
- Involve elders, families, and community members in math-related activities to strengthen cultural connections and support learning.
- Engage staff in a K-12 Numeracy Professional Learning Community the first Thursday of every month.





Summary

Nisga'a Secondary School is committed to becoming a courageous and collaborative learning community where curiosity, lifelong learning, and *yuuhlmk'askw* our way of being and doing that provides support, redirection, and guidance, so we empower everyone to thrive. Our mission is to grow hearts, spirits, and minds through culture, compassion, and connection. We are guided by the values of one heart, many strengths, working together, and we focus on connection, compassion, courage, collaboration, culture, and curiosity.

We celebrate progress in early numeracy, high student participation in cultural learning, and strong social-emotional development. Key challenges include improving attendance, increasing engagement with Nisga'a language and numeracy, and encouraging students to complete assessments consistently.

We have identified two prioritized learning goals:

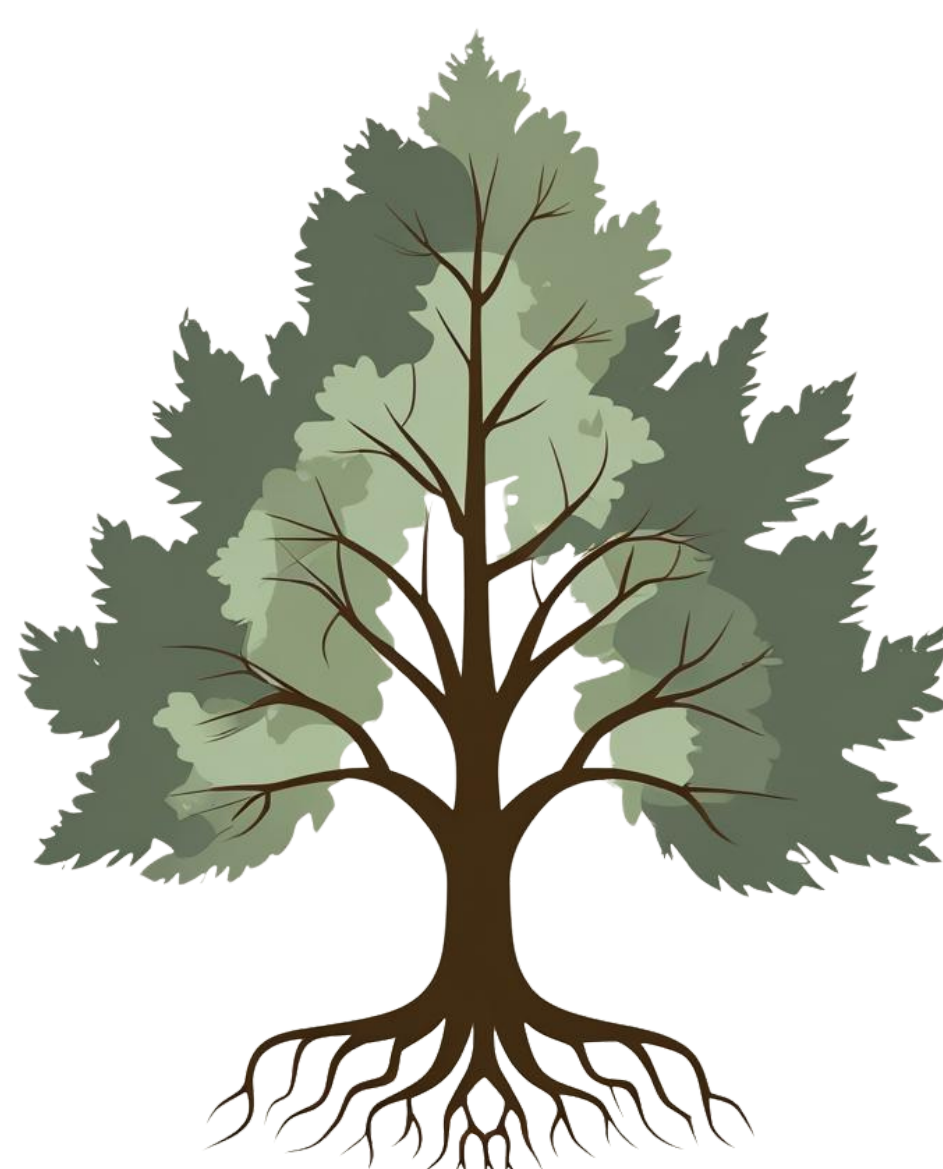
- **Language and Culture**

We will strengthen Nisga'a identity by embedding language, traditions, and cultural practices into daily learning. By year's end, students will know at least 50 Nisga'a words, share a story or teaching, and demonstrate cultural respect through daily practice, monthly projects, and guidance from Elders.

- **Empowered and Inspired Learners in Numeracy**

We will build confident problem-solvers by connecting math to real-life and cultural contexts. All students will show measurable growth in problem-solving, vocabulary use, and application of math skills in at least two real-life or cultural activities.

Success will be measured through student growth, participation, respectful behavior, and feedback from teachers, families, and community members.



Rooted in Culture.
Grounded In Community.
Growing Every Learner.