



Nisga'a Secondary School

Learning Improvement Plan 2025-26

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SCHOOL VISION, MISSION and VALUES



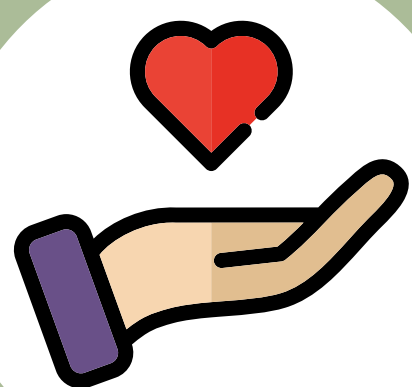
VISION

Nisga’a Secondary School will become a vibrant learning community where curiosity, collaboration, compassion, and wonder inspire every learner. Students will grow with purpose by understanding their roots, setting meaningful goals, and engaging in thoughtful reflection that deepens learning and strengthens relationships.



MISSION

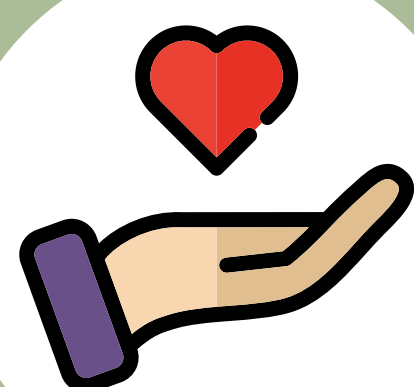
At Nisga’a Secondary School, we honour the unique strengths each learner brings. Through daily commitment to growth, we build deep connections to self, to one another, and to the natural and cultural environments around us. We nurture confident, curious learners by encouraging exploration, reflection, and wonder across all areas of learning.



VALUES

CONNECTION

We are deeply connected—to ourselves, to one another, and to our community. Through family meetings and shared activities, we nurture these bonds and cultivate a stronger sense of belonging and mutual understanding.



VALUES

CURIOSITY

Our curiosity fuels our learning. We engage in thoughtful discussions and pursue independent inquiry, deepening our understanding and inspiring one another to explore new ideas.

Learners and Community Context

Nisga’a Secondary School proudly welcomes 174 students from each of the four Nisga’a Villages: Gingolx, Lax ǵalts’ap, Gitwinksihlkw, and Gitlaxt’aamiks. Our dedicated team includes 12 teachers, 2 support staff, 2 learner support teachers, 1 administrative assistant, and principal, all working together to create a safe, inclusive, and culturally grounded learning environment.

A powerful symbol of unity and identity stands at the heart of our school: on **November 1, 1977**, the **Pts’aan’im Sayt K’il’im Goothl K’alii Aks** was raised in front of our building. This was the **first pole carved and raised in over 100 years**, and it holds deep significance for our community. The pole features the **four Nisga’a crests and sub-crests**, along with symbolic representations of the **Gitginsaa, Tx eemsim, and the Rainbow Man**, connecting every Nisga’a person and child to the school..

Nisga’a Secondary offers a wide range of learning opportunities. Students participate in extracurricular sports, shop and band classes, experiential and land-based learning, and Nisga’a language and culture programs. These offerings reflect the school’s commitment to holistic education rooted in Nisga’a values, traditions, and identity.

What We Know

Strengths and Accomplishments



1. Building Connection and Belonging

- A **welcoming environment** that encourages laughter, joy, and mutual respect among students, staff, and visitors.
- **Strong relationships** across all roles — students, teachers, support staff, and leadership — built on trust and shared purpose.
- **Family meetings** that create space for open communication between students, teachers, and the principal, strengthening school-wide understanding and connection.
- **Inclusive school spirit activities** that bring everyone together, celebrating identity, culture, and community through fun and participation.

2. Commitment to Follow-Through

- A shared understanding of our responsibilities and a collective commitment to act.
- Staff and students demonstrate accountability and care in daily interactions and long-term goals.

3. Acknowledging and Celebrating Success

- **Students** are recognized through awards, events, and celebrations of learning.
- **Staff** contributions are acknowledged and appreciated.
- **Community connections** are honored through inclusive events and cultural gatherings.
- **Learning Feast** and **Spirit Weeks** invite joyful participation from all.
- **Teacher-led “secret days”** spark fun and surprise, strengthening school spirit.
- **Laughter and connection** are woven into the fabric of our school culture.

Challenges To Overcome



1. Engagement for All Learners

- **Attendance:** Ensuring that all students feel welcomed, motivated, and supported to attend school regularly.
- **Belonging:** Creating a school culture where every learner feels connected and valued.

2. Effective and Timely Communication

- Strengthening communication across all levels:
 - **Staff collaboration and coordination**
 - **School-wide updates and transparency**
 - **Parent and caregiver engagement**
 - **Clear and consistent communication with the district**

3. Shared Responsibility

- Building a culture of collaboration where all staff contribute to:
 - **Planning and hosting school events**
 - **Daily operations and student support**
 - **Celebrations of learning and cultural milestones**

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 in mind, heart, body, and spirit.



Learning Priority One

Goal Culture and Language

Nisga'a Secondary School will increase the daily use and visibility of Nisga'a language across all classrooms, school communications, and events. Students and staff will actively learn and apply Nisga'a vocabulary to strengthen cultural identity, promote language revitalization, and create a school environment where the language is spoken, understood, and celebrated.

Rationale

By surrounding ourselves with Nisga'a language and culture, we cultivate a learning environment rooted in Nisga'a ways of knowing, understanding, and experiencing. This nurtures the mind, body, and spirit allowing us to live into the values and wisdom of our ancestors.

Targets

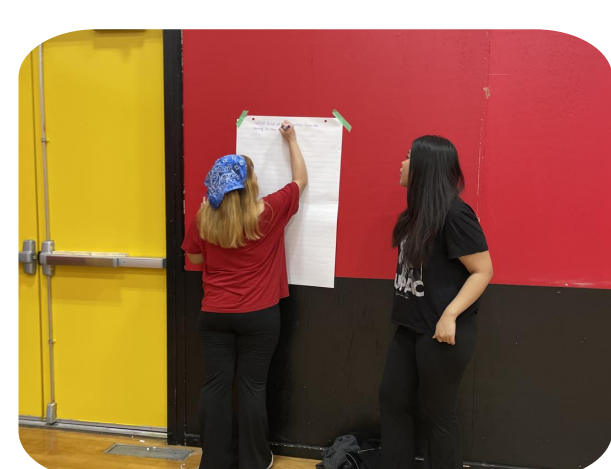
By June 2026:

- Nisga'a language will be used in daily announcements at least three times per week, led by students and staff.
- All classrooms will display Nisga'a vocabulary relevant to their subject area, with updates made monthly.
- Nisga'a numbers and days of the week will be consistently used in the school's rotation schedule.
- At least 90 percent of teachers will include Nisga'a language in their weekly planners and lesson plans.
- Formal Nisga'a Language instruction will be offered in Grade 8 and Grades 10 to 12, with at least 80 percent student participation.
- Nisga'a words and meanings will be featured in weekly school communications sent to families and staff.

Measuring Our Success

- A school-developed tool will track written and spoken use of Nisga'a language in classrooms, communications, and events.
- Observational feedback from students, staff, visitors, and community members will inform ongoing language practices.
- Student and staff surveys will reflect increased confidence, pride, and engagement in using Nisga'a language.

Key Strategies & Actions



Student Leadership

Students will deliver announcements and messages in Nisga'a, both spoken and written, to normalize and celebrate language use across the school.



Culturally Grounded Communication

The school will consistently incorporate Nisga'a language in newsletters, updates, phone calls, and school-wide announcements to promote cultural pride and language revitalization.



Language Learning Feast

Students will lead a year-end celebration that showcases their Nisga'a language learning, supported by teachers, families, and community members. The feast will honour growth, culture, and connection.



Learning Priority Two

Goal Empowered and Inspired Learners

Nisga'a Secondary School will improve numeracy outcomes by embedding mathematical thinking across all subjects, increasing course completion rates, and strengthening student and teacher confidence in numeracy. Through intentional instruction and culturally responsive practices, every learner will be supported to see themselves as capable and empowered in mathematics.

Rationale

Numeracy is a foundational skill that supports logical thinking, problem-solving, and informed decision-making. At Nisga'a Secondary, numeracy development is a shared responsibility across all staff. By integrating numeracy into diverse learning contexts—including budgeting in home economics, data analysis in science, and measurement in traditional Nisga'a practices—we make math relevant, accessible, and meaningful for all students.

Targets

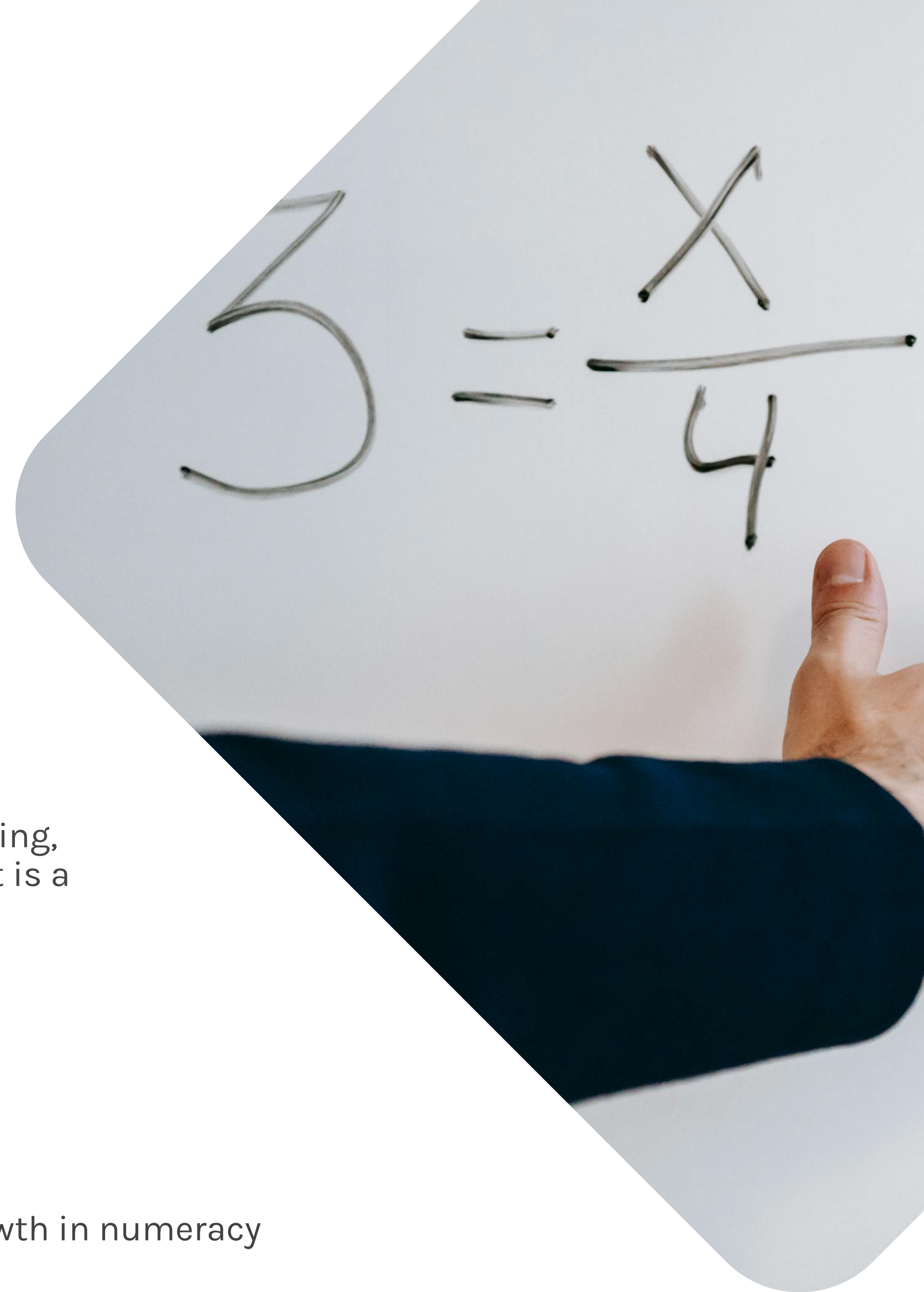
- 80 percent of students in Grades 8 to 12 will demonstrate measurable growth in numeracy skills, based on classroom assessments and district benchmarks.
- Math course completion rates will increase by 10 percent compared to the 2024–2025 school year, with a focus on senior-level pathways.
- Student self-reported confidence in math will improve by 15 percent, as measured through annual surveys.
- All teachers will participate in at least one professional learning opportunity focused on numeracy instruction and culturally responsive math practices.

Measuring Our Success

- Increased percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations in numeracy on school-based and provincial assessments.
- Higher completion rates in Foundations, Pre-Calculus, and Workplace Math courses.
- Positive shifts in student attitudes and engagement, reflected in surveys and focus groups.
- Growth in teacher confidence and skill, measured through self-assessments and planning reflections.
- Evidence of numeracy integration across subjects and grade levels.
- Inclusion of Nisga'a ways of knowing in math instruction, documented in lesson plans and student work.
- Positive feedback from families and community members regarding student progress in numeracy.

Key Strategies & Actions

- **Monthly Math PLC**
Teachers will participate in monthly professional learning sessions to share strategies, analyze student data, and explore culturally responsive math practices.
- **Cross-Curricular Integration**
Teachers will embed numeracy into non-math subjects using real-world and culturally relevant contexts.
- **Student Voice and Feedback**
Student surveys and focus groups will be conducted twice per year to gather insights on confidence, engagement, and learning experiences in math.
- **Professional Development**
Staff will access targeted training in numeracy instruction, formative assessment, and Indigenous knowledge in mathematics.
- **Numeracy Monitoring Tool**
SNAP will be used as a formative assessment tool to track student growth in number sense and reasoning.
- **Mentorship and Peer Support**
Peer mentorship will be established among teachers to support numeracy instruction, especially for those outside the math department.
- **Community Engagement**
Nisga'a Elders and community members will be invited to share traditional knowledge involving numeracy in classroom settings.
- **Celebrating Numeracy**
School-wide events such as Math Week, numeracy challenges, and student showcases will promote enthusiasm and engagement.





Summary

Alignment of Learner Profiles with Strategic Pillars

1. Cultural Integrity

We honor and embed Nisga’a language, teachings, and worldview in all aspects of learning, ensuring students grow with a strong sense of identity and belonging.

2. Empowerment

We support each learner to understand where they are, set meaningful goals, and make informed decisions about their Graduation Pathway—graduating with curiosity, confidence, and options.

3. Connection

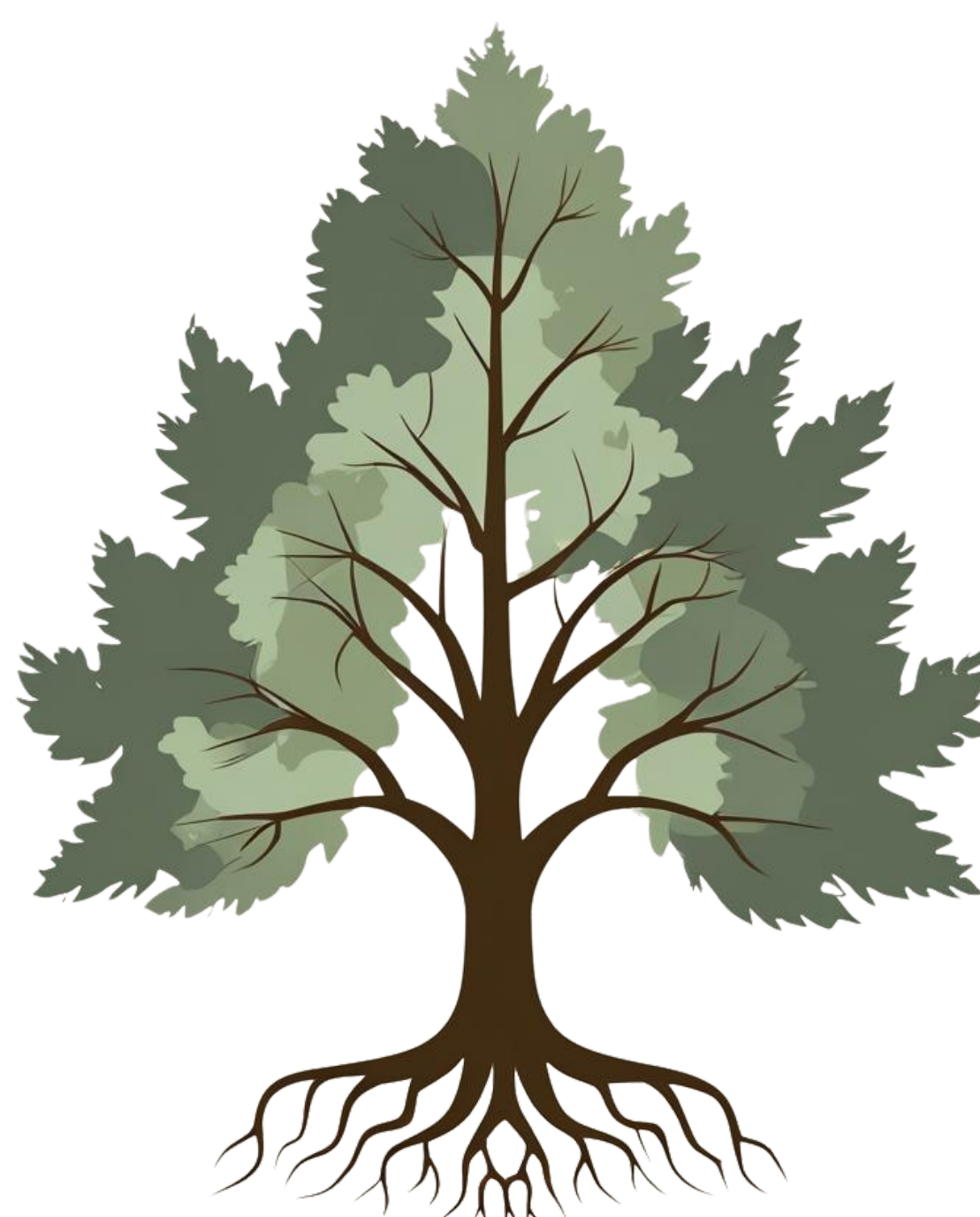
We nurture relationships among students, staff, families, and communities, fostering unity across the four Lisims villages and the broader Nisga’a Nation.

4. Experiential Learning

Through **Han’iigwilal’hl sa**, learners engage in hands-on, land-based experiences that deepen understanding, build skills, and connect learning to life.

5. Growth Across the Grades

- **Grade 8:** Building community and identity as a new cohort
- **Grade 9:** Exploring pathways and experiential learning
- **Grade 10:** Making informed choices toward graduation
- **Grade 11:** Tracking progress and engaging in real-world opportunities
- **Grade 12:** Completing graduation requirements with clarity, options, opportunity and continued curiosity



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