



Hillfield Strathallan College
Learn with Joy. Live with Purpose.

STRATEGIC PLAN JOURNEY 2021 →

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

May 2021

Strategic Plan Goals

Introduction

The goals embedded in this living document are the result of a collaborative process that has engaged Hillfield Strathallan College's (HSC) constituents since August 2019. This Strategic Plan brings together many voices—each valued for contributing to the four main themes that have emerged and synthesized during consultations. We have prioritized transparency and inclusivity over expedience in the evolution of this Strategic Plan. It is important to recognize that these goals are but an introduction to the College's future and an invitation to contribute to the next iterations of the Strategic Plan. As such, this document is a wayfinding marker on a pathway into the College's future.

HSC's constituents need to bring agility and adaptability as we work through the strategic elements of this plan. Together, we've raised the questions, and our next steps are to seek out their answers.

This strategic framework operates around four central and interlocked themes that support our Joyful, Engaged and Inclusive Community:



It is important to appreciate the degree to which the strategic themes underpinning this framework interweave and interact, as is illustrated below:



No one element or theme operates in isolation. For example, wellbeing is a function of each goal in this framework. Wellbeing will be critical to everything we do to make our community members feel connected to people at HSC. Ensuring our community is physically active every day, demonstrates gratitude, is open to learning, is mindful and present, and is actively open to caring for others and themselves will be the start of centring wellbeing at HSC. Wellbeing begins with a sense of belonging to the HSC community, where all members are accepted and celebrated, not only for what brings them together but also for what makes them unique.

This framework identifies how we will move forward as many members of one College—not four separate divisions. The faculty, staff and board will demonstrate an understanding of the all-school elements of the mission statement and this framework. They will be accountable for aligning our systems and practices accordingly.

STRATEGIC GOALS

ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

a. Empowered Student Learning

An HSC learning pathway begins with toddlers and extends through graduation and beyond. Therefore, at all HSC education stages, we will empower each student to have input into their personalized learning pathway.

Students will find choice and latitude in our curriculum, timetabling and programming to engage in their interests and passions, take appropriate risks and try new things. Student options will include interdisciplinary and cross-grade learning opportunities. In addition, we will build our programs around experiential and project-based work, allowing students to find, engage with and seek solutions for real-world problems.

Voice and choice will extend to student assessment and evaluation. By emphasizing the importance of self-reflection and self-evaluation, we will help build the metacognitive abilities of our students that foster self-directed learning. Our student assessment practices will place increasing focus on student progress and the mastery of skills. In doing so, we balance the need for authentic feedback and assessment in preparation for education beyond HSC while also lowering stress points and prioritizing student wellbeing.

We recognize that the world is not separated into discrete subject areas, nor are our students always best served by being constrained by their age. Students will have opportunities to learn at their own pace and in ways best suited to their wellbeing, academic development, and personal goals and aspirations.

b. Wellbeing as a Daily Focus

We will prioritize and implement research-based programs and practices that focus on the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of students, faculty and staff. To truly live this priority, we will develop practices that amplify wellbeing and embed it into our school structures and daily routines. HSC will incorporate a focus on wellbeing throughout all we do and will be at the forefront of all decisions—striking a balance of academic rigour and wellbeing.

c. Professional Growth

We will support and empower our faculty to grow as a community of professional educators. Peer coaching and both inter-school and intra-school mentorships will leverage our strengths and professional capacity College-wide.

HSC educators will commit to career-long personal and professional growth, including an eagerness to take risks, embrace and learn from failure, and support peers in their own growth aspirations. We believe that the learning mindset of our faculty should mirror the mindset we would like to instill in our students. Therefore, we will recruit, attract and retain teachers who are well-positioned to carry out the four foundational elements and specific goals outlined in this framework.

d. A Boundless Campus

We will establish a robust network of local, regional and global partners to provide long-lasting and sustainable learning opportunities for our students and teachers.

Grade-level experiential opportunities will begin at a young age, using on-campus expertise and mentors. Experiential learning will expand to include internships or co-op programs where our older students can learn and work for extended times or on extended projects alongside community mentors, both on and off-campus. In order to support these opportunities, we will provide flexible options for our students.

As we engage more deeply with our local community, we will create programs and events that invite the community to participate in the life and resources at HSC. In turn, we will create opportunities for HSC and our stakeholders to become more active as leaders in the region's civic life.

We will attract and retain a diverse group of students seeking our distinct blend of academics and wellbeing. While our priority remains face-to-face learning, we are committed to implementing some of the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we will explore the variety of options available for students to learn remotely—synchronously and asynchronously.

REIMAGINING TIME AND SPACE

a. Creative Use of Time

We will reimagine our schedule to empower student learning and enable coordination across schools. We will increase the schedule's flexibility, which will allow more freedom for students to be involved in experiential learning and community connections while allowing faculty more time for collaborative teaching and professional growth.

Our daily and weekly schedules will allow us to specifically focus our attention on student, faculty and staff wellbeing.

Virtual and self-directed learning options may allow us to extend learning beyond the traditional school day and year, allowing for more student choice and flexibility while prioritizing student wellbeing. We cannot be confined to traditional time structures if more creative and flexible options are in the best interest of students.

b. Repurposing Our Space

Our use of physical and virtual spaces supports empowered learning. All spaces on campus are potential learning spaces and sources of creativity and inspiration. These spaces and their furnishings will be flexible, dynamic and adaptable to student needs and promote connections, ease of movement and accessibility across the campus.

We will increase collaborative spaces for use by students, faculty and staff.

HSC will prioritize environmental sustainability and wellbeing on our physical campus and in our operational decisions. We will exemplify environmental sustainability in our practice and design and use of spaces. We intend to configure these spaces to support physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.

Recognizing the enormous impact of outdoor learning on student and faculty wellbeing and achievement, we will leverage and enhance the learning potential of our outdoor spaces to support and deliver authentic teaching and learning for every grade, every day. Learning landscapes will be built by design to meet the needs of the students and faculty.

c. Sustainable and Biodiverse Spaces

As we recognize the critical importance of our environment and the existential challenges of the global climate crisis, HSC will prioritize environmental sustainability in our physical campus and our operations decisions. Also, we will work with our community champions to make HSC a leader in Canadian education with respect to practicing, learning and teaching environmental sustainability. We will also strive to become one of the most biodiverse campuses in Canada.

DIVERSE, INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE LIFELONG COMMUNITY

a. Pluralism and Culture

Our school, like our community, region, and nation, is increasingly diverse. We recognize, celebrate and honour our diversity, and we will actively focus on becoming a more pluralistic community, including seeking out, recruiting and admitting students and hiring faculty and supporting staff who are representative of the broader community. This also includes ensuring that all members of our community feel safe and welcome.

In our curriculum, programs and projects that form the learning experience, we will prioritize the inclusion of widely diverse voices

b. Learning Continuum

HSC offers students and families an integrated learning experience from early childhood through high school. We will develop a curriculum scaffold that ensures continuity across grade level and division boundaries. We honour multiple destinations on our students' educational paths, and we will prepare accordingly. We recognize student and staff wellbeing is foundational to academic success, so we foster balance enabling us to embed the joy of learning into our programming.

We will develop, deliver and support interdisciplinary and cross-grade collaboration and learning for both students and faculty. These opportunities will focus on strengthening relationships across the College and create more flexible experiences that promote the student-centric values articulated in this framework.

c. Community Connections

We will continue to build a robust alumni network, providing mentorship for our students. HSC prides itself on a feeling of belonging and community, and we will endeavour to continue to build lifelong connections with our alumni as integral members of our community.

Our parents are key partners in the learning experience for their children—we are developing and delivering a robust parent education program that helps parents partner effectively and appropriately in support of the shared goals and values of the HSC community.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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RESPECT. INTEGRITY. COMMUNITY. INDIVIDUALITY. DETERMINATION.

Our core mission is to develop joyful and engaged students who live life with purpose.

The best learning happens when students are happy to come to school, have opportunities to follow their passions, and participate in deep learning experiences that challenge them.

Joyful, engaged students develop strong relationships with their peers and with the caring adults who spark and support their learning both inside the classroom and beyond.

Their journey at HSC prepares students to live with purpose—to understand their world, inspire, lead, act, and make a difference in their own unique ways.

