

Innovators 2023 BY DESIGN



Ready. Set. Launch.

Inside the World's Most Surprising School System – Finland

Finland is touted as having the world's leading public education system. The country's comprehensive focus on education has meant that it is prioritized at all levels of government and public life. From the country's requirements of teachers, to school size and structure, to assessment, every aspect of Finland's education system is geared toward ensuring students learn the skills and knowledge required to maintain Finland's economic competitiveness. Well known facts:

Students

- Generally don't start school until seven years of age
- Are taught in the same classroom regardless of skill, with 30 per cent receiving extra help until Gr. 9
- Stay with the same teacher for several years, making learning patterns easier to understand
- Have barely any homework and are rarely tested
- Rank top, or very close, in world reading, math and science scores

Teachers

- Share the same status as doctors and lawyers
- Represent the top 10 per cent of high school graduates and earn a masters degree before teaching
- Hone their skills through rigorous professional development, peer evaluation, lessons by master teachers, and listening to and learning from the students they teach.

Teaching & Learning

- Place great emphasis on early intervention
- Empower students to take ownership of their learning
- Foster collaboration in exploring real-world situations, integrating numerous subjects into one lesson
- Include almost no testing, until age 16

So what can we learn from Finland's approach to education? Learn more and participate in the discussion at: 2023bydesign.com.

Building RVS' 2019 – 2023 Four Year Plan

From August 27, 2018, to March 7, 2019, Rocky View Schools (RVS) will open its doors to the community to help build its 2019 – 2023 Four Year Plan, Innovators 2023 by Design. Collectively across the jurisdiction, parents, community organizations, and businesses already play an active role in supporting our schools through participation in authentic learning experiences, school councils, citizenship initiatives, work experience, and more. Through this 25-week process, however, we want to work together to bring greater clarity on defining how our public school system can push the envelope to ensure our students **Connect** to their passions and interests, **Achieve** their potential and **Network** with peer, parents and partners. Equally as important, we want to clearly define the role we each must play to reach our goals and outcomes.

Hoping to inspire our learning community, our jurisdiction is opening itself to creative possibilities, with the knowledge that as long as we remain grounded in our intent to better prepare students for the future, ideas will evolve into the right solutions. To this end, over the course of our community consultation we will be examining other successful jurisdictions to learn what we might replicate. We'll draw attention to leading educational theories and research, with an eye to figuring out "how might we..." And we'll also look inward to celebrate what's working, identify what are our areas of unmet need and define what strategies and actions will take us from where we are, to where we intend to be.

Throughout the process, stakeholders can follow our process and participate online through:

- RVS' twitter feed, [#rvsed](https://twitter.com/rvsed) and [#innovatorsCAN](https://twitter.com/innovatorsCAN)
- Crowd Source site at 2023bydesign.com, and
- You Tube at <https://www.youtube.com/user/RVSchools>

We are excited! Community engagement is an important element to the success of our students. Planned activities are outlined on page 3 under "Consultation Activities At-A-Glance." We hope to see you face-to-face and/or online.



I CAN...

Draft Narrative – Innovators by Design

Children are born innovators.

It's how they learn the tough stuff, like walking and talking, feeding themselves and tying shoes. They try a lot and fail a lot. And once they've learned to say the word why, they just won't stop.

At Rocky View Schools, we don't want them to.

Innovators ask a lot of questions and tackle problems that matter--to them, their families, and their communities. They consult with expert sources and people, far beyond the classroom.

They bounce possibilities off fellow students and teachers and spark ideas that just might work.

They test their ideas in the real world. Trying, failing, asking more questions, redesigning, trying and failing, until they've earned success.

In the process, they are guided to acquire and practice fundamental math, reading and science skills. They build cultural understanding and the foundations for healthy relationships.

They grow as critical thinkers, communicators and collaborators. And they develop self-reliance, empathy, resilience and perseverance.

In short, innovators accept the challenge of reaching their full potential. They are in demand in every sector of society and most likely to succeed at any endeavor.

That's why at Rocky View Schools, the development of innovators happens by design.

A design that engages students as co-designers of their learning, empowering them to follow their passions, and challenging them to new heights.

A design that moves beyond classroom walls to the natural world, building sites, farms, engineering firms, hospitals, zoos, museums and theatres.

A design where students share what they learn, so when one learns, we all learn.

A design that meets students where they are and supports them in the journey to where they need to and want to be.

A design that supports and encourages teachers, administrators and support staff to be innovators themselves.

At Rocky View Schools, we know our students go on to change the world. As contributing adults, they'll bring their personal best to that important work.

Drafting a Narrative, Goals & Outcomes

During the month of May and June 2018, Learning Pods, comprised of trustees, system and school administrators, parents, students, and community representatives, collaborated to lay the foundation for the development of a draft learning narrative and a new goal and outcome structure for RVS' 2019-2023 Four Year Plan. Norms established to guide the work were:

- **Be Student-Centred** – Put the interests of Rocky View Schools' students first.
- **Be Fully Present** – Put 100 per cent of your focus on the task at hand and sequence tasks in a row, as opposed to splitting your focus on many tasks simultaneously.
- **Adopt a Beginner's Mindset** – In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities, in the expert's mind there are few. – Suzuki, Shunryu
- **Embrace Radical Collaboration** – Lean in, take risks, get creative, embrace discomfort and have an awareness of your role in creating an engaging atmosphere.
- **Bring a Creative Commons Mindset** – All of the work is all of our work. Through sharing, eliciting and providing feedback to each other and exhibiting what we've created our work will be exponentially better.

Feedback on the draft structure will be solicited from system and school administrators, Education Centre and school staffs, students, school councils and educational and business partners over the months of September and October 2018. Feedback can also be directed to RVS' Director of Communications at aspanier@rockyview.ab.ca

Draft Goals & Outcomes

In RVS, we design learning so innovators:

Connect to their passions & interests

Outcomes:

- Students are resilient, healthy, safe and respectful of diverse cultures and traditions.
- Students engage in real-world, hands-on learning experiences that matter to them.

Achieve their potential

Outcomes:

- Students are literate, numerate, and acquire core competencies.
- Students meet high expectations and learning objectives.

Network with peers, parents & partners

Outcomes:

- Students demonstrate ownership of their learning, while collaborating with their community.
- Students make a difference in their life, school, community and the world.

Four Year Consultation Activities At-A-Glance

Rocky View Schools' 2019 – 2023 Four Year Plan (4YP) community consultation process is about making choices. It is a process designed to support leaders and staff across the system in being intentional about our goals and methods. Simply stated, its sole purpose is to help our learning organization do a better job.

Consultation Activities and Timelines, 2018 – 2019:

Inspiration & Insights

May 1 – Learning Pods A: System/School Administrators

May 7 – Learning Pod B: Trustee/School Administrators/School Council/Student/ Business/Community Representatives

Aim – Engage pods in learning walks, guided tours, interviews, and small and large group discussions on RVS' preferred vision for learning and teaching.

Large Group Consolidation

May 16 – Learning Pod Representatives

Aim – Consolidate and synthesize observations and experiences from learning pods to lay the foundation for development of the learning narrative.

RVS Narrative – Writing/Revision Day

June 8 – Design Team

Aim – Draft a learning narrative for RVS based on learning pods preferred vision.

Trustee Debriefing

June 14 – Trustees/Design Team

Aim – Review and critique learning narrative with Board of Trustees.

Narrative, Goals & Outcomes – Writing/Revision

Summer 2018 – Design Team

Aim – Revise narrative and draft goals and outcomes for the plan.

Narrative, Goals & Outcomes – Inspiration/Critique

August 27 – Leadership Team

September 7 – EC Staff Review

October 5 – School Staff/Student Representatives

Aim – Review and critique learning narrative, goals and outcomes with internal stakeholders. Elicit sources of inspiration, beginning with Finland model.

Partner Review

October 11 – Business/Community Representatives

Aim – Review and critique learning narrative, goals and outcomes with educational and business partners. Identify how RVS can support the community in building a network of partners.

School Council Review

October 1 to 30 – School Councils/Trustees

Aim – Charge Trustees with review and critique of learning narrative, goals and outcomes with school councils.

Revision Day/Performance Measure Development

November 1 – Design Team

Aim – Consolidate stakeholder feedback, refine narrative, goals and outcomes; identify performance measures.

Strategy Development

November 5 to 20 – RVS Learning Community

Aim – Challenge RVS' learning community with bringing forward creative, sound and affordable strategies to advance four-year plan via rockyviewschools.chaordix.com

Strategy Solidification/Action Plan Development

November 20 to January 8 – Superintendent Working Committees

Aim – Strike Superintendent Working Committees to solidify strategies and develop corresponding action plans.

Trustee Debriefing

January 10 – Trustees/Design Team

Aim – Review and critique draft goals, outcomes, performance measures, strategies and action plans with Board of Trustees.

Four Year Plan – Review/Critique

January 15 – Leadership Team

January 15 to February 10 – School Staff

January 18 – EC Staff

Aim – Review and critique draft goals, outcomes, performance measures and strategies.

Revision Day

February 12 – Design Team

Aim – Consolidate stakeholder feedback, refine goals, outcomes, performance measures and strategies.

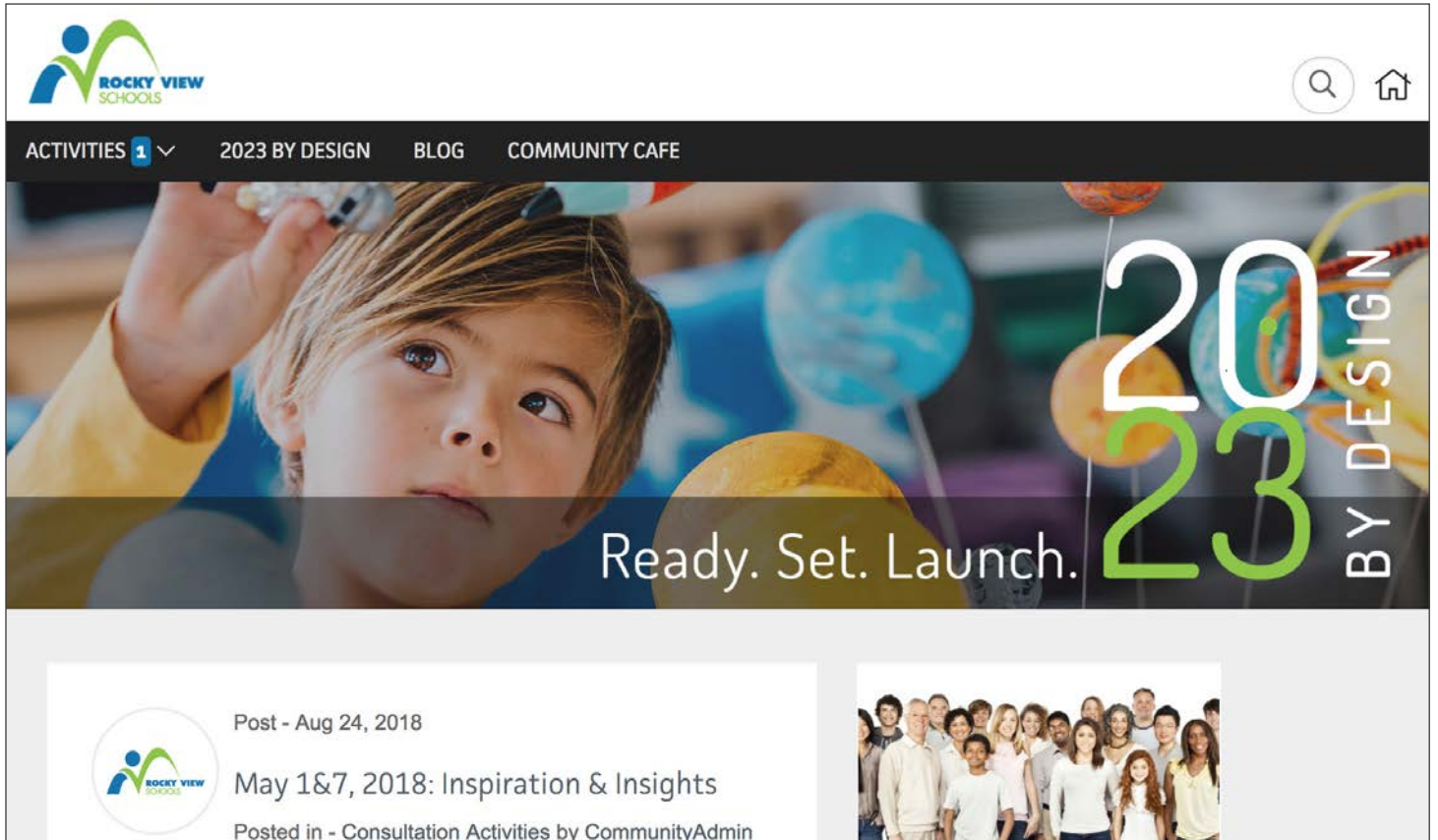
Plan Deliberation & Approval

March 7 – Board of Trustees

Aim – Seek approval of 2019–2023 Four Year Plan from Board of Trustees.

Welcome to 2023 by Design!

Beginning Sept. 17, join the conversation at 2023bydesign.com



The screenshot shows the Rocky View Schools website header with the logo on the left and search and home icons on the right. The navigation menu includes 'ACTIVITIES 1', '2023 BY DESIGN', 'BLOG', and 'COMMUNITY CAFE'. Below the header is a large banner image of a child looking up at colorful balloons, with the text 'Ready. Set. Launch.' and '2023 BY DESIGN'. Below the banner is a featured post card with the Rocky View Schools logo, the text 'Post - Aug 24, 2018', the title 'May 1&7, 2018: Inspiration & Insights', and the text 'Posted in - Consultation Activities by CommunityAdmin'. To the right of the post card is a group photo of diverse people.

What Is It?

2023 by Design is an online community designed to be your place to gather, create and innovate with other community members. In the community, you will have the opportunity to stay up-to-date on RVS' four year planning process, as well as create, engage and grow innovation within our jurisdiction.

Why Innovate? Rocky View Schools has embraced innovation for a number of reasons, including:

- Better preparing our students for the future.
- Change at a pace consistent with the world around us
- Proactively prepare to deal with challenges and external pressures facing K-12 educators and school communities.

How It Works

Beginning this fall, 2023 will feature a series of blogs from jurisdictional leaders related to draft goals and outcomes, as well as run a series of activities and challenges that will give you the chance to get points, badges and other rewards. You are free to participate as much or as little as you would like, contributing your own content or supporting your fellow members! The site also will keep you abreast on the planning process, the next consultation activity, and the rewards of our efforts.

Get Started

We would love to hear from you! As a staff member, you can join the conversation by logging in with your network password. As a parent or community member, sign up to collaborate by providing your email and completing a short profile. It will only take a couple minutes of your time before you're ready to engage!

We hope to see you online soon!