

PART FOUR: Results Report--Wrapping Up Year One

Over the course of the year, SGCHS staff engaged in PD on the Four Characteristics for Success which were identified through our earlier benchmarking: Problem Solving, Critical Thinking, Collaboration and Communication. As well, the two supporting pillars, Excellent Teaching and Real World Learning were explored. Our Faculty Council furthered their learning on Excellent Teaching by actively engaging in the book study, Classroom Instruction that Works. Staff integrated Real World Learning into classrooms and curricular content. Of course, our purpose for doing all this was our three year goal of assisting our students to embody Characteristics of Success. June saw us survey our Grade 10 Students, Parents, Staff and Community looking to see if we had made any headway towards this goal. Our findings were mixed.

When Grade 10 students were surveyed at year end, they actually felt less successful and less supported, by peers, parents and school, than they did after the first quarter when our benchmarking survey took place. Our parents responded to our survey stating that Covid had a negative impact on student learning and student achievement. There was a general consensus that success was not, could not, be fully actualized given the lived experience of the Covid pandemic. Meanwhile, our staff found that while Faculty Council were trying to implement newly acquired strategies and all staff were being overt in their exploration of the four Characteristics of Success identified, students were overwhelmed by Covid, especially if they experienced self or class isolation due to active case exposure. All this being said, it sounds as if year one of our three year plan to achieve students who embody Characteristics of Success did not hit the mark...

Yet surprisingly, our Grade 10s had the same or lower failure rate than previous Grade 10 groups. Despite students, parents and staff's qualitative accounts of difficulties recorded in their individual surveys, our students demonstrated success in their coursework. This is not to be taken lightly; in the midst of a pandemic, students were able to cope and complete the required work to achieve passing grades in their courses. Despite cohorting, lack of social activity, general isolation and specific AHS enforced isolation, students were able to do what needed to be done. This demonstrates success. We are on the right track. Now to fine tune for next year so that, despite Covid's now long term influence, we can support our students in further developing Characteristics for Success.