

Gr. 8 Retreat—Cheakamus Centre



Vision

To be a dynamic centre of excellence for environmental and indigenous cultural education, and a welcoming place for learning, gathering and sharing in nature.

Mandate

To support the Board of Education in demonstrating leadership in environmental education and sustainability practices in the delivery of our programs, and in the management of our site and facilities.

Mission

To create a hub of authentic, meaningful experiences that connect people to the natural world, and inspire sustainable values and behaviours.

Gr. 8 Retreat – Rationale & Goals



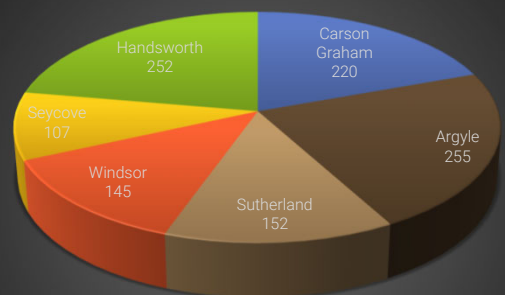
- Promote community and a sense of belonging
- Build connections amongst students and staff through shared experience
- Emphasize importance of Place through an Indigenous and environmental lens
- Opportunity to address missed student experiences in nature

Participation and Engagement



- 94% overall student participation rate
- 185 Student Leaders (Gr. 10-12) & 85 Staff
- Over 1,400 students and staff in 3 weeks
- Diversity of learners reflected in the community

Gr 8s by School



■ Carson Graham ■ Argyle ■ Sutherland
■ Windsor ■ Seycove ■ Handsworth

Alignment with Strategic Plan – Welcoming and Inclusive Culture



- Focus on welcoming, safe and inclusive experience
- Activities designed to accommodate wide range of abilities and interests
- Accessible learning spaces

Environmental Stewardship



- Supporting an outdoor place-based approach
- Promoting learning in, with and about nature
- Focusing on local systems and themes
- Fostering engagement and connection with place through an indigenous lens

Mental Health and Well-Being



- Time in nature can decrease anxiety and enhance well-being
- Outdoor learning fosters pro-social skill development
- Physical activity outdoors can help students self-regulate
- Shared experiences outside of the 'comfort zone' can help build resiliency

Next Steps



- Gr. 8 Retreat 2023
- Building on staff and student feedback
- Leadership training for student leaders with Outdoor School Counsellor training alignment
- Open Invitation to Board of Education to visit Cheakamus

