



# Horizon School Division - Involving Students in Off Campus Programming

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Successes, Trials, and Opportunities



# Where in the world is Horizon?



# Background

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Horizon School Division has a largely rural base of population. Our 9 high schools total 796 students (grades 10-12), with nearly half (347) enrolled at WR Myers High School in Taber.

Our division is, like many school jurisdictions, welcoming a more and more diverse range of pupils. This has proven to be exciting, as well as somewhat challenging.

5 of our high schools fit 1A population parameters, 3 are 2A, and 1 is 3A

# How are you similar and/or Different

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Introduce yourselves to those at your table or an elbow partner.

What division are you from?

What role do you have?

Do these descriptors (rural; smaller schools) align with and relate to your school jurisdiction?

What are your challenges?

# Opportunities to Enhance our Programming

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Low German Mennonite (LGM) community - Horizon has a substantial percentage of LGM families (~16%). Many of the current students are a part of the first generation in their family to attend a traditional high school.

Filipino - Taber has been a destination for a number of families - around 10% of WR Myers students (5% of division) represent as first generation from the Philippines.

Redefining roles - conscious recruiting of female students into Trades programs via Dual Credit.

# Programs of Focus (at the moment)

## Rural Healthcare

Taber has a number of physicians and health professionals who are quite eager to support our students.

## GREEN Certification

Given our rural base, building up the GREEN certificate program has been a priority.

## Dual Credit Programming

## Lethbridge Polytechnic

## SACI & OLDS

The majority of our schools are either 1A or 2A. Some schools have more shop facilities than others, while some have little to no dedicated shop space.

# Types of Situational Inclusion Opportunities

We are fortunate in Horizon School Division to have some events and activities that are conducive to broader group representation.

RhPAP, Trades4U Day, SACI Programming, Ag Expo Career Day are but a few.

More specific targeting for improvement comes in the form of Dual Credit programming,

Partner talk - how do one-off events enhance and help to build your jurisdiction's Off Campus programming?

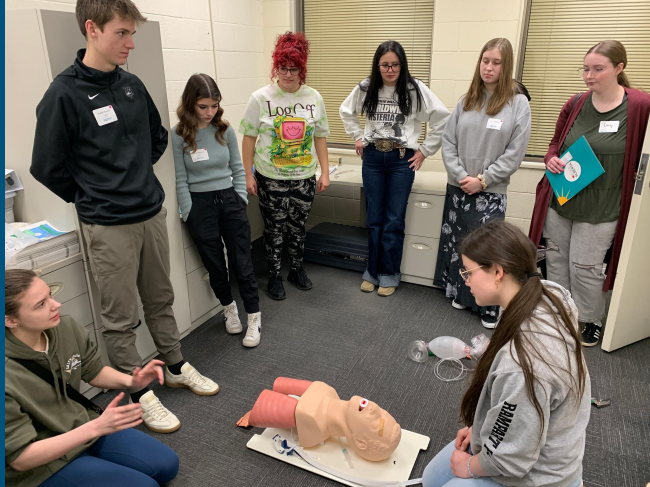
What works?

What doesn't work?

# RhPAP - Rural Health Professionals Action Plan day

We hosted 40 students at Taber Hospital, in a centre-based healthcare learning day. The mingling amongst our students of various backgrounds was so refreshing.

## Natalya's story



# Trades4U

Horizon School Division takes part in this event, along with Lethbridge, Palliser, and Holy Spirit divisions.

It's essentially a job shadow opportunity focused on the trades. Students apply to participate, and get paired with an employer for a 2.5 hour afternoon at their place of work.

We tend to use businesses that host RAP students, as connections/WCB are already established.



Discussion - What roles do businesses fill in your jurisdiction?

# Dual Credit - Lethbridge Polytechnic and SACI



## Justin G's (LGM) story:

Justin's family has started an agricultural business. His parents are not high-school graduates, and they see the talents and knowledge that their children and nieces/nephews bring to the family business.

Justin has taken 2 dual credit courses, both in trades, and is hoping to take a business course.



After Justin completed his first dual credit course, I was contacted by his cousin, Rudy. After entering the 2024-25 school year with 20 credits, Rudy has since completed one dual credit trades course, is working on a second, has completed some GREEN testing, and is on track to graduate this June.



SKY DRONES INC

# GREEN Certificate

Ongoing rebuild.

While we have grown the female demographic, I have yet to make good headway with our LGM students.

Challenges - the farm visits can be difficult to obtain. We have deep pockets of very private families who feel judged at times.

The nature of GREEN - read through the manual with your child - is a bit daunting for some of our families.



# Turn and Talk

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Has your jurisdiction seen growth and success with the GREEN certificate program?

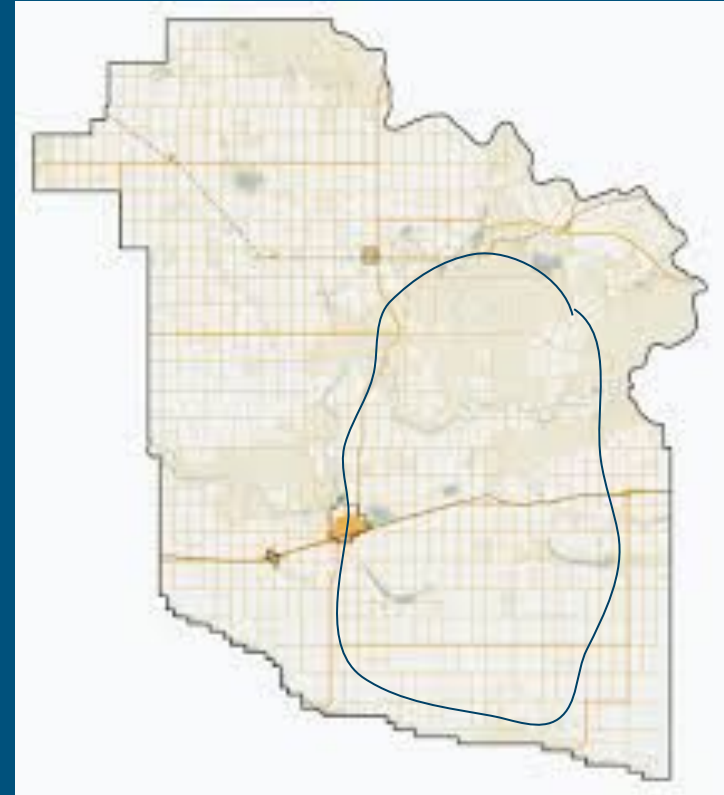
Why or Why not?

# Where can we grow and improve?

Filipino Community - has been quietly academic, and has been overlooked to a degree.

GREEN Certificate Programming - currently under-utilised, with 32 active students (4% of students in a largely rural division).

East of HWY 36 - there exists a population that has traditionally not attended formal schools.



# Discussion Questions

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[Go to Menti Meter](#)

# Thank you for your participation and contributions!

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