

A Unique Rural Setting

Places like this really do exist!

Arrow Lakes School District is set within a peaceful, spectacular mountain environment in southeastern British Columbia. Rocky peaks soar above the world's only inland temperate rainforest, home to ancient cedars, and wildlife including elk, bear, kokanee and eagles. Cold clear water cascades from glaciers into pristine lakes. Our valleys are strikingly beautiful – and are filled with warm and caring people.

The West Kootenay region is a unique and special place to live and raise a family. Several internationally renowned parks are nearby, including Summit Lake, McDonald Creek, Inonaklin, Kokanee, Valhalla, and Goat Range Provincial Parks. Lush valleys support organic agriculture, small farms, and artistry is ever-present at the farmers' markets.

Small-scale community forestry, eco-tourism, and a strong non-profit sector are but a few of the economic activities that help sustain healthy communities. Locally owned shops thrive, and the schools, parks, and community halls are focal points of social life. Nearby centres such as Nelson, Vernon and Kelowna provide city amenities with friendly, small town atmosphere.



Caring Communities

Nakusp, Edgewood, Burton, New Denver, and Silverton



The positive, attractive, healthy characteristics of small town living...

- Strong sense of community
- Safe and simple lifestyle
- Dedicated community volunteers
- Celebrations and festivals
- Trusting and caring people
- Locally grown food and clean water

...combined with high levels of education, artistic talent, adventurous spirits, and practical skills...

- An educated populace and skilled tradespeople, engaged in community
- Long-standing culture of visual arts, music, film, literary arts and heritage
- Skiing, mountain biking, boating, hiking and climbing, paddling and fishing
- Forest craft and fine woodworking, agriculture and small businesses

Schools at the Heart of their Communities

Arrow Lakes DL School
Lucerne Elementary Secondary
Nakusp Elementary

- Our schools are central to our communities
- World class educators, both local and from across the country, choose to live here for the exceptional education system and healthy lifestyle

Burton Academy School
Edgewood Elementary
Nakusp Secondary

- Informed, involved parents are integral to decision-making, organizing, and delivering high-quality learning programs
- Responsible, respectful, growing young people are not merely students – they are essential, authentic and fully contributing citizens to our schools and communities



World Class Learning in a Rural Environment

What does world class education look like?



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World Class Learning in a Rural Environment

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World Class Learning

Innovative Educational Practices in the Arrow Lakes School District

SD 10's schools are at the forefront of innovative practice; an educational culture of growth is at our heart.

Place-Conscious Learning



The landscape of Slocan and Arrow Lakes contains a surprising diversity of archaeological, historical and natural richness. Teaching and learning in our schools focuses on exploration of this history, geography and culture, and relevantly connects our places to the rest of the world.

Our educators collaborate to create innovative, cross-curricular, place-conscious learning experiences that make a difference for our students, and in the world.

Personalized Learning and Individual Student Success



Small class sizes and low student-to-teacher ratios, along with solid educational support, allow every student to succeed. Individual needs for mentorship are met in a variety of ways, including multi-grade peer interaction within schools, community-based work experiences, and time spent with community elders and infants alike.

Our students perform consistently at or above provincial levels. They graduate with strong academic skills as well as a secondary school career filled with athletics, fine and performing arts, trades and skills training and/or outdoor education experiences, depending on their individual post-secondary path.

In the Arrow Lakes, our aim is that every student is given the personal attention they need to succeed. We are committed to finding more and more ways to help our students discover and build their own passions and gifts, and grow in confidence as learners!

Nature Immersion



Our geography is awe-inspiring, so what better way to inspire our young people than to provide opportunities to experience the mountains, forests, lakes and rivers that surround and sustain our communities.

From weekly "Wednesday Walks" at Edgewood Elementary, to week-long canoe trips on Slocan Lake; from learning in the school garden at Lucerne, to gaining Ground Search and Rescue qualifications in Outdoor Education at Nakusp Secondary; all ages of students become familiar with our diverse natural environment.

Quality Teaching and Learning

A desirable place to live and work, educators in our school district are committed to our schools and our communities. We have a perfect mix of early career, mid-career, and experienced teachers.

In SD 10, we invest in professional learning for our teachers, our support staff, and our leadership team. As a result, our educators work collaboratively to reflect on and refine their practice. We care about making a difference for each student, and are committed to learning better and better ways to support all our children and youth.

Inquiry-based and Project-based Learning



Our teachers and students incorporate thoughtful inquiry in their work. Students choose inquiries to explore deep questions they have about their studies and use project-based learning to develop understanding and demonstrate their ideas. Teachers work in teams to inquire about what teaching practices work best for their students. We are all learners!

These practices help personalize learning as students and teachers investigate questions and concerns they are curious about, and then share their findings with one another as well as with the world beyond our district. Inquiry is pivotal in lifelong learning.

Experiential Learning



Learning by doing helps our students achieve. And learning through experience provides opportunities for growth in complex ways. Interactions with trades and skills training, with nature, in archaeological digs, artistic creations, and technological problem-solving are part of our learners' experiences.

Social Nature of Learning



Learning is both an individual and a social process. Our schools foster social learning opportunities in order to establish the adage that, "We are stronger together," and leverage the power of social learning to enhance our students' success.

Our classrooms therefore allow for many opportunities for learners to work in collaborative teams, refining the skills of working together, listening, and using group synergy to problem-solve in a range of learning contexts. These are 21st century learning skills – essential for today's society and our future.

Whether students work on mathematical problem-solving, create music, drama, film or dance, climb mountains, or engage in project-based learning, we foster opportunities for social learning.



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