

STROME SCHOOL, SMALL RURAL COMMUNITIES HAVE BIG BENEFITS

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Our friendly, community minded village is in a great location, not far from the bigger cities. It is home beyond a noisy urban life; a safe and friendly place to raise a family.

The heart of this Centennial Community is, and always has been, the school. Over the years it has developed into a community that is committed to families and supports them in their responsibility to care for and educate their children.

One of Strome School's families, The Gartners, moved to Strome from Blackfalds 9 years ago. They say, ***"We are blessed to be part of the Strome Community, and more so to be part of the Strome School. Strome is an excellent example of what a small rural school has to offer. We have four children in the school system, and we are thrilled that they have had the opportunity to experience the heartfelt and personal learning experiences offered in Strome. Small class sizes have allowed wonderful student-teacher relationships to develop. Cross-aged learning is another valuable asset of the school. It is amazing to see the leadership, cooperation and acceptance the students have developed in our school setting. To top things off, Strome has the most incredible community support we have ever seen, and a very dedicated and active parent council. The school is the hub of our community and our family is very proud to stand with it."***

Strome school believes in creating an opportunity for each student to develop intellectually, spiritually, morally, physically, and socially to the highest degree of which he/she is capable, according to his/her unique potential.

The characteristics that we value in our small rural school are:

- accelerated reading program
- safe and caring learning environment
- up to date technology including a computer lab with smart boards
- 3 Year plan focusing on reading comprehension
- visible parent support in all school related projects and activities
- extra-curricular sporting clubs are available to students of all ages and are administered by staff, parents and community volunteers.
- Multi-Aging – can be a misunderstood system, however we have seen more opportunity for children to work and develop at their own level on a continuous basis. Multi-age classrooms promote social development as older children try to engage younger children and pro-social behaviors,

including sharing, taking turns, and helping are more apparent in multi-age classrooms. The classroom evolves into a collaborative, cooperative and thought-provoking working environment. This learning atmosphere will aide students to become curious, competent, independent and confident learners.

Alongside these academic attributes, the school is very supportive of their community and the greater world around them. The school embraces opportunities for children and families to participate in making a difference. Some of the recent activities have included 30 HOUR FAMINE, BATTLE RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT, HOOPS FOR HAITI, STUDENTS & SENIOR CITIZENS LEARNING DAY, TOWN WIDE CLEAN UP, and VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY. These activities are commonly organized by the Jr High students. However, a mentorship program is in place to help model and develop positive relationships between all ages. Most activities in the school incorporate a buddy system where older students are paired with younger ones. This buddy relationship begins in September with a reading program and continues on throughout the school year in all other activities.

The Strome community recognizes the outstanding effort by students and staff to embrace social issues, and in turn, supports them in a big way.

- A “Friends Of Strome School” society has provided the opportunity for students to have up to date sporting, and playground equipment as well as smart boards for classrooms.
- Mothers Who Care group encourages staff and students in Christian values and morals.
- Parent and staff volunteers implement a Hot Food program on a weekly basis.
- A private kindergarten is housed within the school and maintains a close working relationship enabling them to participate in school activities.

With the many challenges that our small rural Alberta schools face, it is easy for parents, staff and administrators to become discouraged. We at Strome, are glad to share this wonderful story of our success and encourage small communities to continue on appreciating the unique opportunities they can provide to their school families.

For more information on Strome visit: www.villageofstrome.com, or stop by the school any time!