



**SCHOOL:** Brechin Elementary

**YEAR:** 2024-25

**PRINCIPAL:** Anna Bedard & Courtney Hill (VP)



## OUR SCHOOL

Brechin Elementary is an inner-city, small school located on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nations. We take pride in learning from the beautiful lands that surround us, including the culture, the history, the traditions, and more. Approximately 25% of the school community are Indigenous, which add a layer of rich culture, language, and beliefs to our school community. Brechin is currently one of the Nanaimo Ladysmith Public School's focus schools, which allocates additional resources to supporting learners in enhancing their literacy skills. As a result, our data shows a significant improvement in literacy learning and overall literacy skills. The Brechin school community represents a diverse population with multi-cultural families, including Turkish, Arabic, Ukrainian, First Nations, and Hindi.

Our school is comprised of 180 students ranging from K-7 and 9 divisions. Supporting our school community are 12 classroom teachers, 9 Educational Assistants, full-time Indigenous Culture Student Support Worker (ICSSW), Child Youth Family Support Worker (CYFSW), two Inclusion Support Teachers (IST), School Librarian and part-time Counsellor, a part-time Literacy Coordinator, Speech & Language Pathologist, Psychologist, and an English Language Learner (ELL) Teacher. We have a full-time Principal and a part-time Vice Principal who teachers 80% of the time.

## OUR SCHOOL GOALS

### Student Success

Increase literacy success rates for all students

Platoon classes between 4 staff members (Literacy Coordinator, Teachers, Principal) to receive targeted literacy instruction as a strategy to improve literacy skills.

### Student and Employee Wellness

Increase the number of Students who feel welcome, safe and have a sense of belonging in their school

Identifying students who do not feel they have at least two trusted adults in the school and/or feel safe in varying locations within the school.

### Truth and Reconciliation

Increase awareness of and access to resources available to support hul'q'umi'num language learning

Creating art as a way for our Indigenous learners and their families to connect with our school community.



## OUR CELEBRATION STORY

At Brechin, we celebrate differences, value diversity and embrace all perspectives. By coming together as a school community, we provide a safe, nurturing and empathetic environment to our learners and to our families. We strive to ensure that each learner has access to education and will find success within our building. The type of success not only for school-age, but important life lessons that will help guide them as responsible citizens. We believe in a holistic view of the child/family to ensure wrap-around support as needed and understand this may look different from child to child.

Some of the programs we have to support these philosophies are:

- daily food program (breakfast, snack, lunch) delivered by our CYFSW and student leaders
- meaningful relationships with community partners (Tillicum Lelum, Pacific Sport, Hornets Rugby, Business Partners, Frontrunners, Nanaimo Food Share, BC Agriculture, Nanaimo Schools Foundation, Feeding Futures, and more)
- involvement from staff to meet and review data to determine next steps/what's working/what's not working
- dedication to learn about trauma informed practice
- a caring, dedicated and involved Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
- a Teacher-Librarian and Literacy Coordinator who work collaboratively, apply for grants and implement effective programs/resources
- exploration of Growth Mindset, EASE, We Thinkers, Mindfulness, and more
- involvement in sports programs, including Cross Country, Football, Soccer, Volleyball, and Basketball
- spirit-building activities, including Spirit Days, whole school dance parties, community events, and more