ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Pythagoras Academy

2023

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Accessibility British Columbia Act became law in BC in June 2021. Accessibility standards being developed and implemented will help remove and prevent barriers that restrict people with disabilities from equally participating in their community and foster an inclusive environment.

The Province has proclaimed Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022, as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. This awareness day, which the United Nations first observed in 1992, has the theme of "transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world".

AccessAbility Week has now been established, beginning on the last Sunday in May each year.

Government and listed organizations, including independent schools and public school districts, must complete the following requirements under Part 3 of the Accessible BC Act (by September 1, 2023):

1. Establish an Accessibility Committee
2. Develop an Accessibility Plan
3. Create a mechanism to receive feedback on barriers to accessibility from members of the community

2. TERMS

Barriers to Accessibility

A **barrier** is anything that hinders the full and equal participation in society of a person navigating needs or disabilities.

Impairment includes a physical, sensory, mental, intellectual or cognitive impairment, whether permanent, temporary or episodic.

3. ABOUT OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Pythagoras Academy is an independent school serving 200+ students from across the Lower Mainland on a campus located in Richmond, B.C. Our school currently offers education from JK-Grade 7.

We have a wide variety of specialty programs, including classes in Mandarin, French, technology, musical theatre, music/band, art, and physical education, as well as many after-school clubs and programs that cover a wide range of interests.

Compassion, empathy, inclusion and kindness are the focus of our G.R.O.W. model (gratitude, respect, open-hearted, wonder), as well as the 5 Chairs 5 Choices program that is incorporated into daily learning at PA.

Our Success Centre and Excellerator Program offer support to English language learners and students requiring one-on-one individualized learning support.

Leadership Team:

Head of School - Mr. Michael Bouchard

Vice Principals - Mrs. Leanne Ho, Ms. Una Miljevic

Director of Early Learning - Ms. Leah Zeballos

Teaching Staff (32)

Specialty Teachers - 11

Homeroom Teachers - 18

Success Centre & Excellerator Support Staff - 3

Administrative and Support Staff (14)

The **Pythagoras Academy Board** establishes policies and the strategic direction of Pythagoras Academy. Board meetings occur 10 times per year.

Parent/Guardian (PAPO) meetings are held at the school throughout the school year.

4. A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

At Pythagoras Academy, we are committed to providing a learning and working environment that supports all students and staff and provides equitable opportunities to support our diverse community. A key element to supporting our community is the development of a Three-Year Accessibility Plan. This plan identifies system needs, priorities, and action plans, and draws on feedback from our school community and the work of the Accessibility Committee to enhance equity of access to programming and our facilities.

Our Accessibility Committee is a diverse team that meets regularly in order to identify priorities and develop and monitor action plans highlighted in the Three-Year Accessibility Plan. The plan identifies measurable actions across the pillars of the Accessibility Act, supporting equal opportunity for persons with disabilities by identifying, removing, and preventing barriers to access.

We recognize the importance of accessibility not only for those with disabilities but also for the benefit of the entire community. We are committed to advancing the efforts of the Accessibility Committee to improve equity and ease of access to services, as well as access to our facilities. Through the actions in this Three-Year Accessibility Plan, we commit to continuous improvements in developing an environment that supports all students and staff and the larger school community.

5. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Pythagoras Academy is grateful to be on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Coast Salish, specifically the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh), sc̓əwaθən məsteyəx (Tsawwassen) and q̓ʷa:n̓ƛ̓ən̓ (Kwantlen) First Nations. We respect and commit to a deep consideration of their history, culture, stewardship and voice.

6. FRAMEWORK GUIDING OUR WORK

Pythagoras Academy Accessibility accessibility plan falls under the umbrella of the AMS (FISA) Accessibility Committee Plan and will be reviewed, updated and revised as necessary on an ongoing basis in response to community feedback that is received.

Pythagoras Academy Accessibility Working Group will do a physical audit of the property and buildings to determine upgrades/goals to be achieved by December 2023.

7. PYTHAGORAS ACADEMY ACCESSIBILITY WORKING GROUP

PYTHAGORAS ACADEMY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:

Mr. Michael Bouchard

Ms. Una Miljevic

Mrs. Leanne Ho

Members of the community are invited to express interest in joining the Accessibility Working Group, including, those people:

- With disabilities
- With children or youth with disabilities
- People who work or volunteer for Pythagoras Academy
- People or organizations that support people with disabilities

The PA Working Group will follow the principle of "nothing about us without us."

The Group will meet 4 times per year (November, January, March, May) at Pythagoras Academy.

To apply to become a member of the Pythagoras Academy Working Group, please complete the application form here (link):

Pythagoras Academy Accessibility Working Group Form

The deadline to express interest in joining the Working Group is October 12, 2023.

8. COMMUNITY FEEDBACK TOOL

Please use this link to provide feedback