BELIEF STATEMENT: 21st Century Learning
Previously known as Educational/Curricular Beliefs Policy ADA

Pembina Trails School Division is committed to ensuring that students are personally and intellectually engaged in learning opportunities that will help them develop, practice and refine the skills required to be successful while in school, but more importantly as productive citizens entering the post-secondary world of education and work.

Today, the term 21st Century Learning is widely used when speaking of preparing students for their future. In Europe and in North America learning competencies and skills have been identified and their integrations as core outcomes of public education has been advocated as a way of ensuring students are well equipped to meet the demands of modern society. Knowledge and innovation is seen as the key input to success. Examples of these 21st Century competencies include:

- Creativity and innovation
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Agility, adaptability and capacity for lifelong learning
- Teamwork and collaboration in virtual teams
- Initiative, self-direction and entrepreneurialism
- Effective oral and written communication
- Proficiency in the mother tongue
- Multiple language and cultural awareness
- Digital competence: the ability to effectively access and analyze information, including digital information

In order to focus on the learning needs of our students, a continued shift in our current model is required. The essence of the shift is the need to move from a teacher-directed to a learner-centred model. The flexible, analytical, engaged and motivated graduate who will succeed in the 21st Century is not the product of a learning environment where teachers take centre stage and students passively receive and recite information. The business of learning belongs to the student, and as such, must focus on the learner, with the teacher providing valuable supports and facilitation. The shift affects learners by engaging them in the identification of problems to be solved through learning, the researching and creation of information to solve those problems, and the analysis of the world they live in. Students develop collaborative skills as they reach out to peers and resources in the school, the community and beyond to complete real-world projects that are relevant to their own lives.

21st Century learning outcomes focus on enduring concepts and skills to allow time for deeper learning. Learning experiences are inquiry-based, student-driven, meaningful and personalized. Flexible learning opportunities and spaces are provided all within a learning environment rich in information and communication technology.

The goal is true, life-long engagement of learners so that each may be successful in today's world.