

VSS gets local edge in school rankings

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Vernon Secondary School. (file photo/Vernon Matters Staff)

By Pete McIntyre

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Vernon Secondary is the top ranked school from the Vernon School District in the latest report card on B.C. secondary schools by the Fraser Institute.

The organization bases its rankings on student results from annual province wide exams and other factors.

“This year’s report card ranks 251 public and independent secondary schools based on seven academic indicators using student results from annual province wide exams, grade-to-grade transition rates, and graduation rates,” Senior Policy Analyst Angela MacLeod said.

Of the top 53 schools in the ranking, 29 are independent schools and 24 are public schools.

“All too often, we hear excuses that public schools can’t compete with independent schools because of the communities and students that they serve, but that’s just not true — every school can improve and strive to rank higher than the year before,” MacLeod said.

VSS is ranked 47th out of 251 schools, with Clarence Fulton in 62, Kalamalka 87, and Seaton 136.

Charles Bloom in Lumby, the other secondary school in the District, was 180.

Little Flower, a private school for girls in Vancouver, topped the list for a second second straight year.

Vernon Matters reached out to the Vernon School District for its reaction to the rankings.

“Within School District 22, we tend to focus more on the results each of our schools produce year-after-year,” Maritza Reilly, executive assistant/communications coordinator with School District 22, said.

“Every year, each school analyzes their previous year’s results and sets improvement goals for the following year. We look at things that go beyond what the Fraser Institute ranks, including fine arts, applied skills, as well as academics,” she said.

Reilly added in reviewing the past year, the district is proud of the hard work put in by its staff, and have been able to celebrate many great student accomplishments as a result.

Salmon Arm Secondary is the top ranked school in District 83, in 70th place, with A.L. Fortune in Enderby 198, and Pleasant Valley in Armstrong at 228.

You can find the complete results on all ranked schools [**here**](#).