

# Fostering Lifelong Learning through Digital Curriculum in Saskatchewan

Holy Trinity Catholic School Division is a rural school division in Saskatchewan, Canada. The division enrolls 2,300 students in 10 buildings, and is well known for its mission to create hope by fostering learning and honouring diversity in a Catholic environment.



## Snapshot of District

District Type	Rural
Enrollment	2,305
	Student Population by Community
	Shaunavon – 65
	Swift Current – 499
	Moose Jaw – 1791
	Self-Declared Aboriginal Students – 134

\* Statistics are from 2011

## The Challenge



In early 2010, it became evident to the leadership team at the Holy Trinity Catholic School Division that they needed to re-evaluate how to deliver instructional materials that address the needs of today's students and the realities of today's changing classroom.

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### Holy Trinity School Division Implemented the following Discovery Education Services

- » Discovery Education STREAMING Plus Canada
- » Discovery Education SCIENCE

## The Solution – Digital Content Aligned to the Curriculum

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**Geri Hall**

Superintendent of Learning  
Holy Trinity School Division,  
Saskatchewan, Canada

"With the analog world you are stuck in time and you have resources that were manufactured at a particular point in time," said Celeste York, Director of Education. "With digital resources, they can constantly be updated and we have instant access in all of our classrooms." When they set out to research digital resource options, Holy Trinity leadership quickly realized that they had discovered something unique with Discovery Education. "We checked around with some other school divisions and we came across Discovery Education, we did an analysis of Discovery Education and what it provided," recounts Geri Hall, Superintendent of Learning. "We found out that [Discovery Education] was bigger than just a video repository, that there were certainly other curriculum-based, outcome-based activities and instructional supports and that is when we went to the board," she added.

After further evaluation, it was determined that Discovery Education was the solution for curriculum-relevant digital classroom resources that support Holy Trinity's goals of increased student engagement, igniting students' passion for science, and fostering 21st century learning. Furthermore, with prior investments in classroom hardware, including interactive whiteboards, the benefit of a complete implementation of Discovery Education were obvious.

Discovery Education fulfilled the division's goal of providing digital resources that aligned to curriculum and creating an environment that encouraged critical thinking, and student engagement. "Our children today are digital natives and we need to provide them with the best technology we can," Celeste York said. Partnering with Discovery Education guaranteed that all their teachers and students had instant access to educational content that was aligned to curriculum, appropriate to grade level, Canadian content-heavy (with French resources), across all subject areas, and accessible anywhere.



For Holy Trinity, the implementation phase was as important as the decision to partner with Discovery Education. "We are an evidence-based, data-driven school division and Discovery Education helps us with that tracking," said Hall. In addition to monitoring usage through Discovery Education, Holy Trinity supported implementation with their teachers through a strong professional development initiative. "Our teachers come from a variety of backgrounds when it comes to technology and we have seen an explosion in regards to the use of Discovery Education and technology across the board."

The successful implementation of Discovery Education SCIENCE ignited the passion for science in their students. By establishing a robust schedule of professional development, leveraging the use of virtual labs and assessment tools found within Discovery Education SCIENCE, the Division ensured a successful implementation and generated excitement among faculty and students alike. Bryce Johnson, a Grade 6 student, summed it up best, "We're up front and learning about [science] instead of learning out of a textbook."

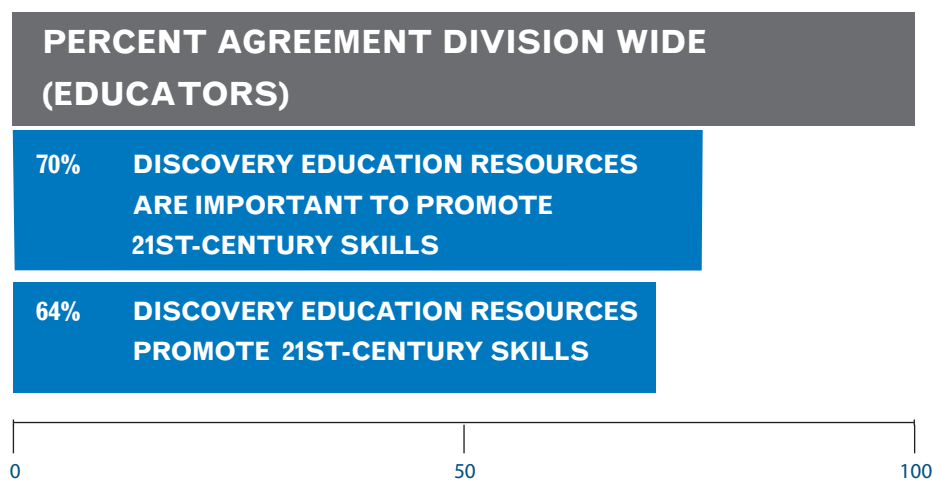
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**Celeste York**  
 Director of Education  
 Holy Trinity School Division,  
 Saskatchewan, Canada

# Year 1 – Initial Results

## Students Accessing Resources Twice as Much as Teachers

The feedback from teachers and students across the division is highly enthusiastic. "Preliminary results tell us that our teachers and our students are accessing these resources at an accelerated rate, we're hearing that the resources are relevant and current, students are really engaged," Celeste York said. Usage data indicates that students are fueling a passion for learning by accessing Discovery Education resources twice as much as educators within Holy Trinity.



High login rates and interest demonstrate teachers have begun to successfully embed Discovery Education resources into their lesson plans. In an early division-wide survey, 70% of educator respondents agreed that Discovery Education resources are extremely important in promoting 21st-century learning and 64% agreed that Discovery Education resources promote 21st-century learning.

Starting with a clearly defined vision, developing a research-based plan, building a strong, passionate team, and identifying key partners to support the vision and goals of the Division, has allowed Holy Trinity School Division to fulfill the mission of creating lifelong learners through relevant and current resources.