

WESTERN SCHOOL DIVISION COMMUNITY REPORT 2023 - 2024



Darcy Wolfe
Vice-Chair



Lisa Burley



Brian Fransen
Chair



Susana Hawryshko



Nicole Levesque

Board of Trustees

Things to Celebrate!

- ☑ *École Discovery Trails construction is underway and on schedule*
- ☑ *Election of a new Trustee, Nicole Levesque*
- ☑ *Continued community and divisional growth*

Divisional Facts

- Student population: 2262
- 5 school sites
- Over 228,000 square feet of educational space in schools
- Total professional staff: 165
- Total teaching and support staff: 432
- Average monthly student attendance: 91.75%



Division Office Administration:
 Stephen Ross - Superintendent
 Marianne Fenn - Asst. Superintendent
 Carl Pedersen - Secretary-Treasurer
 Yuriy Lebedyuk - Facilities Supervisor
 Adam Adamson - Transportation Supervisor

**Unit 4 – 75 Thornhill Street,
 Morden, Manitoba, R6M 1P2
 Ph. (204) 822-4448, Fax. (204) 822-4262
 Email: divoff@westernsd.mb.ca
www.westernsd.mb.ca**

Our Mission

Developing people who are Rooted in Caring, and Committed to Learning.

“Mission statements obligate people to moral action.”

Thomas Sergiovanni

Report to the Community from the Western School Division Board of Trustees

As we come to the end of the 2023-2024 school year and quickly approach 2024-2025, we are excited to share some important updates and achievements with our community. The Board of Trustees has been engaged in numerous initiatives to enhance the quality of education and overall school experience for our students. Among our various efforts this year, the pinnacle has been the development and approval of a budget for the upcoming school year that reflects our community's strong commitment to fostering a thriving educational environment.



2024-2025 Budget Highlights

The approved budget for 2024-2025 ensures that our division can meet the growing needs of our student population. Key aspects of this budget include:

- A 6.3% increase in revenue per student over the 2020/21 school year, which will help accommodate an anticipated enrollment of 2,270 FTE students in September 2024.
- Enhanced support for staff levels, guidance, and resources to maintain a positive learning environment. Strategic investments in mental health support, technology, and equipment, aligning with our community's call for improved educational resources.

Celebrating Our Staff

We are incredibly proud of our staff, who have dedicated themselves to the education our community's students with passion and excellence. They have fully embraced our four board priorities:

1. **Elevate and Deepen Learning:** Our staff continually strive to enhance the learning experience, ensuring that students achieve their fullest potential.
2. **Promote a Healthy and Thriving Culture:** From top to bottom, our team fosters a supportive and nurturing environment, promoting well-being and resilience among students.
3. **Foster Student Ownership:** By encouraging students to take charge of their learning journey, our staff empower them to

become independent and motivated learners.

Forge Meaningful Community Relationships: Our team works diligently to build strong connections with families, local business, and community groups enriching the educational experience for all.

Exciting News: École Discovery Trails

We are thrilled to announce that we are on track to open our new K-8 school, École Discovery Trails, in the fall. This addition marks a 25% increase in our schools and demonstrates our commitment to meeting the growing educational demands of our community. École Discovery Trails will provide state-of-the-art facilities and much needed space, ensuring that all students have access to quality education in a modern environment.

Trustee Changes

This year, we said goodbye to Trustee David Guenther, whose family has moved to Tennessee. We are grateful for his contributions and wish him and his family all the best in their new endeavors. At the same time, we are excited to welcome our new Trustee, Nicole Levesque, to the Board. Nicole brings new ideas and a fresh perspective, and we are thrilled to have her join us.

Looking Ahead

The 2024-2025 budget and the opening of École Discovery Trails are more than just milestones—they represent our unwavering commitment to nurturing a well-educated, diverse, and resilient generation. We are grateful for the continued support and dedication of our community. Together, we will create a brighter, more inclusive future for our students. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Western School Division. Let's continue to work hand in hand to make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

The Western School Division Board of Trustees

Darcy Wolfe

Trustee - Western School Division



THANK-YOU STAFF!

The Board of Western School Division is deeply appreciative of the continued effort and care demonstrated by our staff!

WESTERN
School Division
Morden, Manitoba

"Rooted In Caring;
Committed to Learning"





MAPLE LEAF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

225 12th Street, Morden, MB. R6M 1Z3

Principal: Ms. Cindy Dick

Vice-Principals: Ms. Carla Wiebe and Mr. Andrei Mardli

Telephone: (204) 822-4458, Email: cdick@westernsd.mb.ca

Website: <https://www.westernsd.mb.ca/school/mapleleaf>



Find us on Instagram!

https://www.instagram.com/maple_leaf1928/
<https://www.instagram.com/mordenmlsphysed/>

Highlights

- Maple Leaf Cross Country team excelled in competitions.
- Commemorated Orange Shirt Day to honour Indigenous history and resilience.
- Successfully raised \$675 for the Terry Fox Foundation.
- Regional Connections lunch clubs to support new students in our community
- Hosted Fall Soccer Derbies for grades 1 to 4.
- Soccer at the Meridian Exhibition Centre through the Phys. Ed program.
- Conducted Scholastic Book Fairs to promote literacy.
- Remembrance Day assemblies to honour veterans and promote peace.
- Kindergarten winter concerts, grade 1 & 2 presentation of "Rockin' in the Snow" and grade 3 & 4 presentations of "Elflandia."
- Fire safety training from Captain Jonathon Baumgart.
- Engaged with Indigenous history, culture, and traditions through Tipi Joe's teachings.
- Encouraged entrepreneurship with the Children's Business Market.
- Fostered friendship and inclusivity through the Lunch Bunch program for grades 3 & 4.
- Field trip to Village du Père Noël for French Immersion classes.
- Raised \$1980.37 for local charities through Mme Stein's grade 2 class Christmas Garage Sale.
- "I Love to Read" activities including Book Swap, Cuddle Up & Read Night, guest readers, and the "Reading with Raptors" presentation.
- Students explored Black History Month through classroom activities.
- Performance of Snow White by the Manitoba Theatre for Young People.
- Hosted a performance by Damien Lussier, a renowned Children's French-speaking musician/entertainer.

2023-2024 Priorities

LITERACY

- Through the use of increasingly complex strategies such as storytelling, using talking stems, and comprehension conversations, communication (both oral and written) will be developed to meet age-appropriate criteria for each grade level.
 - Kindergarten – Using words to solve problems
 - Grade 1 – Using words to express thinking
 - Grade 2 – Using talking stems to develop comprehension skills
 - Grade 3 – Adding "because" to show deeper thinking, with supporting evidence
 - Grade 4 – Using words to show connections between learning and personal experiences
- Improve the percentage of students who meet or exceed grade-level reading expectations.

NUMERACY

- Students will demonstrate number fluency and apply critical thinking skills to solve a variety of real-life math contexts.

FRENCH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

- Increase the use of French beyond the classroom, regardless of language of instruction.
- Ensure the students ongoing development of French Language and perception of bilingualism.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL

- Provide a safe and inclusive learning environment for all.
- Develop a school of confident learners who are open to collaboration within a diverse school community.

MAMÀHTAWISIWIN

- Incorporate traditional stories and teachings into all curricular areas.
- Develop relationships with Elders and Knowledge Keepers to help support authentic student learning.

About Us

Our school, nestled in the heart of Morden, boasts a vibrant community of 486 students, with new additions joining us on a weekly basis. Maple Leaf Elementary School is committed to delivering educational excellence through dynamic and enriching experiences tailored to every learner. Rooted in our core values, Maple Leaf fosters a culture of CARE: Collaborate, Acquire new skills, Respect ourselves and others, Empathize with those around us

Our school community thrives as a dynamic and inclusive learning environment, embracing students hailing from the local roots of Morden, Manitoba, as well as those who have recently joined us from various corners of the globe. Within our diverse student body, we proudly support a small yet significant Indigenous population. Moreover, our dedicated staff mirrors the rich cultural and linguistic diversity of our students, fostering an atmosphere of understanding and inclusion. Additionally, Maple Leaf benefits from an engaged parent community, boasting an active parent advisory council, a parent volunteer program, and Canadian Parents for French chapter.

Our Mission Statement

We strive to provide educational excellence through challenging and enriching experiences for all. At Maple Leaf School, we CARE.
 C - Collaborate; A – Acquire new skills; R – Respect; E – Empathy

"Learn, Grow, Live / Apprendre, Grandir, Vivre"



MINNEWASTA SCHOOL

1 Academy Drive, Morden, MB. R6M 1Z4

Principal: Mr. Geoff Sutton

Vice-Principal: Mrs. Jenn Kroetsch

Telephone: (204) 822-4580 Email: gsutton@westernsd.mb.ca

Website: <https://www.westernsd.mb.ca/school/minnewasta/Pages/default.aspx>

Highlights

- Transition Days for connections between staff, parents, and students
- PBL (Project Based Learning) activities school-wide
- Community experiences
- School-wide activity days
- Guest visitors to the school
- I Love to Read Month celebrations
- Grade 4 team participating in the Numeracy Achievement Project
- School Spirit Weeks
- Celebrating the diversity of all staff and students
- Field Trips
- French Performances by Damien Lussier and Gerald Leroche
- Natural Playground & Outdoor Classroom Space
- Parent Advisory Council organized Hot Lunch Program
- Jump Rope for Heart Day
- Stanley Park Day organized by school staff
- Mamāhtawisiwin Staff Professional Development
- Improving Critical Thinking for Deeper Learning with Garfield Gini-Newman
- Workshops with Ray “Coco” Stevenson (Indigenous Musician)
- Grade 3/4 & 4 Art Gallery Display for the month of February
- K-2 and 3-4 Christmas concerts, Singing in the Park, Festival of the Arts



Priority Areas for 2024-2025

Literacy

Numeracy

French

Wellness

Education for Sustainable Development

Find us on Twitter and Instagram!

twitter.com/minnewasta_wsd

instagram.com/minnewastaschool/

About Us

- ◆ K-4 school with approximately 340 students
- ◆ Diverse and inclusive learning community, welcoming to all
- ◆ 40 professional and support staff members
- ◆ English programming with Early Start French in K-3 and French: Communication and Culture in Grade 4
- ◆ Strong inquiry/PBL driven instruction
- ◆ Large school with small-school feel (sense of community)
- ◆ Kindergarten programming offered in AM/PM time slots each day
- ◆ Diverse population with large percentage being EAL learners
- ◆ Students attending have come from 23 different countries



Our Mission

The mission of Minnewasta School is to provide a friendly, safe and respectful place where students, staff, parents/guardians and community work together to encourage lifelong learning. Minnewasta's staff will use the best available resources to challenge all students in a caring and competent way, knowing that each child is an individual.

“Learning and Growing Together”



ÉCOLE DISCOVERY TRAILS

1079 Parkhill Drive, Morden, MB. R6M 0A8

Principal: Mr. Samuel Jerema

Vice-Principal: Mrs. Jenn Kroetsch

Email: sjerema@westernsd.mb.ca

Website: <https://www.westernsd.mb.ca/school/discoverytrails>



Common Area—June 2024

While work and preparations for the new school have been underway for quite some time, on April 12, 2024, École Discovery Trails teachers came together for the first time as a whole teaching staff to begin planning for the 2024-2025 school year. Many details were discussed including our vision and mission for the new school, classroom layouts and furniture, students programming, timetables, as well as recess and lunch hour plans. As a school team we endeavor to learn from our existing schools in the Western School Division with the understanding that our context is unique as we plan for our eventual enrolment of kindergarten to grade 8 English and French Immersion students.



Science Lab—June 2024

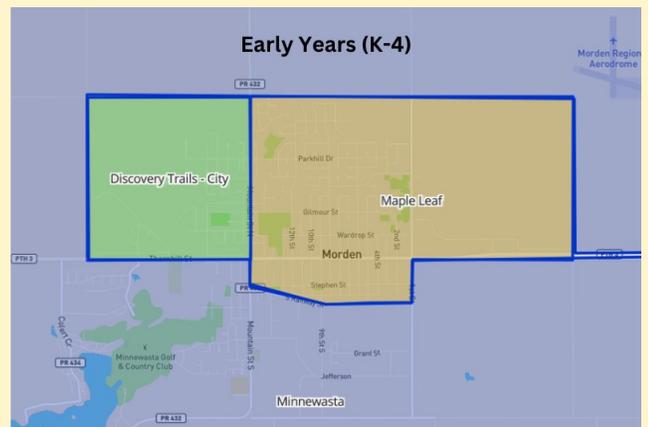
Construction at École Discovery Trails has continued through the 2023-24 school year. Staff are preparing to move into the new facility in August to be ready for opening day on September 3, 2024.

Divisional catchment areas will be adjusted with the opening of École Discovery Trails as follows:

FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM: For September of 2024, the catchment area for all K-6 French Immersion Students is École Discovery Trails. The catchment area for all Grades 7-8 French Immersion students is École Morden Middle School.

ENGLISH PROGRAM: For September of 2024, all K-6 English Program students within the catchment area will attend Discovery Trails School. Grades 7-8 English Program students will remain at École Morden Middle School.

For September of 2025, the École Discovery Trails configuration will expand to include Grade 7, while Grade 8 will remain at École Morden Middle School. Grade 8 will be included at Discovery Trails School in



Discovery Track area—June 2024



ÉCOLE MORDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

150 Wardrop Street, Morden, MB. R6M 1Z2

Principal: Mr. Garth Shindle, Vice-Principals: Ms. Ashley Zylstra, Mr. Jordan Pauls

Telephone: (204) 822-6225, Email: gshindle@westernsd.mb.ca

Website: www.westernsd.mb.ca/school/mordenmiddle

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Goals & Priorities

- Improve numeracy and literacy skills
- Narrow achievement gap between vulnerable populations and school baseline
- Full implementation of Mamàhtawisiwin framework
- Build appreciation for French language and culture

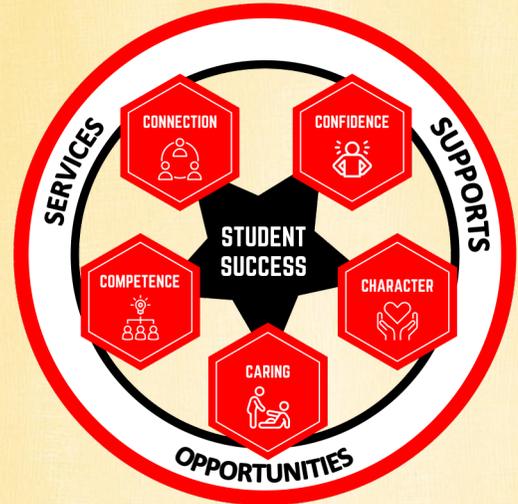
Highlights

Student Learning:

- Focus on numeracy and literacy skills through involvement in mRLC and other PD initiatives
- Working with Professor Garfield Gini-Newman to build “thinking classrooms” where students think to learn and learn to think
- Making connections to 21st century workplace skills through programming options like coding, robotics, and hands-on science
- Building regulation, executive function, and resiliency
- Incorporating Mamàhtawisiwin principles through classroom land acknowledgements, elder visits, field trips and Orange Shirt Day activities

Student & Community Well Being and Connection:

- Student participation in mental health activities, community clean-up, and food drives
- Strong communication through email, website, newsletter, and social media accounts
- Variety of extra-curricular clubs and activities including music, sports, technology, art, and more



About Us

- Grade 5-8 dual track French/English middle school
- 760 students
- 46 professional staff, 21 Educational Assistants, and 8 support staff
- Our school offers a variety of programs with a Middle Years focus

Our Mission

École Morden Middle School is committed to providing children with experiences to help them develop intellectually, socially, and morally. These experiences will take place in a caring and nurturing environment created and supported by a partnership of parents, students, educators, and the community.

We are working to develop attitudes and abilities that will enable children to continue their education and learn skills for independent living. Through the shared responsibility of all the partners, the children are expected to acquire a sense of respect for self and others, a responsibility to the community, and a lifelong desire to learn.



MORDEN COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

345 5th Street, Morden, MB. R6M 1Z1

Principal: Ms. Tania Sigurdson

Vice-Principals: Mr. Michael Ward and Mr. Chris Chiappetta

Telephone: (204) 822-4425, Email: tsigurdson@westernsd.mb.ca

Website: <http://www.westernsd.mb.ca/school/mordencollegiate>

About Us / À propos de nous



Morden Collegiate offers a wide array of educational pathways for students in grades 9-12. We are a growing school with 2024 enrollment projection of 713 students! Our commitment to student achievement is evident through our programming, including advanced placement courses in Grade 12 Psychology, Biology, and Calculus; a vibrant French Immersion program, which provides the opportunity to receive a French Immersion Diploma; and partnerships across multiple divisions that provide access to vocational programs and high school apprenticeship credits. Our school fosters an environment where students excel in art, athletics, and philanthropic activities and technical training through a rich array of electives! We take pride in our students' achievements and celebrate their success throughout the year! We are looking forward to another exciting year; Go Thunder!

Le Morden Collegiate offre une large gamme de parcours éducatifs pour les élèves de la 9^e à la 12^e année. Nous sommes une école en pleine croissance avec une projection d'inscription de 713 élèves pour 2024 ! Notre engagement envers la réussite des élèves est évident à travers nos programmes, y compris des cours avancés de placement en Psychologie, Biologie et Calcul en 12^e année ; un programme dynamique d'immersion française, qui offre la possibilité d'obtenir un diplôme d'immersion française ; et des partenariats dans plusieurs divisions qui donnent accès à des programmes professionnels et des crédits d'apprentissage au secondaire. Notre école favorise un environnement où les élèves excellent dans les arts, l'athlétisme, les activités philanthropiques et la formation technique grâce à un large éventail de cours optionnels ! Nous sommes fiers des réalisations de nos élèves et célébrons leur succès tout au long de l'année ! Nous attendons avec impatience une autre année excitante ; Go Thunder !

Highlights / Faits saillants

- Conseil Jeunesse Provincial - ALÉA, St. Boniface
- Manitoba Public Post Secondary Tours & Career Fairs
- Grade 9 - Take your Kids to work day!
- "It's a Madhouse!" MCI Drama production
- Brandon Jazz Festival & Edmonton Cantando Festival
- Indian Springs School – PowWow celebration for Reconciliation
- Presentation from Kevin Chief to grades 10-12 "Sharing Stories of Resiliency and Reconciliation"
- Grade 9 Presentations about historical relations between settlers & indigenous peoples in Pembina Valley from elder David Scott!
- Zone 4 Champions in Cross Country (JV boys and Aggregate), Hockey, Girls Curling
- MHSAA Provincials: JV Boys Cross Country – Provincial Champions!
- Zone 4 champions- Badminton Junior Varsity boys doubles, girls doubles; Badminton Varsity Sr. Boys Singles champions!
- Athletic Awards-Recognizing student achievement and leadership in sport



Goals and Priorities / Objectifs et priorités

- Improved achievement in student literacy outcomes with a focus on continuous improvement and meaningful data collection.
- Improved achievement in student numeracy outcomes with a focus on grade 9 foundational math.
- Focus on developing French culture within our French Immersion programming and increasing the representation and visual presence of our thriving francophone culture.
- Purposeful infusion of the Mamàhtawisiwin: The Wonder we are Born With – Indigenous Education Policy Framework.

Our Mission

The mission of our school is to create a safe and caring environment which emphasizes learning as a lifelong quest. Our school strives for equality, mutual respect, and cooperation in everything that it does; to be a place where all citizens are encouraged to seek continually to be better, more informed people and citizens.



MORDEN ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE

200-30 Stephen Street, Morden, MB. R6M 2G3

Director: Mr. Todd Folkett

Telephone: (204) 822-1231

Email: tfolkett@westernsd.mb.ca

Website: <http://www.westernsd.mb.ca/school/maec>

2023/2024 at MAEC

2023/2024 has been a great year at MAEC. We welcomed 68 students during our September registration and have since welcomed 22 more. 57 of our students were working towards graduation while the remaining 33 worked to complete courses for post-secondary requirements.

Our graduation ceremony was held at the Westside Community Church on June 24th. 16 graduates will walk the stage. We would like to send a huge thank you to the Westside Community Church for their very generous support of our students.

Our students were not the only ones furthering their education as our Director, Todd Folkett completed an RPL Practitioner course through Red River College. RPL or Recognition of Prior Learning is a process of recognizing and validating learning that has happened outside of formal education. This process aims to give learners credit for skills and knowledge that came from workplaces, personal activities, volunteering, or any activity that allows a person to learn a skill or gain knowledge they did not previously have. Giving credit for previous learning can allow individuals to move forward in their career, or pursue further education or training without the need for repeating the learning they have already done. As an RPL Practitioner, Todd will be able to assist our students in reaching their goals.

2023/2024 brought a couple staffing changes to MAEC. We said goodbye to Educational Assistant Barbie Dyck and welcomed our new Educational Assistant, Lila Buhr. Lila has been a fantastic addition to the staff, and we are happy to have her on the team. We also welcomed Kim Fleming on a part-time basis helping in our Child Development Centre. Kim has worked with us previously as a sub, but it was great to have her with us on a more regular basis.



This year, staff and students created a dropbox to collect items for Christmas Cheer as a way of getting involved in our community. We had a great response and were able to provide many boxes of non-perishable food items, unopened toys and children's clothes for Christmas Cheer.

Once again MAEC is sponsoring community garden plots for interested students. We are excited to be able to offer our students the opportunity to grow their own food. The last 2 years we had a plot in Winkler for students in that area and this year we were able to sponsor a plot in Morden as well.

The Child Development Centre staff were kept busy this year with planning exciting activities and field trips around town. The children had quite the year making new friends, exploring our community and playing outside in all seasons! They enjoyed learning about our world and themselves with nature as the guide.



Our Mission

To provide adults with the opportunity to expand their educational horizons in a flexible and comfortable academic setting. Our school strives to promote learning as a lifelong activity accessible to all.