

WESTERN SCHOOL DIVISION COMMUNITY REPORT 2021 - 2022



Board of Trustees:

Brian Fransen—Chairman
Robyn Wiebe—Vice-Chair

Barb Petkau
David Guenther
Darcy Wolfe

Things to Celebrate!

- ☑ Design work for a new school
- ☑ Keeping schools safely open during the pandemic
- ☑ Student, staff and community support during the pandemic
- ☑ Construction of 3 classroom addition and Piping Trades projects for MCI

Divisional Facts

- Student population: 1966
- 5 school sites
- Over 220,000 square feet of educational space in schools
- Total professional staff: 158
- Total teaching and support staff: 393
- The average monthly student attendance was 90.5%



Division Office Administration:
Stephen Ross - Superintendent
Marianne Fenn - Asst. Superintendent
Carl Pedersen - Secretary-Treasurer
Allan Toews - Operations

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

Rooted in Caring and Committed to Learning

WESTERN
School Division
Morden, Manitoba



*"Rooted In Caring;
Committed to Learning"*

By Board Chair Brian Fransen

Public schools are a beautifully diverse place; they are a concentrated representation of our broader community. That diversity makes school an exciting place to be. As the 2021/22 school year comes to a close and we reflect on how far we have come, there are a number of topics that should be highlighted.

It is difficult to discuss many of our highlights without acknowledging the impact COVID-19 has had on so much of our community. Whether it is the disease itself, the restrictions imposed by government, the change in perspective of the safety of the world in general, or the cascading effects of all those things, our schools and community have been impacted. With few exceptions, Western School Division has experienced the support of the community through the difficult times. And we continue to be Rooted in Caring, Committed to Learning.

Our staff have redefined heroism. The last number of years has highlighted the strong culture and leadership throughout the Division. The positive relationships and learning outcomes that have been nurtured is encouraging. The topic of post-pandemic learning recovery has received some media attention, and we take this seriously. Using various forms of assessment throughout the year at all grade levels has provided our staff with good data to prioritize recovery efforts. The good news is that most of our kids are on track. That is a testament to the individual efforts of our students and their families, as well as our staff to keep those students engaged in learning. For those who are struggling, we have supports in place to help.

And while our student enrollment was lower than normal during the last two years, our numbers are on the rise again. Many students are returning to the classroom after time at home, and families new to our community are arriving almost daily. This, too, is a testament to our community. Morden and the surrounding area are great places to raise a family. People continue to choose to make this their home, and we welcome them.

Of course, it is difficult to talk about community growth without talking about the new space being designed and built in the Division! There are currently two building projects underway. A three-classroom addition nearing completion at Morden Collegiate, and an addition underway that will provide new space for the Piping Trades program under the same roof as the Welding Program. These projects are a reflection of the growth in our community and an investment in the future of quality public education in Morden. And we all know that the additional space provided by these projects are necessary, but insufficient for our growing needs. Thankfully, we are well underway in the design of the new school that will be built on our property in the northwest corner of Morden. The new K-8 school is going to be ready for 600 students, expandable to 800 with additional classrooms already penciled in. Precise timelines are difficult to predict, but we are optimistic that the new school will be ready to welcome students in 2024. These are exciting times in Western School Division, and we look forward to more.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Western School Division, thank you for being our community. And on your behalf, we continue to develop people who are rooted in caring and committed to learning.

THANK-YOU STAFF!

The Board of Western School Division is deeply appreciative of the effort and care demonstrated by our staff during this challenging school year!



MAPLE LEAF SCHOOL

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

Principal: Mr. Samuel Jerema; Vice-Principal: Mr. Michael Ward

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

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

Find us on Twitter and Instagram!

https://twitter.com/mapleleaf_wsd

<https://twitter.com/mordenmlsphysed>

https://www.instagram.com/maple_leaf1928/

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



About Us

Maple Leaf is a K-4 Dual Track school, with English and French Immersion programming. Our school currently has 468 students with 273 in the English program, 195 in French Immersion, and we are continuing to grow.

We are very proud to have a diverse population of students with a large portion of our student body as English as an Additional Language learners! We have an incredible team of educators working hard to offer strong programming which includes project and play based learning.

We have been quite happy to bring back a lot of programming that had not been possible with prior health restrictions and have incorporated new clubs and before/after school sports such as soccer, running club and badminton!

We have active involvement from our parents/guardians in the Home and School Association, parent volunteer program, and Canadian Parents for French chapter.



Highlights

- 7 Teachings Kits and new school mural in the library
- Continuous improvement, assessing student needs and working on projects to improve student outcomes
- Focus on recovery learning, reading recovery, and French Language acquisition
- Before & after school activities (run club, badminton, basketball, soccer)
- Indoor Soccer event held at Meridian Exhibition Centre
- Gardening program, adding 2 new planters and a composter
- Return of Field Trips to places such as the Science Museum, Legislative Building, Winkler Aquatic Centre, Pembina Threshermen's Museum, Boston Pizza, and more!
- Outdoor skating rink, bigger than ever! (thanks to the Morden Fire Department for their assistance)
- I Love to Read month and Virtual Cuddle Up and Read
- Our own Festival Du Voyageur through the month of February
- DREAM (DRop Everything And do Math) to highlight how fun and creative math can be
- Outdoor Classroom at Morden Park

2022-2023 Priorities

NUMERACY

- Improve problem solving and critical thinking skills and foster adventurous achievers (Risk Takers) in mathematics.

LITERACY

- Develop reading and writing skills with a focus on a growth mindset.
- Encourage independent thinkers/adventurous achievers (Risk Takers)

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL

- Develop a school of "Risk Takers" that see how failure can be a positive.
- Provide all students with the skills to self-regulate and problem solve.

FRENCH ACQUISITION

- Develop a love of French language and culture and encourage a growth mindset approach.
- Increase visible French and French culture in the school/community.

Our Mission Statement

Maple Leaf School is dedicated to:

Working as a community to provide a safe, caring, student-centered learning environment where diversity is celebrated; activating student learning in support of our children reaching their potential as creative, responsible, and contributing members of our democratic society; working as a collaborative staff in improving our capacity to improve student learning.

"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>

Highlights

- ◆ Transition Days for connections between staff, parents, and students
- ◆ PBL activities school-wide
- ◆ Community experiences
- ◆ School-wide activity days
- ◆ Guest visitors to the school (virtually)
- ◆ I Love to Read Month celebrations
- ◆ Breakfast and healthy snacks program
- ◆ Home and school communication: newsletters, apps (Twitter, Seesaw, Microsoft Teams, Instagram)
- ◆ Teaching staff using “Teaching Sprints”
- ◆ Grade 4’s participated in Numeracy Achievement Project
- ◆ Parent Advisory Council hosted Bingo nights virtually for community building
- ◆ Running Club participated in the “Western Run”
- ◆ School Spirit Weeks
- ◆ Celebrating the diversity of all staff and students
- ◆ Field Trips
- ◆ Grade level trips to the MEC in Winkler to play soccer
- ◆ Kindergarten trip to Sharptooth Adventures
- ◆ Two classrooms this year in the music room and library
- ◆ Addition of a new portable classroom in May 2022
- ◆ Virtual French Magic Performance by Marc Tardif
- ◆ Planning/creation of a Natural Playground & Outdoor Classroom Space
- ◆ Added universally accessible sand box for students to use

About Us

- ◆ K-4 school with approximately 290 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



Priority Areas for 2022-2023

1. Literacy
2. Numeracy
3. French
4. Education for Sustainable Development

Thank-you and Congratulations!

We want to say thank you and congratulations to Mrs. Lorilee Barrett. She will be retiring from teaching at the end of this school year. She has been teaching at Minnewasta School for 22 years in a variety of roles, most recently full time Kindergarten. She also spent many years working and supporting students as the English as an Additional Language Teacher. She will most definitely be missed here at the school, but we want to wish her all of the best with her retirement! Thanks for everything Mrs. Barrett!



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 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: <http://www.westernsd.mb.ca/school/mordenmiddle>

Goals & Priorities

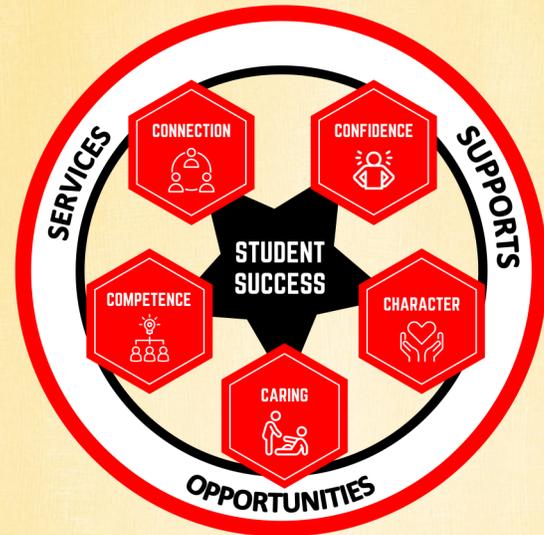
COMPETENCE: Develop a positive view of one's abilities and actions through academic growth and achievement

CONFIDENCE: Develop one's internal sense of overall positive self-worth and self-efficacy; positive identity; and belief in the future

CONNECTION: Develop and foster positive bonds between peers, family, school, and community

CHARACTER: Develop respect for societal and cultural rules, standards of correct behaviours, a sense of right and wrong, and personal integrity

CARING / COMPASSION: Develop a sense of sympathy and empathy for others



Highlights

Student Learning:

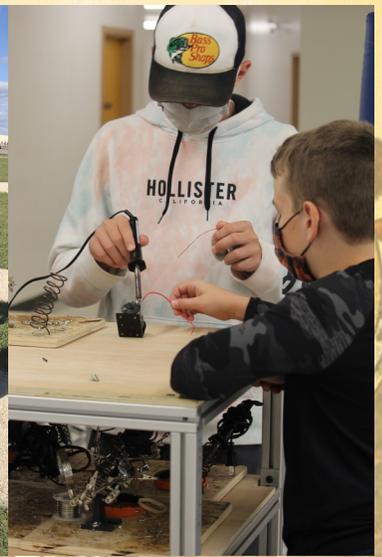
- Participation in the Manitoba Rural Learning Consortium (mRLC) numeracy project to help improve students' numeracy skills
- Recovery learning through hands-on and experiential opportunities
- Focus on teacher clarity, success criteria, and feedback

Student & Community Well Being and Connection:

- Return to regular programming, including options and exploratories
- Resumption of extra-curricular activities (sports, clubs, choir)
- Strong communication through email, website, newsletter, and social media accounts

About Us

- Grade 5-8 dual track French/English middle school
- 650 students
- 45 professional staff, 15 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. Janice Bonner

Vice-Principal: Ms. Tania Sigurdson

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

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

Highlights

- A return to having everyone in class, every day
- Sports returned, with live streaming for indoor events
- Creation of a Youtube channel for live streaming events
- Student Council and clubs (Culture, Running, Debate, and Crafts) all operated within the current restrictions
- Participating in a pilot project for the improvement of adolescent literacy
- Emphasizing Grade 9 foundational math, resulting in 10% more students scoring at least 65% on exams
- French field trip to St. Boniface University and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights
- Awards Assembly hosted virtually
- A return to participation in the Morden Festival of the Arts for Choir and Band classes
- Artstravaganza event in June highlighting visual and dramatic arts, band, and choir
- Drama production, "Sundown Alley"
- RRTVA programming in Morden: Welding and Piping
- Wellness Committee supporting staff and students
- An active Parent Advisory Council supporting the school
- MCI Coffee Talk—parents/caregivers and staff discuss issues surrounding raising adolescents
- The continuation of Advanced Placement courses in Psychology and Calculus. Plans are underway for the addition of AP Biology for the 2022-23 school year.
- A thriving Teen Learning Centre
- Student Council success with donations to charities, grade war opportunities, spirit weeks, raffles, and promoting a positive school atmosphere



School Goals and Priorities

- Focusing on the two pillars of promoting mental health and well-being as well as assessing and addressing learning impacts. These pillars are connected to the Board Priorities of inspiring integrity, personal responsibility, resilience and gratitude. Our focus areas were also connected to deepening community relationships and encouraging our students to be adventurous achievers.
- Focusing on creating collaborative department goals by planning to meet regularly to ensure the strategies and goals are kept clearly in view.
- Focusing on the expansion of our French Immersion programming.
- Focusing on understanding the achievement of students' literacy levels during their high school career.
- Focusing on foundational learning gaps in English Language Arts and Mathematics as determined by pre and post testing.
- Creating department-wide strategies to address learning gaps.
- Focusing on the importance of speaking a second language frequently in the acquisition of the language.
- Creating more French signage in the building.

About Us

MCI is a dual track high school-home to over 560 students spanning grades 9-12. This year, we are on track to have students graduate with their French Immersion Diploma for the third year in the school's history.

Morden Collegiate hosts two technical-vocational programs: Piping and Welding. Both programs have grown in numbers on a yearly basis, and the development of a new building with the programs operating under the same roof is an exciting new step for our vocational programming.

This year, we learned once again that our staff and students are resilient, kind and compassionate. Our staff's desire to ensure that students' health, well being and personal growth are factored into the pursuit of knowledge and academic rigor is evident in our daily activities. In doing so, our students have benefitted and although the journey has been difficult at times, we have come to understand the strength and interdependence of all of our staff and students.

Our Mission

The mission of our school is to create a safe and caring environment which emphasizes learning as a life-long 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>



Child Development Centre

The Child Development Centre provides childcare for children whose parents are attending classes or learning independently through MAEC. This year, we spent most mornings and afternoons of childcare on the playground for the entire time. Children arrived dressed appropriately for the weather and we played, snacked, developed through physical, social, and cognitive experiences.

Everything you did outdoors as a child and everything you would do indoors at day care, we experience every day outside in our play space. From a small rain river that runs through our playground to discovering worms sharing our space. Nurturing growing plants in our little garden to shoveling snow to make paths for our friends smaller than us to move through in the winter. Our space includes a mud kitchen, a work bench, an arbor/climbing structure, sandbox with balance beams, sensory path, rain barrel, small garden, a 'Tiny library' and lots of opportunity to run, climb, explore curriculum areas such as dramatic play, science, construction, music, blocks, and more. We have an outdoor classroom that is just big enough for us to warm up in and occasionally have snack. Most days snack is outside protected from the wind on the deck or at a picnic table in the sunshine.

We had several walking tours this spring. These included, the Morden Fire Department, the Morden Police Station, and the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre. Occasionally, parents were kind enough to drop children off at the beginning of their morning and pick them up at the end of their class at a tour location. These tour experiences included Sharptooth, Morden Park and COOP Grocery Store/Bakery. Except for extreme weather conditions, EVERY day, ALL day, outside is how we roll at the CDC. This has allowed children more space, more options for naturally occurring play experiences, more consistency in attendance and less illness. WE LOVE IT!



2021/2022 at MAEC

The 2021/2022 school year has been quieter than normal at MAEC. As the year progressed and it seemed that the worst of the pandemic was behind us, we began to see more students venturing back. A total of 71 students enrolled with us this year and we are looking forward to welcoming a number of them back next year as they continue to work towards their Mature Student Diploma.

Graduation 2021/2022

was held at the EMM Church in Morden on June 20 with 14 graduates taking part.

As a staff we have really focused on ways to increase enrollment.

We are constantly looking for new ways to

increase community awareness about our program and welcome any feedback people have. With the help of The City of Morden's Planning and Development office we will be circulating a survey with questions about our centre. We hope to gain valuable information regarding the awareness of our program and ways we can reach more potential students.

Although our student body was smaller this year, we had many great moments. In the fall a group of students put together a chili lunch and delivered it to hard working individuals within organizations such as Caring and Sharing and Many Hands. Within the school we shared a few breakfasts and lunches as a group. These meals were a great way to share some laughs and take a much needed break from the demands both in and out of school. As a staff we are very excited to sponsor a community garden plot for 2 of our graduates this spring as part of the Pay It Forward May campaign.

We were very excited to have had Babby Penner join us this spring. Babby has been working hard to re-develop both of our Essential Math courses. Once complete we will be able to offer the 2 courses in an online format as well as continuing to offer them in the classroom and through individual study. At the end of the school year, we will sadly say goodbye to Karen Wowk our Coordinator for the Child Development Centre as we wish her all the best in retirement.



Our Mission

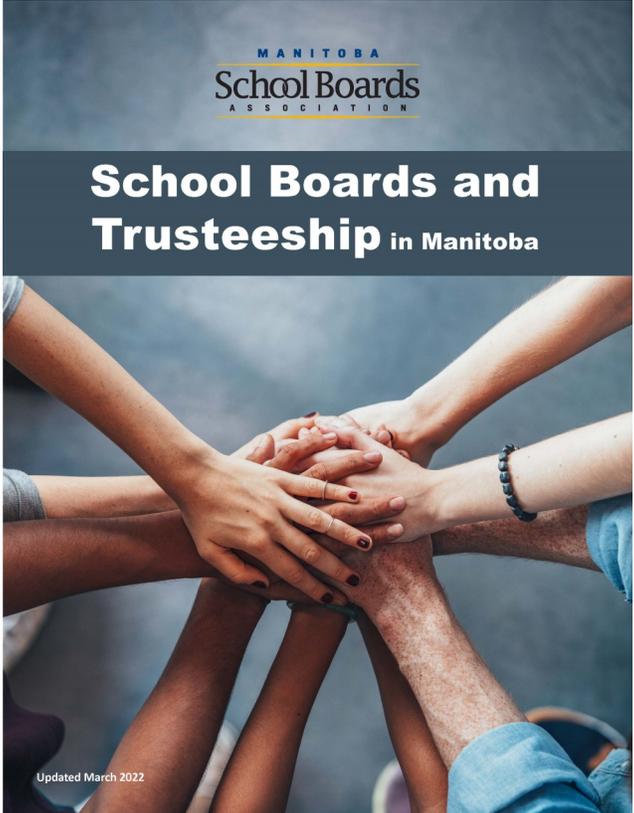
To provide adults with the opportunity to expand their educational horizons in a flexible and comfortable academic setting. Our school strives to promote learning as a lifelong activity accessible to all.

2022 Manitoba School Trustee Elections



Additional information is available on the Manitoba School Boards Association website [Manitoba School Boards \(mbschoolboards.ca\)](http://Manitoba School Boards (mbschoolboards.ca)).

There are many excellent resources including this guide on *School Boards and Trusteeship in Manitoba!* 



You will also recordings of two information session webinars for those interested in running.

The Western School Division Policy Manual is available on the Division's webpage [Board Policies - Western School Division \(westernsd.mb.ca\)](http://Board Policies - Western School Division (westernsd.mb.ca))

The current Board Priorities Plan is found here: [2019-2023 Board Priorities Plan.pdf \(westernsd.mb.ca\)](http://2019-2023 Board Priorities Plan.pdf (westernsd.mb.ca))



Election Day is Wednesday, October 26, 2022.



To learn more about becoming a school trustee, please visit mbschoolboards.ca