



MACKENZIE MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOOL COMMUNITY REPORT 2017-2018



School Mission Statement

“To develop a safe learning environment in order to implement curriculum and related school activities which foster and enhance the needs of adolescence during this transition in their lives.”

School Profile

Mackenzie Middle School (MMS) is located in the city of Dauphin, which is situated in the Parkland region of Manitoba. It is the educational home to a diverse population of grade 6-8 students. MMS is a triple track school offering language courses in English, French Immersion, and Ukrainian Bilingual. Our staff consists of 28.25 full-time equivalent teachers. This group is complimented by 11 educational assistants, with full-time resource, and guidance support. Our school also receives regular service from our school division in the areas of psychology, speech pathology, social worker, and our hearing consultant. Our youth support worker also assists us in helping students and families with school related concerns.

We pride ourselves in bringing our students a well-rounded middle years education in all areas academically, socially, and culturally. Our classrooms are outfitted with all of the current technology to allow students to achieve at the highest possible level. We continue to work towards our school goals of student transition, literacy, and numeracy. We are preparing for the provincial implementation of the new ELA curriculum, and we look forward to seeing improvement in problem-solving and mental math. We also will continue to work towards the furthering our understanding of Truth & Reconciliation and expanding initiatives around our Indigenous cultures.

Message from the Principal

I am pleased to report that year one of MMS being a true middle school has been very positive. The addition of the grade 6 students has been extremely positive for our school. The additional 150 students has definitely added a new energy to our building, they have been a welcome addition to our school community. Thinking back to all of the planning and renovation pieces that had to come together, we are in a good place moving into next year. Several parents and community members have commented that seems like they were here all along. We won't deny there have been a few growing pains, but I am confident that as this group moves to grade 7, they are well prepared for the challenges ahead. As we wish our Gr.8s all the success in high school, we are better prepared in welcoming a new crop of Gr.6 students. I want to thank the staff of MMS for all of their hard work in adjusting to the changes made, and their dedication in moving forward to continue to make this a better school. Also our senior administration has also been a huge source of support in helping us get through year one. Lastly, a big thanks to our parents who have supported our school by volunteering, coaching, chaperoning, or being part of our parent council. Your involvement is always welcomed and appreciated.

Enjoy your Summer, September will be here soon!
D. Anderson

School Staff

Dale Anderson—Principal; Blaine Johnson—Vice-Principal; Secretary—Linda Boyko & Melanie Balanyk

Gr.6 Homerooms- R. Tabas (French), T. Simpson, K. Mitchell, R. Macinnis, E. Durston, J. Lenius

Gr.7 Homerooms— J. Blair (French), K. Kuzyk, J. Slobodzian/ E. Dueck, S. Cook, C. Hockridge

Gr.8 Homerooms—R. Bray (French), L. Clark, C. Momotiuk, S. Paziuk, C. Todoruk

S. Hudyma/O. McIntyre—Physical Education, K. Monaghan/ J. Bettner/ C. Papadopoulos - Band Program, J. Michasiw/ P. Barkman—Tech Ed., V. Ogg/C. Hockridge—Home Ec., W. Ohryn/O. McIntyre—Guidance, M. Maffenbeier/ C. Hockridge—Resource

EA Staff: M. Gayowsky, , K. Nicholson, K. Yarema, C. Frith, F. Kowalski, C. Cherpako, A. Harlow, S. Neault, C. McMaster, D. Patenaude, S. Campbell, L. Smith.

Youth Support Worker - C. Flett; Custodial: T. Tokarchuk, E. Funk, C. Padnorski



School Improvement Plan

Planning for Continuous Improvement



Background Information

This was our second year of our plan, we have revised our three primary goals: Literacy, Numeracy, and Student Transitions. Our literacy goal centered around the new ELA curriculum, and now having all homeroom teachers on board with implementation. For numeracy we continued to work towards a focused improvement on problem-solving both in student learning and new teaching strategies.

The addition of the gr.6 population has been very positive to overall climate and school community. With our students now completing 3 years of middle years we have a much better opportunity to strengthen relationships and improve overall student learning. We now run two different report cards with the provincial formats being different for grade 6, and then the 7-8 combined report. All classes at MMS now do online reporting for students and parents in the areas of assessment and attendance. Further improvements will be made divisionally as a new website platform will be in place for the fall.

Priority #1: Improving Student Literacy

Outcomes

(What We Wanted)

By June 2020, MMS students will have improved critical literacy skills across all curricula. A focus will be on the element of “power & agency” in the development of rich learning experiences for all students.

Strategies

(What We Did)

- In Social Studies and ELA there has been explicit teaching of critical analysis of online sources of information.
 - Students have been asked to conduct intelligent and critical search strategies.
 - They have also been asked to evaluate websites for their reliability and accuracy.
- What’s Going on in This Picture? (New York Times Learning Network) asks students to critical analyze a variety of visual texts.
- Annotated texts – students asked to annotate a variety of texts as they read for comprehension, summary, main ideas, connections, and questions.
- Explicit instruction for analysis of problem statements in math.
- Examination of bias in texts. Whose voice is heard? Missing? In a variety of texts.
- Examination of persuasive

Indicators of Success

(What We Accomplished/Measured)

- Regular STAR assessments for student identification. Annual report summarizing yearly growth.
- New ELA PD session for all staff
- PLC planning teams/goals dedicated to this outcome.
- blocked time for advanced learners
- cross-curricular connections implemented in other core subjects.
- all classes developed units in TRC and the 7 teachings.
- school-wide presentations on each of the 7 Teachings and TRC, each developed with the practice of “Power & agency.”

	<p>strategies in text.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination of connotation and denotation in texts – what is the impact and power of language? • An exploration of reconciliation through the lens of the seven teachings. 	
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Priority #2: Improving Student Numeracy		
<p>Outcomes (What We Wanted) By June 2020, our students will demonstrate a 10% increase in their conceptual understanding in numeracy. The focus will be on developing and improving overall problem-solving, and mental math skills.</p>	<p>Strategies (What We Did)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating a more balanced approach in developing instructional strategies for problem-solving and mental math. - Annual tracking of assessments in all three report card categories for math. - Development and implementation of more open-ended, and critical thinking tasks/ assignments/ projects. <p>Increase PD opportunities in mathematics for all involved staff</p>	<p>Indicators of Success (What We Accomplished/Measured)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MRLC baseline assessment – June 2018 - Team PLCs dedicated to establishing numeracy goal - Math talk PD sessions, - “EDLabs – focused teacher planning (numeracy) - Co-teaching periods dedicated to numeracy - Summative assessments designed to assess all three categories: knowledge & understanding, problem-solving, and mental math - PRC - June data (on hold due to MRLC assessment being mandated. - Mental math – multiplication strategies developed (Gr6 PLC team). Growth statistics as high as 200%, with an average of 50% growth for almost all students. - Math conditioning for mental math will become a daily routine.

Priority #3: Successful Student Transitions

**Outcomes
(What We Wanted)**

By June, 2020 we will have an effective transition process in place for new and graduating students. This will include the addition of grade 6 students to our school enrolment for the 2017-2018 school year.

**Strategies
(What We Did)**

- Middle Years Life/Work Exploration Grant – Gr.8 tours of ACC (Parkland)
- Xello student profiles
- Local Career Day (local community representatives)
Gr.7 Real Game Unit
- Gr.8 Class tours of DRCSS
- Pre-registration sessions
- Resource/Guidance team consultations
- Gr.8 Amazing Race/ Report Card Pickup @ DRCSS
- Gr.6 Classroom invitations – Reading café, French Immersion Improv Activity
- Gr.5/6 Transition Week (individual school tours)
- Band/Art program demonstrations
- Band Parent Info Night
- MMS students visiting Gr.5 classrooms to present information on MMS.

**Indicators of Success
(What We Accomplished/Measured)**

- TTFM survey results indicated:
- students were more aware of staff and programs offered, and an overall heightened awareness of the layout of the school and how the schedule works.
 - Elementary school staff indicated a greater comfort level for their students when they were offered their own tour and school visit.
 - Gr.6 students visited grade 5 classrooms to present information for their transition.
 - School survey results indicated small increases in feeling safe at school and sense of belonging.
 - Student anxiety levels however remain an area to focus on for improvement
 - Parent and student surveys indicated a very positive response to having another day 1 orientation for new students only.
 - Day 1 September 2018 will be set as an orientation day for “new” students only. Grade 7 & 8 students will be assigned as tour guides and activity leaders to assist in the overall orientation.



Celebrating Learning!

Check out some of the wonderful things that have happened, or that will be happening soon.



Highlights of this past year:

Parent Night/ Open House

Terry Fox Run

First Note – Band Information Night

Mom’s Pantry Fundraiser

Addictions Awareness

Shakespeare in the Ruins

Online – school clothing ordering

Healthy Together – Anti tobacco

Parkland/Norman Honor Band festival

ACC/Bu Gr.8 Tours (Parkland)

Career Cruising - Xello/ Real Game

Health & Wellness Week

Local Professionals – resume/ interview

Parkland/Norman Honour Band Festival

WISE Science Workshops

Indigenous Education Celebration Day

RMNP backpacking

New ELA Pilot - continuing

Awards day transition activity/ amazing race/ community BBQ/ school dance/ report card pickup



Plans for 2017-2018

We are pleased to announce that our first year as a Gr.6-8 middle school is a success. The addition of the 150 Gr.6 students (6 homerooms), are now moving upstairs to tackle Grade 7. We have completed all of our transition plans and activities in preparing for our new crop next year. Reminder for parents that we have received approval for our first day of school to be a full orientation for grade 6 students only. Our gr.7 & 8 students will arrive on the next day for their full orientation and the 18-19 year will be underway. We have also made a change to our noon hour for next year. The grade 6 students will have the first lunch to themselves, and the 7&8s will take the later lunch. Stay tuned for updates to our division and school website for the fall as we are presently revising our school mission statement and motto. Expect this change to appear in September.

