

Argyle Alternative High School

Community Report

2020-2021

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Our Purpose

Winnipeg School Division provides a learning environment that fosters the growth of each student's potential and provides equitable opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for meaningful participation in a global and diverse society.

Our Vision

Is for current and future people learning and working within Winnipeg School Division to be:
Engaged, Confident, Inspired, and Successful Learners.



About our school

Argyle Alternative High School is a grade 10-12 school of choice that attracts students from within the Winnipeg School Division and beyond. The school strives to create a collaborative learning environment built on mutual respect and responsibility between students and staff. Students who attend Argyle thrive in a more flexible, and personalized learning environment. The school provides all the academic courses required to obtain a province of Manitoba high school diploma (Senior Years English and Mature Student). There are frequent intake dates throughout the school year, a flexible timetable and our continuous progress/continuous intake model of program delivery offer shorter or longer blocks of time, where necessary, for student learning. The staff at Argyle is committed to making a difference in the lives of our students by providing a curriculum that is inquiry driven, action oriented, and socially focused. The learning opportunities and supports we provide help students develop as independent learners, exposing them to skills that will support a successful transition to work and post-secondary education.



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

Highlights

- 25 graduates.
- 8 classroom teachers and 10 Support Staff.
- Hosted 27 Build from Within Students in the first 2 Quadmesters.
- Implemented a whole school Mental Health Plan that included students, parent/guardians, and staff.
- Subsidized Lunch and Free Breakfast & Free Snack Program.
- Community Based Physical Education Program.
- Infant Lab to provide support to students with children under the age of 2 years.
- Continuation of the student advisor program – cohort designed to create a supportive learning community and ease the transition to a new school.
- The MTS Mentorship Program matched students with an MTS employee who supported students in exploring a wide range of post-graduate possibilities.
- Students participated in a number of school-based activities to enhance classroom and virtual learning. Opportunities including, Young Men's support Groups, University and College presentations, the Royal Bank of Canada and the Assiniboine Credit Union internship programs, Rec & Read and community volunteer opportunities.
- Virtual Zumba classes for students, parent/guardians and staff.
- Moosehide Campaign & Fire Keeping Teachings for our young men.
- Virtual Yoga infused with Indigenous Teachings for students, parent/guardians and staff.
- Extra-curricular activities including, intramurals, Virtual Youth in Philanthropy, Guitar Club, cultural teachings, ceremonies and traditional healing circles.
- Virtual Career café provided an opportunity for students to learn from industry professionals.
- Focus on sustainable development through the continued development of the outdoor classroom.
- Virtual Youth in Philanthropy program had students supporting a number of organizations in Winnipeg.
- Cultural experience infused into daily life at Argyle throughout the year. Students at Argyle also experienced culture through the Indigenous Youth Leadership Program (IYLP).
- Many staff helped students find first-time work with different employers.
- Virtual Vision to Reality Gathering – for potential grads and parent/guardians.
- Virtual Living Life to the Fullest.
- Beading Club – beaded poppies for Indigenous Veterans Day
- Students participate in the Rec n' Read Program – mentoring elementary students, virtually giving leadership opportunities for Argyle students.



OUR COURSES	HOW IS ARGYLE UNIQUE FROM OTHER HIGH SCHOOLS?	
Science Environmental Science Biology Chemistry Interdisciplinary Science Current Science Topics Essentials Math Applied Math Transactional English Comprehensive English Geography History Global Issues Indigenous Cinema Experience Psychology Sociology Career Development Video Production Community Based Phys-Ed	Infant Lab We have an in-house infant lab to support students with small children and allow them to balance their time with their family and their studies. We support children 2 months old, up to two years old. Preparation for Work Argyle has a Work Experience Coordinator and Career Intern to help students traverse the gap between school and work. We encourage students to start thinking about career planning early on, with support offered in: resume building, in-school job boards, guest speakers, internships, volunteer placements and much more.	Support Through the Tough Stuff Argyle is ready to support students. We have an on-staff Psychologist, and a Drug and Alcohol Counsellor that work closely with our High School Guidance team. Meal Programs Argyle offers free breakfast for students from 8:30-9:30 a.m. daily. We have a subsidized lunch program, and often have healthy snacks available throughout the day for students who are in need.
PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES		
Integrated Digital Media Career Café Pet Therapy Moccasin Club Continuous Progress Rec and Read	Youth in Philanthropy Women's Group Guitar Club Movies at Lunch Intramural Sports GSA	Grandparents' Lunch Infusion of Indigenous Perspectives Healing Through Horsemanship Work Experience Opportunities Family Night-Includes free babysitting, a craft and meal



Priorities for 2020-2021

- 1) To provide a comprehensive education by strengthening learning outcomes, instructional and assessment strategies for all students.
- 2) Address the barriers to learning and improve supports for all students.
- 3) Communicate and collaborate with community organizations to provide learning and employment opportunities for students.



Priorities for 2021-2022

- 1) To provide a comprehensive education by strengthening learning outcomes, instructional and assessment strategies for all students.
 - Argyle follows a continuous progress model for instruction delivery. Students study course curriculum at an appropriate yet challenging rate of speed. Teachers identify student strengths, assess challenges and determine the next steps in learning.
 - Students learn and progress at a rate consistent with their ability, prior knowledge, interest, need and motivational patterns.
 - Coursework is chunked into 4 Quad Mesters (and further into 4 blocks within each Quad) though out the year to allow students to focus on smaller groups of essential outcomes over shorter periods of time
- 2) Address the barriers to learning and improve supports for all students.
 - Through the school wide implementation of restorative practices, students are taught specific skills that emphasize communication and conflict resolution. Restorative practice is about building, maintaining and repairing relationships, and creating a safe, inclusive community of learners.
 - Argyle support staff continued to offer a number of student support groups focussing on personal issues facing young men and women. In addition, students opportunities to participate in cultural programming and traditional teachings to promote self-awareness and healing.
 - School based initiatives and early intervention strategies for 2020/21 included breakfast program, subsidized lunch program, subsidized transportation, flexible timetabling options, Infant Lab and student driven extra-curricular opportunities.
 - Each student has an Advisor by cohort, who monitors attendance, communicates concerns and identifies action strategies.
- 3) Communicate and collaborate with community organizations to provide learning and employment opportunities for students.
 - Students participated in the RBC and Assiniboine credit union internship programs.
 - The Youth in Philanthropy program invited Indigenous Youth Opportunities, Winnipeg Harvest and Resource Assistant for Youth to attend our school for interviews and to perform school wide presentations as to what resources they have to offer.
 - Bi-weekly "Career Café". The sessions provide students with an opportunity to hear from industry professionals.

Parent and Community Involvement

Friends and Family of Argyle

- Once a month, Argyle offers students and family members (parent/guardians, grandparents, siblings and all other significant supports) an opportunity to gather virtually during the pandemic for an evening of food, fun and sharing. The evening begins with a community meal (planned, organized and delivered by students and staff). This forum provides all members of the Argyle community a chance to meet each other, share ideas and provide feedback on topics related to school and division goals, policies and plans.
- Information for each evening, posted on our website, emailed and personal phone invites to our parents/guardians.

The Argyle Newsletter

For those parents who may not have access to our website or email service, Argyle produces a newsletter (every month) intended:

- Connect parents with classroom activities and provide information on new and ongoing school initiatives.
- Inform parents of school and division activities, announcements, events, meetings and volunteer opportunities.
- Keep parents informed of any updates or changes to provincial guidelines or curricula.

Example of Activities

- Virtual Family Nights connecting students, parents and community in “*Paint Night*” sessions with Indigenous Artist – Jackie Traverse. One evening included a Virtual Career and Opportunities Fair, exposing not only our students, but also our families to careers, resources, supports and opportunities in our community.
- Virtual Supper and a Book series that included Traditional Indigenous Knowledge books to share with our families while they also received ingredients and the recipe for a nutritious supper.

