

GRANT PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Community Report

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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.**

Mission Statement

Grant Park High School provides a safe and respectful learning environment where students of all abilities are challenged and encouraged to develop the knowledge, the sense of responsibility, and the skills needed to achieve excellence in a rapidly changing world.



About Our School

Grant Park High School is a grade 7 to grade 12 school situated in the south end of the Winnipeg School Division. Grant Park High School includes a dedicated community of students, staff, and families committed to a learning environment built on positive relationships. The school offers a wide range of academic, performing arts, technical training, and athletic opportunities. We also house one of the most comprehensive Inclusion Support Services Program in Western Canada. Grant Park's inclusive, caring, and safe atmosphere is fostered by a caring community.

Grant Park's staff includes a principal, two vice-principals, and 73 teachers in the following areas: English, math, science, humanities, resource/special education, guidance, physical education/health, band, drama, choral, dance, visual art, English as an additional language, Indigenous graduation, industrial arts and human ecology. Grant Park's support staff include office clerks, library clerk, career intern, computer technician, kinesiologist, and educational assistants. Additional support is provided by a team from Clinical Support Services which consists of a reading clinician, social worker, psychologist, speech/language pathologist, occupational therapist, and audiologist.



Highlights of 2020-2021

Academic programming at Grant Park High School takes place in a safe, positive learning environment and is focused on the acquisition of skills that will support life-long learning. All grade 7 to 12 students are assessed on an ongoing basis to provide current, accurate, and consistent information in relation to specific Manitoba Education curricular learning outcomes.

Grant Park's Teacher Advisor Group (T.A.G.) and homeroom systems provide an important component of the school's student support system. T.A.G. meetings join students and their teacher advisors together, in order to provide information to, and collect feedback from, students regarding all aspects of their time at Grant Park High School, providing them a forum to have their voices heard. Individual student meetings, with assigned advisors or guidance counsellors, also take place for discussions regarding decision making and future endeavors. Daily homeroom sessions are held with the middle school students providing a comfortable environment, home base, and a place to build relationships with their teacher and classmates.

COVID 19

On September 9th, 2020 we began a new school year in a totally different fashion than we had ever before experienced. Grades 7 and 8 were attending full days every day, and grades 9-12 attended 4 half days a cycle and participated in remote learning. Students and staff were amazing with the transition!

Life in the Middle School during the 2020-2021 school year was interesting to facilitate public health mandated social distancing. Since middle school students were attending full days, all classes were split into two, and teachers came to the students rather than the other way around. Some students had new "classrooms" in the gym and some in the cafeteria. They got to try out many new activities in Physical Education since most of it took place outside or in the hallways. Some of these newer activities included: folk and social dance, disc golf, step aerobics, Inuit games, and chair aerobics. Everyone got to take Performing Arts, Art, French, and Band instead of only the usual two courses. Bucket drumming and making their own drumsticks were especially a hit! Just as the year was winding down, we were able to get all the grade 7 and 8 students back into Practical Arts. Again, the staff found ways for students to learn, have fun, and stay safe in those shop areas too. The patience and resilience of students and staff was extraordinary! Lastly, the school year finished online and students were able to work from home and stay safe. The year was declared officially over once our students were acknowledged during our virtual Awards Ceremony.

High School life was quite different too, as our students had a combination of online and in person learning. Students came half days and participated synchronously online from home. These online lessons went very well, and students continued to exceed academically. Graduation took place outside on our front lawn and each student had a special, socially distant graduation photo shoot.



Successes from Grant Park High School's 2020 - 2021 Priorities

Students: To provide robust and comprehensive education, equitable access, diverse opportunity, and a supportive learning environment for all students to help them prepare for their journey with values of learning and social justice, and to be responsible community members.

- Student Council initiatives, Social Justice Group, Student Newsletter

Learning Outcomes: To further improve school attendance, achievements, and graduation rates through the exploration of additional programs and strategies.

- 95% attendance rate, Reading is Thinking courses, School Initiated Courses, apprenticeships, volunteer credits, grade 9 transitional math, Off Campus Program

Addressing Barriers to Learning: To further develop initiatives and innovative approaches addressing special needs and accessibility requirements, mental health issues, childcare needs, and nutritional needs.

- Support for students with anxiety, FOCUS program, Horticulture program, fresh garden vegetables and gardening class, Gender and Sexuality Alliance, Inclusion Support program, Clinical Support Services

Fiscal Responsibility: To provide responsible management of tax dollars and resources to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability and accountability of the programs, facilities, and services that we provide.

- Long term planning and fundraising for special projects, preventative care and maintenance of existing facilities, reduce, reuse, recycle, repurpose, equipment sharing and loan, WSD Capital Planning for Science Lab upgrades, Autism Therapy room flooring upgrades, roof replacement

Sustainability: To strengthen and enhance sustainable development initiatives that address environmental, social, and economic issues.

- Green Team - reduce, reuse, recycle, Black History Month, Intercultural Community Support Worker, community sharing of our vegetable garden, Orange Shirt Day, technology evergreening program

Employees: To retain, attract, and develop our valued staff who are dedicated to the vision, purpose, values, and Principles of Learning of Winnipeg School Division, and reflect community diversity.

- Build from Within, culturally diverse staff complement, wide range of academic, athletic, and performing arts opportunities that attract potential employees, professional development, Teacher Idea Fund for film industry studies and clinic

Communications and Partnerships with Community: To further develop communications and partnerships with the communities we serve, parents, families, government, businesses, health and social service agencies, Indigenous education, other community organizations, and our valued volunteers.

- Grant Park Shopping Centre, School Resource Officer, YES program, McDonald's, City of Winnipeg, Pan Am Pool, playground facilities, University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Manitoba Metis Federation, Downtown-West Broadway Integrated Youth Hub

Parent and Community Involvement

The home-school partnership is an essential component of academic success at Grant Park. The school's Parent Advisory Community Council facilitates increased understanding and communication about students and the educational process. In 2020-2021 we had monthly virtual Zoom meetings with parents and caregivers. Participation and discussion were excellent over this medium and we thank all those who joined us and offered their perspectives.

Celebrations of learning at Grant Park High School also took the virtual form of student-led conferences, Inquiry, Heritage and Science Fairs.

Student Council: Club options were limited this year due to Covid-19, but our Student Council ran close to normal, just with online meetings instead of in person. They were still able to have the annual holiday hamper initiative, and a clothing drive. Knowing that we all good use some support emotionally, our Student Council sent out Instagram messages focused on mental health strategies and feel good messages. They were also the force behind the special events which included: online Spirit Week, Outdoor Scavenger Hunt, Green for Broncos, International Day against Bullying and Violence, Minecraft Marathon, and popsicle treat day.

Visual and Performing Arts Department: Building on a legacy of success and hard work, this year's department offerings showcased student choral, musical, dance, painting, sculpting, sketching, and theatric learning. Highlights from the past year included the Musical and Drama Performances for High School of *A Midsummer's Night Dream*. Each year a number of students are accepted into prestigious Fine Arts university programs showcasing the skills and experiences they have acquired at GPHS.



School daily announcements and information are communicated via the public address system, Twitter, email, hallway TV, and school website, and caregivers are always welcome to contact the school directly with questions.