

Isaac Newton Junior High 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.

School Mission Statement

Isaac Newton School is a learning community that welcomes everyone to its safe and nurturing environment, providing students with a quality education and hope for their future.

A place to belong...
A place to shine!

Invest in Isaac!



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION



About our school

Isaac Newton is a school-wide community dedicated to inspiring academic excellence, citizenship, and lifelong learning. We take pride at being at the forefront of educating our youth with innovative programs for grades 7, 8, and 9. Our approach is student centered, starting with individual assessments in areas of numeracy and literacy of each student. The assessment data assists us in developing programming to meet diverse learning needs. School initiatives establish a positive learning environment in which we make every effort to differentiate the learning experience to meet the needs of each individual student, while working with families to achieve these goals. Isaac Newton School is committed to providing a caring learning environment where individuals are accepted, valued, and safe. Staff work hard in ensuring that students are well prepared for high school. We believe in an active student voice, conflict management, and restorative practices. We believe in looking at the whole child and programming through a strength based approach. We place students at the centre, understanding that students at this age are still developing physiologically, socially, and mentally.

School Profile

- 287 Students, Principal, Vice Principal, 22 Teachers (including supply teacher), 18 Support Staff including Educational Assistants (and a supply EA), Clerks and Custodians.
- Inclusive Education Resource Teacher
- Guidance Counsellor
- Physical Education Teacher
- Fine Arts Teacher
- Band/Music/Dance Teacher
- Special Education Classroom
- Learning Assistance Classroom (LAC)
- Alternative Program
- Half time Community Support Worker
- Clinical Support Services (CSS) that include a Social Worker, Psychologist, Speech Language Pathologist
- School Resource Office (Police Officer)
- Divisional staff – District Behaviour Support Teacher and two Behaviour Educational Assistants

2020 – 2021 Highlights

- Working with families, students, and staff in coordinating efforts for pandemic planning
- Small tree planting ceremony (with honoured guests and Indigenous blessing) in recognition of Isaac Newton School's 100th Anniversary
- Completion of front entrance and installation of elevator to make the entire school fully accessible
- Completion of fitness room
- Spirit Week in Winter and Spring
- Community-building Kahoot events for all grades
- Community Clean-up
- Grade 9 Phys. Ed. Community snow clearing
- Daily breakfast, fresh fruit snacks from October to June & free Wednesday lunches provided to all students
- Partnership with Second Harvest – a food security initiative
- Monthly newsletters and calendars sent home and updated on school website
- CAP Awards, Job Yellowhead Award and end of the year awards in the school field
- Support from our SRO (School Resource Officer) to help assist with community issues
- Supported students during remote learning by providing weekly hampers and devices
- Virtual parent/teacher and student-led conferences
- Virtual monthly parent council meetings
- Thinking Classrooms initiative
- Targeted teacher professional development to enhance instruction and learning
 - Student profiles
 - Innovative teaching practices
 - Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
 - New ELA Framework

Due to COVID 19 Pandemic and the suspension of classes throughout the year, many of our planned school events including fishing, grade 8 spring camp experience, badminton, swimming lessons, ultimate Frisbee, outdoor track & field, Isaac Newton's annual track & field day, outdoor soccer, Spring Night of the Arts, Spring Feast, Indigenous Day celebrations and hiking had to be canceled.



Priorities for 2021-22

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.

Learning Outcomes

To further improve school attendance, achievements, and graduation rates through the exploration of additional programs and strategies. To support students in learning recovery.

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. To understand that our students have been through a traumatic experience and to take a trauma informed approach to supporting our students.

Communication 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.

Sustainability

To strengthen and enhance sustainable development initiatives that address environmental, social, and economic issues. Students learned about growing food by planting a vegetable garden which was harvested and shared with families and used in our school cafeteria to promote healthy eating.

Priorities for 2021-22

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.

Examples:

- Isaac Newton School ensures that all students are assessed in numeracy and literacy throughout the year to inform instructions and plan for student learning.
- We ensure to incorporate Indigenous perspectives in classroom instructions including treaty education, residential school and reconciliation teachings.
- In collaboration with divisional PSS team, our Mathematics team began to develop an assessment tool and instructional materials to enable students to better meet curricular outcomes and receive individual assistance.

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

Examples:

- The Community Support Worker and truancy officer visit homes of absent students to offer school support to improve student school attendance.
- In-house low enrolment programs provide academic programming to support individual learning needs, including credit recovery.

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.

Examples:

- With the financial help from Child Nutrition Grant and Second Harvest donations we are able to provide free daily breakfast, emergency lunches, fruits and vegetable snacks to all students.
- Healthy Schools Grant
- Guidance programming addresses many mental health issues: Mindfulness, Anti-Bullying, Roots of Empathy.
- Development of student profiles to accommodate individual student needs.
- Installation of universal/wheelchair accessible bathrooms and an elevator

Communication and Partnership 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.

Examples:

- 4 nursing student practicum placements
- Academy of Learning – clerical intern
- Robertson College – EA practicum student
- Partnership with Second Harvest – food rescue to provide families with supplemental food hampers
- Partnerships with individual community philanthropists
- Continued collaboration with CEDA
- Mobile Vision Care Clinic

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

Examples:

- Students tend to our courtyard and butterfly garden.
- Vegetable garden in courtyard. Harvest to be used in school cafeteria and by culinary arts students.
- School-wide recognition of and supporting activities acknowledging Day of Pink, Orange Shirt Day, Black History Month, and other social-issues events.

Parent and Community Involvement

Isaac Newton School is committed to building positive parent and community partnerships. In addition to our Parent-Teacher and Student-Led Conferences, we encourage families to contact their homeroom teacher regarding any concerns throughout the year. All students are assigned to a homeroom teacher in order to foster a connection with an adult in the school. Families are invited to attend our monthly assemblies and we encourage parents to get involved with our small but active Parent Advisory Council (PAC).

We have a part time Community Support Worker (CSW) at Isaac Newton School who connects with students and families. Our CSW assists families in various ways such as assisting with student medical needs, attendance support, delivery of home learning packages or connecting families to North End Resource centers.

As part of our school community we also have access to a URIS Health Nurse and a Public Health Nurse. The nurses keep track of Health Care plans and immunization for students. They are also a valuable source of advice for families when needed.

Our School website, www.winnipegssd/isaacnewton.org, contains our latest monthly newsletter, calendars, and school events so families can keep track of school closures and events. In addition, a paper copy of the newsletter goes home every month. We also have five display screens placed throughout the school that advertise upcoming events. Some of our teachers have blogs and classroom websites to share classroom information with families.

Our students have access to many community awards such as CAP, Cully award, CPAC award, Job Yellowhead award as well as various subject specific and WSD book awards. Students also participate in WASAC, CEDA, and the Summer Enrichment Program.

Our students have opportunities to support various causes such as Day of Pink, Orange Shirt Day, Black History month and many more.

Our students have access to after school programming with CEDA Pathways where they receive academic help and at the same time build meaningful connections, gain valuable skills, and find summer employment. Although limited, this year the program operated virtually.

