

R.B. Russell Vocational 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 students learning and working within the Winnipeg School Division to be:

Engaged, Confident, Inspired, and Successful Learners.



About Our School

R.B. Russell Vocational School is a dynamic learning environment where we strive to meet the needs of all of our students. We have an incredible staff with a passion for teaching and an enthusiasm for working with learners of all ages.

R.B. Russell School is fortunate in our ability to offer programming in specialized classrooms for students who need a wide range of supports. Within our school there are Jr. and Sr. Learning Assistance Centres, Jr. and Sr. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder classrooms, a Special Education Centre, and a Youth Justice Transition Program.

As a vocational school, R.B. Russell provides the opportunity for a rich learning experience. We offer nine vocational programs along with academic options that meet the requirements for entrance into post-secondary schools.

Mission Statement

Our priority at R.B. Russell Vocational High School is to provide a learning environment that encourages students to recognize their potential for education and employment.



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

Highlights

2020-2021 presented some opportunities for the R.B. Russell students, their families, and the surrounding community. A number of opportunities were limited as a result of Covid. These are highlighted with an asterisk (*).

A few of the highlights included:

- Cultural opportunities/teachings/ceremonies
 - Smudging
 - Tipi Teachings
 - Land based Education
 - *Medicine Picking
 - *Community Elders
 - *Moccasin/Mukluk making
- Rebuilding of the R.B. Russell Sweat Lodge
 - *Students also participated in the picking of Grandfathers
- *School visit to the Human Rights Museum
- After hours wellness opportunities
 - Virtual Zumba
- Believe, Dream, Dare Tutoring Centre
- Morningstar Network of Student Support
- Student Voice (student council)
- G.S.A - Rainbow Eagle Feather
- Young Womens Group
- Young Mens Group
- Partnership with CEDA Pathways
- Share the Magic Book Give away
- Mobile Vision Care provided glasses for students
- *The Annual North End Community Feast was cancelled due to Covid
- Culturally focused curricular programs
- *Mount Carmel Young Parents Group
- Community Support Worker
- *Career fair
- *Crochet club
- *Curling team
- *Festival du Voyageur
- *Mind over Metal student/parent Welding class
- *Inner City Skills Partnership
 - Culinary / Hairstyling / Child Care / Graphics
- *Community Referral Partnership with Assiniboine Credit Union.



Priorities for 2021-22

In a continued effort to support our learners, the R.B. Russell staff set four priorities.

Collaboratively, we have identified plans in the following areas:

- School Culture and Community Engagement
- Credit Attainment and Marks
- Graduation
- Attendance

Throughout the school year staff collaborated to develop these priorities, which have become a part of a living document at RB Russell and we will be working towards planning expected outcomes.



Priorities for 2021-2022

During the 2021-2022 school year, we will continue to work on the four priorities we set as part of our three-year plan. Our belief is that these priority areas will ensure that all of our students leave R.B. Russell High school understanding who they are as individuals, with the ability to be successful in whatever comes next.

Community, in every sense, will continue as a priority at RB Russell. Students will graduate at a rate closer to that of the provincial average. Students will have narrowed the gap between school and divisional averages related to credit attainment and marks. Students will attend class more consistently.

Staff will meet in departments to develop plans that target specific areas of improvement we hope to see for our students. The school is developing school-wide expected outcomes, creating strategies to help reach these outcomes, determined indicators of success, with a focus on data collection to show progress towards the goals.



Parent and Community Involvement

R.B. Russell Vocational High School welcomes parents and the surrounding community to participate in numerous activities throughout the year. This past year, participation was limited due to Covid. We anticipate the ability to resume activities in the upcoming year as covid restrictions are relaxed.

Our school has an active Parent Sub-Committee that meets monthly during Nutrition Bingo. This offers the opportunity to provide the perspective of a parent/guardian, to the numerous initiatives and programs offered at the school.

Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education and were invited to attend our Celebrations of Learning as well as our Open House virtually this past year. Parents are always welcome to contact the school at any point in time to discuss their child's progress.

R.B. Russell Vocational High School invites the family members of the students to participate in feasts and gatherings. This past year we planned to include the following, but were unable to host them due to COVID:

- R.B. Russell welcome back BBQ
- Grade 9 parent welcome dinner
- Feast of generosity and children's party
- Individual Graduation Ceremonies for the 2020-2021 graduating class, took place at their homes, where family and friends were able to participate.

Plans for parents and community members to attend numerous activities that are offered at the school, included:

- Moccasin and mukluk making
- Sewing of traditional skirts
- Traditional beading
- Traditional jewelry making
- Moss bags
- Cultural teachings
- Sweats
- Pipe ceremonies
- Medicine picking
- Traditional parenting group
- Community Zumba with Child Minding (weekly)
- Nutrition Bingo
- Community Schools Career Fair
- Safe Talk
- Annual North End Community Feast
- Parent Paint Night
- Healthy Living Workshop
- Fearless R2W
- Planting of the Community Gardens
- Warriorz Youth Basketball Skills Camp

A number of these did not take place due to COVID, but will resume when possible.

