Futures Begin Here

Seven Oaks High School Programs 2018
From the moment a student enters one of our schools – be it kindergarten or high school or as a preschooler in one of our community-based family programs – we help them work towards a future filled with greatness.

Our classrooms pay attention to children helping build the skills they’ll need to succeed, regardless of the path they choose.

In high school, students choose from a wide array of electives, core courses and extracurriculars that continue to open doors for them and lead them towards their chosen path.

In Seven Oaks School Division, a student’s future doesn’t begin at high school graduation.

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Academics are at the heart of every lesson and we are proud to be a division that consistently sets students up for success in high school, post-secondary learning and beyond – whatever “beyond” means for them. Our kids move on to universities, colleges, trade programs and more. We are preparing our students to be citizens who will make a contribution to our community.

You'll read about just a few of these bright young minds in this High School Report to Community.

I hope you'll be as impressed by them as I am ... and that you'll remember their names. Because I am sure each and every one of them is destined for greatness.

Derek Dabee
Chair, Board of Trustees
Making High School Great ... For Everyone

In Seven Oaks School Division, we pride ourselves on recognizing that no two students are alike.

Each has different goals, talents and future plans ... and our job is to help foster these individualities while upholding a strong standard of quality education.

Academics are our top priority, but that doesn’t mean our students’ diverse and unique passions, skillsets and futures go by the wayside. That’s why we offer academic-focused programs and extracurriculars that bring out the best in each student, both in the classroom and outside the timetable.

Whether a student is interested in space, geology, ecology or economics (or anything in between or beyond), we are dedicated to providing a rewarding and forward-thinking educational experience.

In this book, you will find stories from students and graduates who overcame uncertainty, unlocked hidden talents and broke barriers en route to discovering their passions, challenging their knowledge and finding their calling.

Our kids are getting the most out of education and the most of themselves – all while finding their place in the world.

Keep reading to see how Seven Oaks students are making their marks...
Making Discoveries

The sky is not the limit for students in the Garden City Space Agency.

In fact, it’s only the starting line.

Gopher Space, Garden City Collegiate’s high altitude balloon club, gives students an opportunity to expand their knowledge of space and science within the timetable but beyond traditional education and expectations.

Each year, the Gopher Space students send a payload made of two salad bowls into near space. In 2017, they sent a bit of DNA, ozone and UV sensors up with their mascot Gophernaut, a Lego gopher in a space suit. The vessel was also equipped with cameras and tracking equipment and it reached 32 kilometres in altitude.

Traditionally, participating students all launch the balloon together and – once it’s out of sight – track the payload until it lands. Then they take the vessel back to their classroom to analyze the data, look at pictures taken from the vessel and chart their findings.

All in all, it is a very rewarding experience for kids whose passion and interests lay beyond the traditional science curriculum.

“Launching the balloon is the best part,” says third-year participant Breanna Laggo. “We all hold on to the rope, and we have a countdown and let go together. It’s really amazing to watch the balloon as it starts to rise, further and further away from you.”

While everyone has a particular job on launch day, the months leading up to it allow students to take on roles in several different teams – payload, flight, radio, photography, science and business – and to broaden their general scientific horizons.

“At the start, it felt like I wasn’t going to understand how everything works in the couple months we all had together,” says first-year participant Czyelle Mas – a Grade 12 student. “I enjoy seeing all of our hard work pay off on launch day, overcoming challenges as a group and doing interesting science experiments.”
Making a Difference

Palvi Saini found her confidence and her calling during her time at the Seven Oaks Met School – one of two schools of its kind in Seven Oaks School Division.

“At first, I was a very shy and quiet student who was self-conscious, didn’t have much self-esteem and definitely had no idea about what I wanted to do with my life,” says Palvi, who chose the Seven Oaks Met because of its outside-the-lines philosophy on academics and exploration.

“My teacher told me once, You get as much out of Met School, as you put into it. From that day forward, I promised myself to step out of my comfort zone and always challenge myself.”

Stepping outside that comfort zone led Palvi – now a first-year University of Winnipeg Human Rights student – to discover an interest in the humanities – particularly in the area of social justice and politics.

“I had been keeping up with the news and world events for the longest time. I was fed up with where our world was heading,” she says.

For her senior thesis project, Palvi organized a campaign and rally to raise awareness about Islamophobia and take action against the then-recent Muslim ban in the U.S.

She used her Met School connections to facilitate presentations at 20 schools around the city and got the attention of media prior to her event.

On the day-of, more than 500 students gathered downtown for #FearLessLoveMore which resulted in media coverage, more than $500 in financial support, 435 signatures on a petition to be read by the House of Commons and 107 letters sent to the Prime Minister.

“To this day, it doesn’t feel real,” says Palvi. “The whole journey has been unreal. I couldn’t believe the support from the community and the youth. I am more inspired to start even bigger campaigns and host public events. … I was taught in school to follow my passions and never take no for an answer. I can happily tell you that today I am a confident, well-reputed, young adult who knows exactly what she wants from life only because of Met School.”
Making History

Riley LeBlanc joined the Maples Met School in 2016, when the avid bug-watcher was in Grade 9.

Since then, Riley has amassed academic experiences beyond his wildest imagination and has fully realized the goals of the Met School’s Big Picture Learning philosophy: exploration, breaking boundaries and academic excellence.

Oh yeah: he has also published a book, discovered a new species of Manitoba insect and impressed established entomologists.

“I knew I had this passion, I knew I wanted to follow it so I knew that getting out and working with entomologists in the community would get me more interested in this,” says Riley, who found the Met School’s unique combination of coursework and “real work” to be the perfect fit for both his unique interest and his unique learning style.

Through the school’s standard internship program – all students spend one or two days per week in “real-world” workplaces, learning more about their specific interest areas – he found a field placement with Dr. Terry Galloway at the University of Manitoba’s Department of Entomology.

It was there that he found validation of his passion.

“I wasn’t working within what a textbook said I had to do,” says Riley. “I was actually going out and collecting the specimens on my weekend, bringing them in, studying them in the lab.”

Riley has since written and published a book on invasive insects in Manitoba for junior entomologists, which he released at McNally Robinson late last year.

As well, he was the youngest student to be selected to participate in the Experimental Lakes Area Student Field Course and, most recently, he attended a Canada-wide conference that gathered some of the best entomologists in the country and landed Riley a spot writing for the Entomology Society of Canada.

Riley says this all connects back to his internship with Dr. Galloway and the experiences the Met School provides.

“Without that,” he says, “I wouldn’t have discovered new species and I certainly wouldn’t have written a book.”
Making it Move

Kenny Nguyen always wanted his own robot.

Today, he has it – all thanks to West Kildonan Collegiate’s unique stance on academic exploration.

“I love to build and tinker and take things apart and put them back together,” says Kenny, a Grade 12 student who participated in West Kildonan’s one-of-a-kind Robotics elective course. “In the course, I got to do all of that and then some.”

West Kildonan’s Robotics course allows students to apply science and engineering to building hydraulic arms, sumo robots, light-seeking robots and “beetle bots.” They also learn to program robots using computer software and robotics kits.

“My favourite thing about the class was how basically everything was hands-on,” says Kenny. “I could build and be as creative as I wanted.”

Kenny credits his instructor with pulling his thinking and skillset outside the box by providing students the opportunity to solve difficult challenges they wouldn’t otherwise have faced.

Even with the extra challenges, Kenny and classmate Manmeet Maan had spare time after finishing all their “standard-issue” projects, so they built a walking robot.

“I have taken many courses through high school, but nothing allowed me to expand like Robotics,” says Manmeet, a Grade 12 student. “I loved robotics the most because it is a course that combines all of our other industrial art courses like woods, computer science, drafting, and intro to engineering.”

For Manmeet, the course reinforced his career plans for the future.

“I plan on going to the University of Manitoba to get a degree in mechanical engineering, and then into aerospace,” he says. “I think with having the privilege of taking the robotics course, it gave me much more information about engineering and what I want to do.”
Making a Career

If you find yourself in need of a household plumber, you may be surprised to find your handyperson is a Seven Oaks high school student.

Our unparalleled Cooperative Vocational Education Program provides students the opportunity to complete their required high school coursework while at the same time undergoing technical training that sets them up for employment in one of seven trades areas.

Stephanie Yarema, a graduate of both West Kildonan Collegiate and the Plumbing and Pipe Trades program, followed her curiosity of plumbing in high school and is now employed by the company that took her in for on-the-job training.

“I’m very appreciative of the companies who were willing to take the chance and let us have the opportunity to get a look and feel of what work life is like,” says Stephanie. “We were being taught things we actually needed to know to succeed in the trade. This I found shows us, early on what life will be like if in fact, we choose to pursue this as a career.”

The program immerses students in 4-5 weeks of in-class training and up to thirty weeks of on-the-job experience through an extended work placement – all while maintaining studies in core high school courses. Grade 12 students graduate with a high school diploma and the first year of their trade certification in the same year. During her work placement, Stephanie – who is now a Level 3 refrigeration mechanic with plans to get her Journeyman title – was able to experience first-hand the commitment required to succeed in the field she was pursuing.

“One needs to be physically and mentally prepared for this line of work,” she says. “You want to be proud of the work you do even if people will never see it because it’s going to be hidden behind a wall or in a crawlspace under someone’s house. My CVE experience prepared me for that.”
The media world is changing ... and one program at Maples Collegiate is changing right along with it.

Channel 7 Oaks TV – the school’s broadcasting program – provides tech-savvy and production-minded students the opportunity to learn multimedia skills in real time, as trends in technology and production evolve.

“I started off learning to work with cameras, doing small interviews and editing all my projects,” says Rahiek Mohammed, a Grade 12 student currently in his fourth and final year of the program. “From there I realized I had a real knack for directing, which lead me to directing a majority of the live shows we film at school and post on our website. That led me to have skills I can use on many platforms, like YouTube video making, artistic music videos and simple things like photography.”

Participants in the program, which began in 2011, act as both the live and studio production crews, filming school and divisional events such as concerts, theater productions, sports tournaments and dance recitals. They learn editing, photography, directing, audio set-up, story-building and camera work – all skills that can be used for personal projects or live productions today and beyond.

The unique experience blends academics and passion projects, providing students with a solid production background and a springboard to their future, if they choose this path long-term. “I just like being there because I’m surrounded by people who like the same things as me,” says Kristine Eulalia, who plans to study Fine Arts following graduation this year. Kristine’s interest began in an elective Film and Broadcasting course and grew from there.

She’s not alone.

“It’s not just learning with a pen and paper,” says Harvir Brar, who has been in the program for four years. “It’s more hands-on because you don’t learn just one thing, you get to explore and experiment beyond what everyone else does.”
Seven Oaks offers eleven unique Cooperative Vocational Education programs:

Aviation Trades & Technology, Automotive Trades & Technology, Building Trades, Culinary Services, Early Childhood Educator, Electrical Trades, Health Care Aide, Hospitality Services, Plumbing & Pipe Trades, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning and Sustainable Energy ... and we’re launching a new program in Theatre Arts & Tech.

The Seven Oaks graduation rate is consistently over ninety percent.

Seven Oaks students pay no fee for band instruments and no school fees.

Seven Oaks students collect over half a million dollars in post-secondary scholarships and bursaries each year.

Over three hundred Seven Oaks high school students begin full credit University and Community College courses. And we don’t charge tuition fees.
Learn more about the programs we offer at our high school open houses:

**Collège Garden City Collegiate, 711 Jefferson Avenue**
Wednesday, February 21
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Maples Met School, 1330 Jefferson Avenue**
Wednesday, February 28
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Seven Oaks Met School, 640 Jefferson Avenue**
Wednesday, February 28
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**West Kildonan Collegiate, 101 Ridgecrest Avenue**
Wednesday, February 28
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Maples Collegiate, 1330 Jefferson Avenue**
Thursday, March 1
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.