



# Maples Met School

7 Oaks

Maples MET School  
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## **Maples Met School: Education Review Joint-Submission**

“As a co-founder, I am so proud of our work in Canada. Both schools have become examples for our 75 schools in the US and our 100 international schools. I also deeply appreciate School Division’s support for these schools.”

**- Dennis Littky, Co-Founder, Met Schools + Big Picture Learning**

“We are so proud of both how The Seven Oaks Met and The Maples Met are award winning schools for innovation in Canada and serve as a beacon for how BPL program design can work internationally for students everywhere.”

**- Eliot Washor, Co-Founder, Met Schools + Big Picture Learning**

### **Intro:**

The Maples Met School was founded nearly three years ago. It is one of two Big Picture Learning (BPL) Schools in all of Canada. There are over 200 BPLs around the world. The Maples Met is a student-driven, project-based, experiential learning school. Our students spend three days a week in the classroom with their Advisor (teacher), and two days a week working at internships with their mentors, who are experts in their given field. There are 15 students per advisory, and students stay with the same advisor for all four years. The Maples Met School has found tremendous success during its short life, including being awarded twice with the Ken Spencer Award, most recently, earning top spot in the country and recognized for excellence in innovation in teaching and learning.

Maples Met students are curious, enthusiastic, self-motivated, and entrepreneurial. They seek to answer real world problems through rigorous projects that centre on their passions, interests, and curiosities.

The individuals who contributed to this submission want to highlight 7 “C’s”, which they believe are at the heart of the work done at Maples Met:

## **Choice – Community – Culture – Confidence – Connections – Critical Thinking - Change**

This submission is the culmination of a joint effort between teachers, parents, mentors, and students from the Maples Met community, who felt strongly about adding their voice to the province's education review. This group of individuals feel that whatever conclusions are reached by the committee and the government following the review, that the Seven Oaks School Division, and in particular, its two Met Schools, are not only preserved in their current form, but that this model of education is looked to as inspiration for a way to do education differently, with a made in Manitoba approach.

There is significant support for the Seven Oaks School Division among all of those who contributed. Had it not been for the autonomy and agency provided to the Division and its leaders through our current structure, schools such as ours would not exist, and the community, and many of our students, would not have benefited in the myriad ways that they have as a result.

We believe we must keep Seven Oaks, Seven Oaks and allow our Division to flourish and lead in innovative ways as it has for decades.

### **Parents:**

Maples Met parents believe that the school is providing their children with transformational change. The skills developed through real world, experiential learning opportunities are providing kids with confidence, a vast network of connections, compassion, and the tools needed to prepare for the future. Their children are emerging as leaders in their community, equipped with access to the provinces leading experts in a variety of fields, from business and entertainment, to arts and culture, sports, tourism, NGOs, and more.

Maples Met parents believe that the school's small class sizes and continuity of key relationships, such as four years with the same teacher, offers a supportive, engaging, and meaningful education for their children, where they feel safe and welcomed. Many Maples Met parents credit the school with helping their children achieve their potential, in ways that they otherwise would not have been able to.

Met parents see that their children approach school with a sense of purpose and duty. They believe that their children are planting the seeds of their future. They appreciate the innovative approaches the school takes to offering education opportunities to their children. The creativity that the Met School allows to flourish is deeply valued by all in the Met community.

Maples Met parents are deeply grateful to the Seven Oaks School Division who they credit for making choices that reflect community and are rooted in the needs of its residents. They want to keep Seven Oaks, Seven Oaks.

### **Teachers:**

The Advisors at Maples Met appreciate that their professional judgement is trusted and valued. This is a credit to the leadership offered by our superintendents and trustees, who recognize and value the skills of our educators. Our teachers believe that the pride their students express in the school, and the work ethic with which they approach their projects are proof that what we are doing is working. Met teachers are able to continually cultivate and strengthen their own skills by working with experts in the community. The professional collaboration that exists between teacher, parent, student, and mentor, ensures that our teachers are always doing what's needed to serve the best interests of the student.

Our teachers value the opportunities that Seven Oaks offers them, from rich professional development, to mentorship, and a grassroots, community-based approach to learning.

Maples Met teachers value the role community plays in helping educate their students, and worry that the local choice that exists today could be eroded if amalgamation were to occur.

### **Mentors:**

The Maples Met School is interwoven into the fabric of businesses and organizations across Winnipeg and Manitoba. From North Forge and Red River College, to the Universities of Winnipeg and Manitoba, to the Winnipeg Art Gallery and Agape Table, there are over 1000 mentors in the database between the two Met Schools. Met Mentors are frequently expressing their support for our schools. In particular, organizations and mentors enjoy having a safe, risk-free space to help expose young people to their work, and provide guidance that assists in the cultivation of workforce skills.

Mentors are not only grateful for the opportunity to teach youth about their industries and clientele, but they are thrilled with the support that students bring to their teams, which often results in new creativity around projects and other needs.

Many mentors have been so impressed with students from our school that they have offered them employment opportunities that build upon the skills that they learned during their Tuesdays and Thursday together.

Met mentors are as much a part of our school as anyone else, and as such, their voices and opinions are fundamental to the decisions we make as a school.

### **Students:**

The students at our school believe that they have found an educational home where they are afforded the ability to take control of their own education, with the support of community experts and caring educators who hold them to a high standard.

Every day, students feel the positive impacts of small class sizes and a close relationship with their advisor. They don't want to lose the benefits of having someone know them in a well-rounded way, and wish for Met schools to be more numerous across Manitoba so that more young people like them can have exposure to real world opportunities.

Our students would like to see an increase in school funding to allow for more technology in the classroom. They are aware of the necessities of technological literacy, and wish to have the ability to learn the ins and outs of new programming, in a hands-on way at school.

Met students see real value in the work they are doing in school, and are incredibly optimistic about a future where they have skills, experiences, and people in vast networks that can vouch for what they bring to the table.

### **Conclusion:**

The Maples Met school is a made in Manitoba success story. Bringing together community in a meaningful and rich manner, the school, with support of students, parents, teachers, and mentors, are changing the lives of young people in Manitoba in a unique way.

We are fearful that if Seven Oaks is to be altered from its current form, that the Met School as it exists today will be negatively impacted. Furthermore, we worry that if Seven Oaks does not maintain the autonomy to provide the local, community-reflected choice that its residents have continually benefited from, schools such as the Met, and future programs like it, will disappear. We require local knowledge, leadership, and decision-making authority. We believe we must move forward with this type of innovative and collaborative education model, which serves as a shining example for how to do education right in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Here at Maples Met, we are proud of what we do: We connect. We provide choice. We develop critical thinkers and confident minds. We serve community. We create culture. We connect. Most importantly, we change lives.

### **Support from the Community**

"In my view the Met School model provides the most effective opportunity to integrate students with workplaces in a meaningful way. For students it provides this unique relationship with an employer as they engage through projects that add great value to the organization at the same time advancing the student's educational pursuits. For employers it is a unique way to engage with a high school and not only get to know the future workforce but also showcase with pride their organization and their potential as a future place for a career. I have become a great fan of Met schools and I look forward to Johnston Group's increased engagement."

#### **- Dave Angus, President, Johnston Group**

"The Maples MET School partnership with Red River College's ACE Project Space creates applied, practical learning experiences for high school students and a clear pathway to post-secondary education at Red River."

#### **- Paul Vogt, President, Red River College**

"North Forge continues to promote a diverse economy and our incredible community of entrepreneurs, to produce competitive and innovative businesses and communities. Interns from Maples Met School contribute to our diversity. On Tuesdays and Thursdays Maples Met students are working with us at North Forge through mentorship related to their interests. It is such an awesome and relevant experience. The type of learning at Maples Met is important to our future economy - to produce diverse, competitive and innovative businesses and communities."

#### **- Teresa Dukes, President of North Forge**

"Winnipeg has fallen behind other cities in terms of deal flow which is attracting less investor interest. The only way to fix this is to increase the amount of businesses started and entrepreneurs in the city, which is done by educating students at a young age. Maples Met is the leading difference and will be the reason for the innovation change in Winnipeg."

#### **- Bryce North, North Forge Mentor**

"Working with high school students on applied, relevant projects at Red River College's ACE project Space creates an engaged practical learning environment."

#### **- Steve Lawrence, M.I.C.E. Program and RRC Mentor**

"We believe our partnership with the Seven Oaks School Division's MET Schools is critical to student success. We are working hand-in-hand to support the transition from grade 12 to post-secondary education. This partnership creates opportunities for collaboration, mentorship for students, and engagement with existing programs that give students an advanced understanding of our programs and supports. We value this partnership and see the benefits that pathway students into the College."

#### **- Rebecca Chartrand, Executive Director, Indigenous Strategy at Red River College**

"Time and time again, Maples Met has proven their process works. Incorporating workplace learning into education curriculum allows students to build and nurture relevant skills, while exploring the amazing possibilities here in our province. This type of model directly impacts our organizations as we integrate motivated, well-skilled talent into our workforce. And it starts at the high school level."

I wholeheartedly support Maples Met School and their vision for educating Manitoba's young people.”

- Scott Angus, Co-Founder of HP Change

**List of Individuals who have given permission to have their names added to this submission as key supporters of the Seven Oaks School Division and the Maples Met School:**

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Role:</u>
Pat Gustave	Mentor (Actionmarguerite on Leila Avenue)
Tyler Engel	Mentor (Agape Table)
Nate Hatton	Mentor (NRG Athletes)
Allan Silk	Mentor (Manitoba Hydro)
Suresh Mishra	Mentor (University of Manitoba)
Stephen Jones	Mentor (St. Boniface Hospital Research)
Grant Mitchell	Mentor (NorWest Co-op Community Food Centre)
Tyler McDuffe	Mentor (School of Rock Winnipeg)
Josh Marantz	Mentor (Manitoba Arts Network)
Anabela Luis	Mentor (Riverbend Community School)
Louis Cheung	Mentor (Oriental Gifts)
Heather Powney	Mentor (M2C Solutions)
Sarah Thiessen	Mentor (The Winnipeg Repair Education 'N' Cycling Hub)
Tidimogo Gaamangwe	Mentor (Winnipeg Regional Health Authority)
Steven Lawrence Technology)	Mentor (Red River College of Applied Arts, Science and
Catherine Johnson	Mentor (O.V. Jewitt School)
Daniel Blair	Mentor (Bit Space Development)
Sean Balmes	Student
Harper Brown	Student
Emma Gravito	Student
Heidi Hall	Student
Vanessa Navarro	Student
Ufuoma Oyibo Itie	Student

Brendan Reimer	Student
Alex Roque	Student
Naveen Sharma	Student
Emerson Viveiros	Student
Adilson Sousa	Student
Michelle Dombek	Teacher
Damian Pelly	Student
Alycia Roussin	Student
Katia Hill	Student
Lexxis Oliveira	Student
Maya Pogson	Student
Manpinder Dhillon	Student
Taylor Eastman	Student
Tammy Bulas	Parent
Nicole Balla	Parent
Abigael Suarez	Student
Kalkidan Mulugeta	Student
Jason Neufeld	Teacher
Maribeth Tabanerra	Teacher
Angelica Placido	Student
Naasiha Alam	Student
Sharyn Gutierrez	Student
Justin Panoy	Student
Karina Lawe	Student
Manprit Kaur	Student
Sara Germain	Teacher
Shawn Lawe	Parent
Aline Halischak	Mentor (Winnipeg Art Gallery)
Aly Raposo,	Mentor (Mood Disorders of Manitoba)
Romeo Sabio	Parent
Kiranjit Dhanoa	Parent
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Christine Williamson	Parent
Phyllis Crow	Parent
Clara Russo	Parent
Carla Ltie	Parent
Joveyneth Bayron	Parent
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Kathy Pacheco	Parent
Darryl Spence	Parent
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Miguel Casillan	Student
Damini Sharma	Student
Denzel Hooke	Student
Jeric Golondrina	Student
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Jaskiret Sidhu	Student
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Brian Clement	Teacher
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Puneet Sandhu	Student
Hannah Gagarin	Student
Geoffrey Gomes	Student
Danielle Castro	Student
Armaandeeep Dhanoa	Student
Abudineyo Nkunzimana	Student
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Tobi Cripe-Martens	Student
Herlinda Dalayoan	Student
Brian Guevarra	Student
Taleigha Joseph	Student
Isabel Lowe	Student
Shailvi Patel	Student
Gavin Rushford	Student
Colton Roszmann	Student
Miguel San Pedro	Student
Ryan Spence	Student
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Michelle Richards	Parent
James Bulas	Student
Joshua Panoy	Student
Joseph Facundo	Student
Jeraldeen Delos Santos	Student
Alexis Bezpalko	Student
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Kaya Massan-Wavey	Student
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Pierre Potvin	Parent
Anne Echavia	Parent
Sylvie Arruda	Parent
Luis Arruda	Parent
Christopher Zielke	Parent
Nelinda Chua	Parent
Sarah Thiessen	Mentor (W.R.E.N.C.H.)
Jared McKetiak	Mentor (University of Manitoba)

James Gillespie	Mentor (Canada's History)
Bart Jose	Mentor (Artist's Emporium)
Leanne Jones	Mentor (Wawanesa Insurance)
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Zandro Panoy	Parent
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