



Report to Community: Maples Met School 2019-2020 School Year

Who we are:

The Maples Met School was founded four 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.

Choice –Community –Culture –Confidence –Connections –Critical Thinking –Change are at the heart of our focus.

School Mission Statement:

Our mission is to cultivate a safe and educative environment by which learners engage in critical issues of interest to them so that they can develop the skills and knowledge essential for affecting positive change through meaningful and informed action.

Big Picture Learning's vision is that all students live lives of their own design, supported by caring advisors and mentors and pursuing whatever opportunities help them realize their greatest fulfillment. Big Picture Learning's mission is to support schools in providing student-directed, real-world learning that realize that vision. Following Big Picture's Personal Qualities learning goal, our schools address the whole person—mind, body, and heart—by promoting a healthy lifestyle as part of their personal development as members of their community, local and global.

Our Logo:

The Maples Met School logo is a light, representing education and hope. Hope for our learners, hope for our community, and hope for our planet. It incorporates the four colours of the Medicine Wheel, representing our commitment to reconciliation and to the 94 recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It acknowledges that we are fortunate enough to live and learn on Treaty 1 land and the land of the Métis Nation. Treaty is covenant. It is spiritual. Our logo also features green and blue, marking our commitment to our beautiful planet. We acknowledge that this planet sustains all life and that we are stewards of the Earth. Finally, our logo includes the colours of our neighbouring Met School, the Seven Oaks Met School. We are deeply connected to them and rely on their wisdom and expertise. Mission & Values One Student at a time.... We believe in this whole-heartedly. Each student is respected for his or her passion and interests and for their personal story. Learners create their own learning plan based on their passions and interests and are nurtured to take informed action, or praxis.

Relationships - Relevance – Rigour: we take these three powerful words very seriously. We firmly believe that deep learning occurs when students feel safe, when the learning is bathed in their experience, and when they are challenged to look at the world from a variety of perspectives.

For a full understanding of BPL, please see the 10 Distinguishers.

https://www.bigpicture.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=389353&type=d&pREC_ID=902235

School Overview:

The Maples Met School's 4th year was one like no other. On little notice, like the rest of the world, our lives were turned upside down. In true Met fashion however, students and teachers rose to the occasion, quickly adapting to new ways of supporting learning without losing the authenticity and student-centred approach that we're founded upon.

There were a total of 9 Advisories this year at Maples Met: three in Gr. 9, two in Gr. 10, two in Gr. 11 and three in Gr. 12. Next year, we will welcome a third Gr. 9 Advisory again, keeping our school population at roughly 150 students.

This year's graduating class is the first ever at Maples Met to have started in Gr. 9 and gone all the way through. We are so proud of them and the legacy they leave behind.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Global Citizenship Conference

On Monday January 20th and Tuesday January 21st, Grade 12 students hosted the Global Citizenship Conference at Seven Oaks Performing Arts Centre and Maples Collegiate. *This was a student-centred conference.* From the MC's to the Refugee Panel, the keynote speakers, and workshops, student learning and knowledge dissemination is our goal. Across the two days over 800 Middle and Senior Years students from across Seven Oaks School Division attended.

On Day 1, Elder Mary Courchene opened with a prayer and greeting, followed by a brief from the Government of Manitoba Fairness Commissioner, Ximena Munoz, on the importance of a cosmopolitan ethic. We then moved on to a screening of *Inside My Heart*, a documentary on three refugee families from the Middle East, charting their journey to safety in Europe. Maples Met student, Heidi Hall, led a panel discussion with Seven Oaks School Division students on the refugee experience and importance of allyship. After lunch, Maples Dance Group performed '4 Degrees', followed by three Grade 12 students presenting workshops on their research.

On Day 2, we started at Maples Collegiate Commons before breakout sessions in Maples Met School. MLA Bernadette Smith brought greetings from the Province of Manitoba, and Climate Strike Leader, Lena Andres, presented our keynote lecture linking global activism to the quest for improving human rights. For the rest of the day a series of three breakout sessions saw attending classes assigned a presentation in the Maples Met classrooms, before students were invited to reconvene for a debrief of the Conference.

The central piece of the conference was the Breakout Sessions, where Grade 12 students presented 45-minute workshops on their inquiry project. Projects ranged from investment in hybrid vehicles, to reducing food waste, raising awareness of Chinese investment in Africa, lithium extraction, climate change, human rights in the Philippines, and advocating for the implementation of the Universal Declaration of Rights for Indigenous Peoples. These workshops presented students Essential Question, provided background context, involved audiences in participatory experiences and left them with important ideas to reflect on as they returned to their schools.

Winnipeg Free Press Project:

This year, four of our students embarked on a creative journey with Melissa Martin, a national award-winning journalist from the *Winnipeg Free Press*. Students were twice featured in a huge two-page weekend spread. They talked about the trials and tribulations of distant learning, and the ins and outs of life as a teenager in 2020. Their original writing was read by thousands of people, and they helped contribute to a positive reputation for our school. We are so proud of them work and their ambassadorship.

Community Service:

As always, this year was full of meaningful community contributions made by Maples Met students. Ranging from community service at local shelters and food banks such as Agape Table, to a huge rally for the climate at the legislative building, and thousands raise for charities including Diabetes Canada, along with countless project contributions that improved the work of local organizations and business through internship.

The Maples Met School is continually committed to deepening our relationship with the broader community.

Indigenous Education PD Day:

We started the year doing a joint PD with our sister school, Seven Oaks Met. We gathered at the brand new Aki Centre, where several elders, Winnipeg Jets Owner Mark Chipman, Kevin Chief, and Ry Moran from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation joined us. We had a rich and humbling discussion about the past, present, and future of our country, and the role we as educators play in acknowledging and righting the wrongs of the past. It was a great way to start the year, and it had a large influence on much of the work that followed.

Ted X

Once again, one of the major highlights of the year was Maples Met School's Independent TedX event. This event was the culmination of hours upon hours of creative planning, where Met students worked alongside former Principal Matt Henderson to develop a powerful presentation on climate change and what we as a community, local and global, can do to help preserve our planet and make it safer for generations to come.

Graduating Class:

This year marked another milestone in the life of Maples Met. The 2020 graduating class represents the first from Maples Met to have started at the school in Gr. 9 and finished here in Gr. 12. This year's crew faced tremendous adversity due to the pandemic related disruptions, but their determination to finish strong and their pride in themselves and each other continued to shine brightly. This group of young people will without doubt, in their own ways, change the world for the better. We will miss them.

Focus on the Year to Come:

As we head into a summer of reflection, rest, and rejuvenation, we will be faced with a bit more uncertainty than years past. We will be focusing on new and innovative ways to connect with mentors, as we face the possibility of an internship site shortage due to the pandemic. We will have a contingency plan in place that will help us adapt rapidly to any sudden changes that might require the use of distant learning again.

We intend to focus a great deal on collaborative inquiry next school year. With more frequent times for staff to meet with one another to focus on the interdisciplinary and cross-curricular aspects of our practice, we will be well positioned to emerge stronger than ever!