Report on Attendance

APRIL 2019
New Initiatives Increasing Attendance in Frontier School Division

Improved attendance, fewer suspensions and increasing student engagement are a few of the many accomplishments that Frontier School Division is proud to share so far from the 2018/2019 school year.

Spanning across 75 per cent of Manitoba, Frontier School Division’s schools are located throughout rural communities that vary in size and needs; from Cranberry Portage to Moose Lake.

Frontier is committed to building and maintaining relationships across the Division’s diverse communities, focusing on blending traditional and innovating learning to reflect the educational and personal needs and aspirations of each area.

This means ensuring that the cultural practices of each community are recognized and respected, while balancing the expectations and mandates from the Provincial standards for education in Manitoba.

Currently, one key priority for the Government of Manitoba is improving attendance rates across the province.

At Frontier School Division, improving attendance is one of the many on-going under-takings in schools. Doing so requires a multi-faceted approach and finding new and progressive approaches to education that not only improve attendance, but the learning and teaching experience for students and staff alike.

To celebrate the various initiatives and investments made across the Division, Frontier is reporting success stories from schools across the province, sharing the growth in student engagement from all ages.
In the 2015/2016 school year, student attendance was at 83 per cent. Since then FC has raised attendance up to 96 per cent to date in the 2018/2019 school year.

A key priority for the campus, improving attendance required new policies, increased monitoring, administration and campus staff taking a further role in supporting student attendance rates.

Since new expectations have been set for both students and staff, good attendance has become the norm.

Along with these improvements to attendance has been new principles guiding the school's Discipline Committee. Further investments have been made on ensuring the school offers a wide variety of supports for mental health, AFM, counselling, alternative discipline, restitution and more.

These changes are resulting in a positive impact on academic success, as students are in greater attendance within classes that provide a caring, supportive and structured environment.

The academic improvement can be seen with the recent success of an 80% pass rate in last June's Provincial ELA Exam. With increased attendance and student engagement, the school's ELA teachers have been able to provide a high-level program that best prepares students for their academic pursuits and post-secondary education.

All of these successes can be tied together with an increased sense of unity within the school. Through monthly assemblies, students have been able to share their talents in areas of public speaking, film & video making, leadership presentations, sports achievements and cultural performances.

Staff have played a key role in investing in and encouraging students to get involved in the wide variety of extracurricular activities the school offers.

 Located in Cranberry Portage, Frontier Collegiate is one of Frontier School Division’s flagship schools. One of two schools in the province piloting a new treaty relations course, Frontier Collegiate (FC) provides a wide variety of academic and vocational courses for students from all of its surrounding communities.

Students attending the collegiate live in newly updated dormitories on-site, connecting them with the school and the local community.

Over the last 4 years, FC has seen improvements across the board with new approaches to student engagement that has driven higher attendance rates and resulted in fewer suspensions.

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Frontier Mosakahiken School

Frontier Mosakahiken School (FMS) is located in Moose Lake. Opened in 2010, the school serves 500 students from kindergarten to grade 12.

In recent years, FMS has moved forward with initiatives to decrease their number of suspensions and increase student attendance, with their investments showing great steps forward.

In the 2017-18 school year FMS saw 101 student suspensions. Only a year later, administration and staff acted to change this drastically. Since the start of the 2018-19 school year, FMS has seen only 13 suspensions.

Along with a significant decrease in suspensions, the school has increased their attendance rate by 13.5 per cent, and are on the path forward to improving their rates further in the coming years. A variety of factors are coming together to influence these positive changes at FMS.

Between new classes on current topics such as Global Issues, to further student engagement opportunities through the divisional Juried Art Show and talent competitions, both kids and teachers are finding new ways to connect within the school.

The school has also found success in starting a Youth Leadership Movement, providing students more personal ownership and investment of their educational journeys.

FMS is also investing in supplementing course content through presentations on a variety of topics from outside educators and speakers. One recent example includes bringing in Wilfred Buck to present on Astronomy and Indigenous perspectives.

A focus on professional development of local staff has played a key role in building capacity within the school community. An increasing number of staff members are now partaking in PD opportunities, making for a more engaged and connected school team.

Invitations to Elders and an increased emphasis on building relationships with parents, guardians and the larger community have all played an important role in establishing a deeper investment in student learning.
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