

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PROFILE - GEORGE DAVISON AND MOTHER TERESA SCHOOLS

When the ISSP team first connected with the two primary school boards in Medicine Hat we were quickly aware of the strong working relationship that they share. As one of the first communities selected for ISSP services, we agreed to pilot a model where each board would receive a portion of the funding to support mental health services in one of their schools. Since then, we have encountered many communities with a similar approach to sharing resources, particularly in smaller jurisdictions where it makes sense logistically to combine forces.

In order to remain true to the integrity of the ISSP model we are not able to adopt this approach in every community; however, we do look forward to seeing how this approach effects the implementation of the program and what we can learn as a result.



Image from: <https://www.medicinehat.ca/en/government-and-city-hall/about-medicine-hat.aspx>

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PROFILE

- GEORGE DAVISON



The hallways are marked with 'street signs' to help reinforce the 7 Habits.

George Davison Elementary is a K-6 school in the Medicine Hat Public School Division. They also offer an Early Learning Program for children ages 3-4 to support a healthy start to their school experience. The school places a strong emphasis on leadership and encourages this through the "Legacy Leaders Leadership Clubs".

These clubs are open to grade 4-6 students as a way for them to mentor and lead the younger students through the examples they set. They do this in part by incorporating the philosophies of the Leader in Me program, adapted from Dr. Stephen Covey's "7 Habits of Highly Effective People".

Fill Your Heart with Good Things

Deposits	Withdrawals
Kindness and courtesy	Unkindness and discourtesy
Keeping promises	Breaking Promises
Clarifying and Honouring Expectations	Violating Expectations
Loyalty to the absent	Disloyalty/Duplicity
Making apologies	Pride, Conceit, Arrogance
Clear Expectations	Unclear Expectations
Accepting Responsibility	Blaming Others
Seeking First to understand	Seeking First to be understood
Honesty and openness	Manipulation

The Emotional Bank Account may be a familiar tool for those who have read the work of Dr. Covey. This is one of the ways that the staff and students remind one another daily to be aware of how their words and actions can impact those around them, and this encourages 'deposits' over 'withdrawals'. Simple reminders of shared, familiar concepts are a great way to support the health of the overall school climate.

The school aligns this with the 7 Sacred Teachings and in the upcoming school year will endeavor to answer the question of in what ways and to what extent their focus on Social emotional understanding, alongside the 7 sacred teachings and First Nation, Metis, Inuit learnings, support academic success and an overall increase in wellness for staff, students and our families.



Image from:

<https://www.southernnetwork.org/site/seven-teachings>

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PROFILE

- MOTHER TERESA SCHOOL

Mother Teresa Elementary is a K-6 school in the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education. The school has a mission to provide “a caring Catholic community, inspiring and challenging each other to reach our full potential” and will be adopting a new wellness initiative next year, F.I.T (Facing It Together) to help them achieve this objective. This initiative incorporates a balance of physical, mental and emotional wellness focusing on comprehensive wellness. CPYF is happy to be able to align our supports with this initiative.



The school also utilizes a STREAM learning philosophy. Many people may be familiar with STEM learning (science, technology, engineering, math) but this takes it further by including a more balanced approach that embeds faith and the arts.

At Mother Teresa School, we believe that all children can be successful; it's just a matter of recognizing what that path to success looks like and adjusting our programming and teaching to align with those particular strengths and interests.

We are a dedicated staff here at Mother Teresa School and we recognize the value and importance of each and every one of our students.

– Aura Street, Principal



MEDICINE HAT POLICE SERVICE

An essential element of ISSP is a positive police presence. It is important for children and youth to recognise police officers as supportive and trusted adults they can turn to when they need help. During our visit to the city, Inspector Brent Secondiak (left) and Inspector Joe West (right) were kind enough to host us at the MHPS headquarters and were interested to learn more about the ISSP and how they can support it. They spoke highly of the members who actively engage with the students and staff in the schools. We are pleased to collaborate with a police service that prioritizes the safety and wellbeing of children and youth in their community.



Left to right: Inspector Brent Secondiak and Inspector Joe West

Integrated School Support Program



Home, home is not just a place where you eat, sleep, and clothe.
Home doesn't even need to be a place at all, home can be a person.
But for me this place, this place where I come to learn,
these walls, these walls feel like home.
I know I have a house, I know I have a home but that home is always
missing something, something unknown.
My home is a good but this home is better.
I'm sad I have to go, I'm sad this will be my last letter.
I know I have to leave, I wish I didn't have to,
I wish I could just stay here and freeze like a statue.
Leaving is hard, no one ever likes it,
but it's gonna happen one day so why try and fight it.
I'm moving on, it's a new chapter they say,
but I'm scared that next year no one will ever say "hey".
I now realize these walls don't just feel like home anymore, they are home.
And I'm going to miss these walls, this school, my home.

By: Violet, Grade 6 student at Holy Trinity School, Calgary

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

The grade 6 students at Holy Trinity School in Calgary, one of our founding ISSP schools, were asked to write a 'goodbye' poem as they are transitioning to middle school next year.

One poem in particular captured the essence of the impact that the school environment can have for students. We hope you enjoy Violet's poem, which she graciously allowed us to share!

FUN FACT

THE NAME MEDICINE HAT IS ACTUALLY AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE BLACKFOOT TERM SAAMIS, ROUGHLY MEANING MEDICINE MANS HAT. THESE CAPS WERE WORN BY MEDICINE MEN AND HAD EAGLE FEATHERS ATTACHED TO THE BACK, AS DEPICTED IN THE MURAL AT MEDICINE HAT CITY HALL.

PERHAPS THE NICEST AND SOMEWHAT RANDOM FACT ABOUT MEDICINE HAT IS THAT THEY AVERAGE 330 DAYS OF SUNSHINE A YEAR. BEING ONE OF THE SUNNIEST PLACES IN CANADA IS A PRETTY NICE PERK!



PROVINCIAL INTEGRATED SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAM UPDATE

The school selections for Phase 2 are almost complete and when school begins in September, we will have 20 active ISSP locations. Schools remain at various stages of implementation and the work to ensure that all five of the essential elements are in place for each school will continue. It has been inspiring to learn about the work that goes on in Alberta schools in order to ensure that children and youth have access to everything they need and want to be successful in school and thrive in their childhood.

COMING UP.....

July's E-News will focus on another amazing Alberta community and school. From the team at CPYF and ISSP we wish you a happy, healthy and safe summer.

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www.YYCYouthFoundation.ca



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