

## Understanding Risk

A diverse education, including exposure to a wide variety of activities and settings, is one of the greatest gift schools can offer their students. To support the development of the students as self-directed and self-regulated active learners must and will continue to introduce them to activities and situations that involve measured risk.

Schools are not guarantors of safety. No administrator, teacher, service provider or volunteer can foresee every eventuality in the interactions of students, activities, and environments. Despite high media profile of a few very tragic school-based incidents, educational field trips and outdoor pursuits generally have significantly lower injury rates (per participant hour) than many organized sports or other daily activities (i.e. automobile travel), and the rates continue to decline due to improvements in safety procedures, training, and equipment.



*Written materials in this publication come from a variety of sources including The Winnipeg School Division Policy Manual, YouthSafe Manitoba and Montrose School publications.*



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

## Montrose School Field Trips & Transportation Information

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## Learning in the Community and Beyond

Learning in our Multi-age classrooms requires personal, purposeful (authentic) involvement with the content in the Manitoba Curriculum. Knowledge must be constructed within a climate of inquiry, and for real learning to occur, some of that work must be done in contact with the subject of study. Off-site programs and activities should not be seen as supplementary to the curriculum. They are at the heart of the educational process. Well planned and conducted off-site activities contribute to numerous objectives:

- ◆ stimulate interest and discussion,
- ◆ offer opportunities for integrating school disciplines,
- ◆ place academic material in a relevant setting,
- ◆ provide ideas, proof, data, and conceptual illustration and generalizations,
- ◆ inspire a sense of wonder,
- ◆ introduce positive role models to children,
- ◆ foster positive relationships between the school and community,
- ◆ facilitate application of previously learned skills and acquisition of new ones,
- ◆ provide physical activity and experiential-based learning,
- ◆ provide opportunities for demonstrating responsible citizenship,
- ◆ develop positive attitudes in children,
- ◆ promote regard for learning as enjoyable, continuous and lifelong,
- ◆ develop social interaction skills in group situations.

## The Montrose Experience

### Field Trips

The staff of Montrose School recognize the importance of field trip experiences and understand the inherent risks involved when children leave the safety of the school setting. Our goals are to provide safety to the best of our ability and to minimize the risk of injury to a level commensurate with that expected in the life of an active and adventurous youth.

### Permission Slips

At the beginning of each school year we ask parents to complete a permission slip allowing their child to participate in off-site activities (excluding camping) inside of the perimeter highway.

When a classroom teacher decides to include a field trip, as part of the child's learning experience she/he notifies the school office.

Parents generally receive information about field trips in two ways - a letter outlining the details of the trip and the school newsletter calendar. Two to three days before the activity a summary of the pertinent information including purpose, who will be attending, site, date, departure and return times, mode of transportation, cost, lunch requirements, supervisors (including ratio of supervisors to students), behavioural expectations, and special instructions goes home with the students. Parents can contact the teachers for additional information or to share physical or medical limitations that would prevent their child from participating fully in the outing.

## Transportation Options

The options available to transport students on a field trip beyond the community are school bus, public transit, and personal vehicles. Factors that will be considered when determining the type of transportation are:

- ◆ number of students,
- ◆ distance to be traveled,
- ◆ bus availability / schedule,
- ◆ timelines,
- ◆ costs.

The first choice in transporting students will be to use a school bus. A school or highway bus will be used in all cases where the destination is outside of the perimeter highway.

On occasion and considering the identified factors, parents may be asked to use their personal vehicles to transport children to an off-site field trip or sporting event. The Winnipeg School Division requires that all children use seat belts and that no child under the age of twelve travel in the front seat. The option of using a booster seat is at the discretion of the parents.

### Volunteers Using Personal Vehicles

Individuals who volunteer in Montrose School are required to complete a volunteer orientation session with Winnipeg School Division Volunteer Coordinators. School volunteers are required to have a child abuse registry check. When parents agree to volunteer as drivers they will be required to complete a *Volunteer Driver Authorization Application*. This application will be held on file for the school year and is to be updated when vehicle or driver information changes.