

# Isaac Newton Junior High Community Report 2022-2023

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## Our Purpose

Winnipeg School Division provides a learning environment that fosters the growth of each student's potential and provides equitable opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for meaningful participation in a global and diverse society.

## Our Vision

Is for current and future people learning and working within Winnipeg School Division to be:  
**Engaged, Confident, Inspired, and Successful Learners.**

## School Mission Statement

Isaac Newton School is a learning community that welcomes everyone to its safe and nurturing environment, providing students with a quality education and hope for their future.

**A place to belong...**  
**A place to shine!**

**Invest in Isaac!**



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION



## About our school

Isaac Newton is a school-wide community dedicated to inspiring academic excellence, citizenship, and lifelong learning. We take pride at being at the forefront of educating our youth with innovative programs for grades 7, 8, and 9. Our approach is student centered, starting with individual assessments in areas of numeracy and literacy of each student. The assessment data assists us in developing programming to meet diverse learning needs. School initiatives establish a positive learning environment in which we make every effort to differentiate the learning experience to meet the needs of each individual student, while working with families to achieve these goals. Isaac Newton School is committed to providing a caring learning environment where individuals are accepted, valued, and safe. Staff work hard in ensuring that students are well prepared for high school. We believe in an active student voice, conflict management, and restorative practices. We believe in looking at the whole child and programming through a strength based approach. We place students at the centre, understanding that students at this age are still developing physiologically, socially, and mentally.

## School Profile

- 294 Students, Principal, Vice-Principal, 18 Teachers, 20 Support Staff including Educational Assistants, Clerks and Custodians.
- Inclusive Education Resource Teacher
- Guidance Counsellor
- Physical Education Teacher
- Fine Arts Teacher
- Band/Music/Dance Teacher
- Inclusion Support Autism Classroom
- Learning Assistance Classroom (LAC)
- Half time Community Support Worker
- Clinical Support Services (CSS) including School Social Worker, Psychologist, Speech Language Pathologist
- Divisional staff – District Inclusion Support Teacher

# 2022 – 2023 Highlights

- Science/Learning Fair
- Experiential learning
- Monthly newsletters and calendars sent home and updated on school website
- In-person parent/teacher and student-led conferences
- Divisional participation in Volleyball, Basketball, Badminton, Flag Football, Soccer, Track and Field, Cross-Country
- Hosted Isaac Newton Alumni Volleyball Tournaments
- School-wide outdoor track and field day
- Various field trip outings including:
  - Human Rights Museum/The Forks
  - Manitoba Theatre for Young People
  - Millenium Library
  - Children's Museum
  - Assiniboine Park and Zoo
  - The Leaf and Diversity Gardens
  - Bowling
  - Swimming
  - Kildonan Park
- Spirit Week in Winter and Spring
- Spring Night of the Arts
- National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration
- June Water Day
- Community Clean-up
- Robust food program including free daily breakfast for all students, fresh fruit bowls in every classroom & weekly free lunches provided to all students
- Partnership with Second Harvest – a food security initiative
- CAP Awards, Job Yellowhead Award and end of the year Grades 7 and 8 awards
- Grade 9 Farewell ceremony
- Thinking Classrooms initiative
- Targeted teacher professional development to enhance instruction and learning through:
  - Student profiles
  - Innovative teaching practices
  - Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)





## Priorities for 2023-24

### Students

To provide robust and comprehensive education, equitable access, diverse opportunity, and a supportive learning environment for all students to help them prepare for their journey with values of learning and social justice, and to be responsible community members.

### Learning Outcomes

To further improve school attendance, achievements, and graduation rates through the exploration of additional programs and strategies. To support students in learning recovery.

### Addressing Barriers to Learning

To further develop initiatives and innovative approaches addressing special needs and accessibility requirements, mental health issues, childcare needs, and nutritional needs. To understand that our students have been through a traumatic experience and to take a trauma informed approach to supporting our students.

### Communication and Partnerships with Community

To further develop communications and partnerships with the communities we serve, parents, families, government businesses, health and social service agencies, Indigenous education, other community organizations, and our valued volunteers.

### Sustainability

To strengthen and enhance sustainable development initiatives that address environmental, social, and economic issues. Students learned about growing food by planting a vegetable garden which was harvested and shared with families and used in our school cafeteria to promote healthy eating.

## Priorities for 2023-24

**Students - To provide robust and comprehensive education, equitable access, diverse opportunity, and a supportive learning environment for all students to help them prepare for their journey with values of learning and social justice, and to be responsible community members.**

Examples:

- Isaac Newton School ensures that all students are assessed in numeracy and literacy throughout the year to inform teacher instruction and help develop comprehensive plans for student learning.
- We ensure to incorporate Indigenous perspectives in classroom instruction including treaty education, residential school and reconciliation teachings with support from an Elder.
- In collaboration with divisional PSS team, our Mathematics team developed an assessment tool and instructional materials to enable students to better meet curricular outcomes and receive individual assistance.

**Learning Outcomes - To further improve school attendance, achievements, and graduation rates through the exploration of additional programs and strategies.**

Examples:

- The Community Support Worker and truancy officer visit homes of absent students to offer school support to improve student school attendance.
- In-house resource opportunities provide academic programming to support individual and small group learning needs, including credit attainment.
- Development of outcome-based assessment tracking tool to support specific curriculum needs of students.

**Addressing Barriers to Learning - To further develop initiatives and innovative approaches addressing special needs and accessibility requirements, mental health issues, childcare needs, and nutritional needs.**

Examples:

- With financial help from Child Nutrition Grant and Second Harvest food donations, we are able to provide free daily breakfast, free lunch once per week, emergency lunches, and daily fruit/vegetable snacks to all students.
- Purchase of alternative fitness equipment through the Healthy Schools Grant.
- Guidance programming addresses many mental health issues: Mindfulness, Anti-Bullying, Mental Health
- Development of student profiles to accommodate individual student needs.

**Communication and Partnership with Community - To further develop communications and partnerships with the communities we serve, parents, families, government businesses, health and social service agencies, Indigenous education, other community organizations, and our valued volunteers.**

Examples:

- 4 nursing student practicum placements
- Mentoring of Teacher Candidates from the University of Winnipeg
- Partnership with Second Harvest – a food rescue program to provide families with supplemental food hampers
- Continued collaboration with CEDA
- Mobile Vision Care Clinic
- Vaccination Clinic

**Sustainability - To strengthen and enhance sustainable development initiatives that address environmental, social, and economic issues.**

Examples:

- Students tend to our courtyard.
- Vegetable garden in courtyard. Harvest to be used in school cafeteria and by culinary arts students.
- School-wide recognition of and supporting activities acknowledging Day of Pink, Orange Shirt Day, Black History Month, National Indigenous Peoples Day and other social-issues events

# Parent and Community Involvement

Isaac Newton School is committed to building positive parent and community partnerships. In addition to our Parent-Teacher and Student-Led Conferences, we encourage families to contact their homeroom teacher regarding any concerns throughout the year. All students are assigned to a homeroom teacher in order to foster a connection with an adult in the school. Families are invited to attend our monthly assemblies and we encourage parents to get involved with our small but active Parent Advisory Council (PAC).

We have a part time Community Support Worker (CSW) at Isaac Newton School who connects with students and families. Our CSW assists families in various ways such as assisting with student medical needs, attendance support, delivery of home learning packages or connecting families to North End Resource centers.

As part of our school community we also have access to a URIS Health Nurse and a Public Health Nurse. The nurses keep track of Health Care plans and immunization for students. They are also a valuable source of advice for families when needed.

Our School website, [www.winnipegssd/isaacnewton.org](http://www.winnipegssd/isaacnewton.org), contains our latest monthly newsletter, calendars, and school events so families can keep track of school closures and events. In addition, a paper copy of the newsletter goes home every month. We also have five display screens placed throughout the school that advertise upcoming events. Some of our teachers have blogs and classroom websites to share classroom information with families.

Our students have access to many community awards such as CAP, Cully award, CPAC award, Job Yellowhead award as well as various subject specific and WSD book awards. Students also participate in WASAC, and CEDA in which they can earn awards and scholarships.

Our students have opportunities to support various causes such as Day of Pink, Orange Shirt Day, Black History month, National Indigenous Peoples Day and many more.

Our students have access to after school programming with CEDA Pathways where they receive academic help and at the same time build meaningful connections, gain valuable skills, and find summer employment.

