

École secondaire Sisler High School

Community Report 2023 - 2024

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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

Our vision is for current and future people learning and working within Winnipeg School Division to be:

**Engaged, Confident,
Inspired, and Successful
Learners.**



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION



About our school

As one of Manitoba's largest high schools, École secondaire Sisler High School is a dual track high school located in Winnipeg's North End. Known for its wide variety of unique and innovative programming, École secondaire Sisler High School has many programs that focus on strong academics and technical skills. École secondaire Sisler utilizes cutting-edge pedagogical delivery systems and collaboration with industry experts from across the globe. This culturally diverse high school is a leader in this field.

École secondaire Sisler High School offers programming to meet the needs of all of its learners. There is something for everyone: from its English and French Immersion language programming to visual performing arts, from advanced placement and university credited courses to Industrial Arts, from cyber-security to CREATE, from Inclusive Education to English as an Additional Language programming. The diversity of our programs supports our diverse population.

École secondaire Sisler High School offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities that include highly competitive athletics programs, Visual and Performing Arts groups, video game design, animation, film graphics, virtual reality programs, workshops, and a variety of student-led humanitarian and social justice groups.

École secondaire Sisler High School's Priorities – 2022-2025

For the school years 2022 to 2025, École secondaire Sisler High School is focused on implementing the following priorities:

1. Strengthen instructional and assessment practises for all students with a focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion.
2. Answer the Education Calls to Action identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

At École secondaire Sisler, we believe that education is the key to Reconciliation. We are committed to:

- understanding, appreciating, and honouring our history,
 - working together as a community to move forward to heal and repair relationships between Indigenous Peoples and settlers,
 - making a deliberate effort to foster a supportive and equitable learning environment for all.
3. Build school community and opportunities for all students to belong.
 4. Foster a positive and safe school environment to support the social/emotional and physical safety of students.

Connecting to the Community

- Our school's Indigenous Graduation Support Teacher started an Indigenous Caregiver Monthly Meeting called Tea and Bannock. This was a space created for Indigenous Caregivers to share their knowledge, voice and connect with the school and other parents.
- École secondaire Sisler High School has over 20 student-led social justice groups. This year, approximately \$7000 was collected through a variety of fundraisers and donated to local, national and international charities including CancerCare Manitoba, Global Medical Aid, Siloam Mission, the Canadian Red Cross, War Child of Canada, Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre, Variety Children's Charity and the Winnipeg Foundation.
- The post-high cohorts in Sisler's CREATE program hosted a day of learning for younger students from the division. For the 'jams', the CREATE program invited schools to bring students who might be interested in the creative industries for a day of creativity and learning. Throughout the day, CREATE students mentor their younger counterparts in learning animation, game design or filmmaking. This year, Nickelodeon director Kyle Marshall was the keynote speaker at the week-long anijam.
- Students from CREATE contributed animated and motion graphic content for the Jan.13, 2024 Jets Filipino Heritage night. The content was projected onto the ice and shown on the jumbotron.
- Sisler held its annual Poetry Slam competition to coincide with National Poetry Month. The event was hosted by T'ai Pu, multimedia performance artist, and a dozen students wrote and performed spoken word poems. The event, in the school theatre, was well attended by an enthusiastic and appreciative audience.
- Sisler students attended Holodomor's 90th Anniversary Commemoration at Winnipeg City Hall in November and Manitoba's Turban Day celebration at the Manitoba Legislative Building in April.
- Thirty-four students volunteered with the Sisler Science Squad. This year, they provided hands-on science programming at Lord Nelson Elementary, Shaughnessy Park school and our SIL students at Sisler.

Highlights

School Supports

- École secondaire Sisler High School offers many supports to students including four guidance counsellors, two resource teachers plus an IERT, an Indigenous Graduation Support Teacher, a career intern and services through Clinical Support Services such as psychology and social work. A reading clinician and speech-language pathologist are also available.

Inclusive Education

- Five students graduated from Inclusion Support Programming this year.
- 20+ students participated in work experience this year including but not limited to: volunteering at the Children's Museum, flyer delivery, and Sisler recycling programs.
- Three students joined the Track and Field team as para-athletes and made it to provincials. Two of those students placed in the top 10 at provincials for 100-metre sprint, and two placed 2nd in the Unified Relay.
- Most students joined at least one options course this year, and participated in options-related outings/field trips, as well as end-of-semester performances.
- Many students joined other community-building activities at Sisler including grade 9 Track and Field Day, grade 9 Mini Olympics, the WSD Pow-Wow, weekly sharing circles, and Games Group.



Sisler's Unified Relay Team

Indigenous Education

- To officially open Sisler's Lodge room in May, Sisler welcomed traditional knowledge keeper, Jason Parenteau to be the keeper of our lodge. This historic occasion is one way in which Sisler is trying to advance the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. The knowledge keeper, deeply rooted in Indigenous traditions, cultures, and histories, will educate and support the school community. Mr. Parenteau will facilitate the integration of Indigenous perspectives to foster an environment of respect and understanding. This initiative not only enriches the

Pedagogical experience for all students but also contributes to healing and building stronger relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

- Sisler students participated in a variety of programs and initiatives including planning for Orange Shirt Day, moccasin making, making ribbon skirts, beading, a drum group, educational planning for Red Dress Day, a postsecondary club, regular sharing circles, land-based outings, a three-day camp at Wallace Lake, Your Voice is Power and a daily lunch program.
- Students participated in the Indigenous Youth Leadership Program continued and enriched students' educational experiences. It helped them connect to their culture, some for the first time, build relationships, develop leadership skills and build confidence in their voice and their own gifts. Students and teachers had the opportunity to learn alongside one another in a culturally supportive environment.



Sisler student, Malakai K., dancing at our Lodge's official opening

French Immersion Program

- The French Immersion department expanded again, this year offering both grade 12 Applied and Pre-Cal mathématiques.
- The peer tutoring program continued once again this year.
- Sisler had a team of students participate in *La Coupe éthique*, a debate-style high school competition conducted in French.
- Over forty students participated in the WSD's French Immersion Youth Leadership group.
- Grade 12 students participated in a land-based, experiential learning day at Fort Whyte Alive.
- Students participated in a variety of activities celebrating the Festival du voyageur, including a beard making competition, sing-along and traditional French-Canadian lunch of pea soup and bannock.
- Grades 9 and 11 students participated in the *Concours d'art oratoire* and 22 students took the DELF assessment (an internationally recognized French language assessment).
- A group of students participated in *Parlons sciences!*, a day-long symposium with presentations and

demonstrations by professors and students who specialize in various STEM fields.

- A group of students participated in
- Grade 12 *biologie* students had two workshops at Sisler with Professor Anne Marie Bernier from the Université de Saint Boniface where they identified enteric bacteria DNA using PCR.



Grade 12 French Immersion students at Fort Whyte

CREATE Program

- The Orange Tree Project: Three student groups were mentored monthly by Nickelodeon animators as they created either an animated short film or developed an animated series during the school year. This was the fourth year CREATE partnered with Nickelodeon.
- A group of CREATE students worked closely with Arnon Manor (filmmaker and Senior VP of Visual Effects at Sony Pictures) to create the short animated film, *Am I Home*, that dealt with the lived experience of foster children.
- A group of CREATE students received mentorship and masterclasses from Canadian studio Jam Filled Entertainment as they created The Secrets of Belmonte series.
- A group of students worked with mentor Jason Scheier (production designer for Paramount Animation) and Wacom Canada on the creation of a social-justice-themed graphic novel and animations.
- Students were selected to participate in paid internships through Project 11, the charity associated with the True North Foundation. Students created content that promoted mental health among youth.
- Twelve of our grads landed paid internships with local productions at the end of the school year.
- All 3D & 2D animation post-high students traveled to Los Angeles to pitch/present their final projects at Nickelodeon Animation Studios and their mentors from other projects traveled to Nickelodeon to watch the presentations. While there, students visited Sony Studios, Walt Disney Animation, Netflix Animation and Universal Studios.
- The film and game students travelled to Toronto to present their final short documentary projects at CBC National headquarters.

- For the fourth year in a row, two teams of five students finished first and second place in the high school division in the international 24 Hours Animation contest.
- Sean Monfero and Ethan Langit won the silver medal in video production at Skills Manitoba. Julia Vallega and Frank Ireland won the silver medal in 3D Animation at Skills Manitoba. For the fourth year in a row, animation students won the gold, silver and bronze medals in 2D Animation at Skills Manitoba. In addition, Nev Michelle and Kaya Schulz won the gold medal in 2D Animation at Skills Canada.
- Spark FX 2024 - Visual Effects without Limits: staff and students hosted a panel discussion on animating social justice short films under the mentorship of Arnon Manor.
- Students worked with REEL FX to learn the 3D animation pipeline and created content with monthly mentorship from the studio.
- CREATE students created games for the CBC Kids website under the mentorship of both CBC and Ubisoft. Students were paid an honorarium for the games they created.
- All film cohort students spent the first semester creating short documentaries for broadcast on CBC through the CBC Creator Network. CBC staff delivered masterclasses and offered mentorship. Students were paid for their content.
- During the second semester, some film students worked with Bell MTS to create a short factual series for broadcast on Fibe TV. Students were paid for their content.



Animation students with mentors at Nickelodeon Studios in LA

Cyber Academy

- Students from Sisler's Cyber Academy were actively engaged in various local, provincial, national, and international cybersecurity and space competitions. Sisler students reached for the stars, joining StellarXplorers, a high school space design competition. Cyber Spartans took on the challenge of satellite deployment around Mars, utilizing sophisticated industry-standard space simulation software, carefully selecting components for satellite communications, and

designing a space launch vehicle for multiple missions. Our top team achieved an impressive 17th place out of 300 teams internationally.



Sisler's Cyber Defence Team 2023-2024

- One standout achievement was Elwood Innis' Gold medal win at Skills Manitoba, hosted at the Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology. Elwood later represented Manitoba at Skills Canada in IT Network Systems Administration held in Quebec City, where he once again achieved Gold, continuing the tradition of success for Cyber Spartans.
- A team of 6 Cyber Spartans excelled in Cyber Patriot, the US Air Force Association's international cybersecurity competition, where they placed 17th among over 5000 participating teams. This same team went on to secure 3rd place in CyberTitan, Canada's National cybersecurity competition, showcasing their talent and dedication in this field.

Visual and Performing Arts

- Over 30 Sisler students dedicated countless hours preparing and performing this year's musical, Bloodsuckers! The Musical. The musical, written by local Winnipeg playwright, Joseph Aragon, was a supernatural success!
- All Sisler choirs performed at ChoralFest in November and they each earned an invitation to perform at MusicFest Canada based on the strength of their performances.
- The Soprano/Alto Choir performed two performances on The Nutcracker with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet.
- Sisler's Jazz Choir sang live on Classic 107.1 FM radio in December as part of their Christmas programming.
- Eight Sisler singers sang in WSD's Senior Honour Choir.
- All Sisler Choir singers sang in classes at the Winnipeg Music Festival in March. The Soprano/Alto Choir was awarded the Beth Douglas Memorial Trophy for most outstanding performance in a Concert Group Class (Grs.5-12).
- The Chamber Choir performed as part of the "Connected" concert at Canadian Museum for Human Rights in May.

- At Candance Competition, out of over 700 routines, SMW earned a spot in the Diamond Dance off and placed 3rd overall.
- SMW entered two routines in the Canadian National Dance Championships and both pieces earned Platinum awards.
- SMW was the halftime performance for a game in the CanadaWest Men's Basketball tournament.
- SMW hosted a day of dance workshops for Health-a-Palooza at Lord Nelson School.
- SMW participated in Climate Change Manitoba's Earth Day dance showcase at The Forks.
- SMW performed in Coalescence, a hip hop showcase, on Father's Day.
- Sisler's drama students attended professional workshops at STAR Festival in December and Manitoba Youth Drama Festival in May, and each semester's class took in a play at RMTTC.
- Grade 12 student, Wren D., won an Advanced ribbon at Manitoba Youth Drama Festival for her monologue performance. She received the top score at the festival for her category.
- Grade 10 student, Sophia N., won a full scholarship to attend Expressions Film Studio this summer.
- Grade 9 students took part in a Self-Tape workshop with Sergio from Vancouver Film School.
- Several Sisler Band students took part in the Manitoba Band Association Holiday Tuba Festival at the Centennial Concert Hall in December.
- Eight Sisler Band students were selected to play with the Winnipeg School Division Senior Honour Band in January.
- The Concert Band and Jazz Band were awarded 5-star adjudications at Festival in February.
- Also at Festival, the Jazz Band received the Provincial MBA Jazz Award.
- In March, The Jazz Band took part in the Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra's Women-Led Jazz Symposium at the West End Cultural Center.
- Grade 10 student, Jacob O., was invited to play with the WJO Honour Band.

Athletics

- This year, Sisler Spartan athletes represented the school in cross country, football, volleyball, basketball, rugby, badminton, soccer and track & field.
- The Spartans were Provincial Finalists in Junior Varsity Boys Volleyball.
- The Varsity Girls' volleyball team won the city championships.



JV Boys Provincial Basketball Champions 2023-2024

- Our JV Boys' Basketball team won the Provincial Championship.
- Both our grade 9 boys' and girls' teams won the city championships in volleyball.
- Spartan athletes were provincial finalists in both JV and Varsity Boys Track & Field.
- Our JV Boys were indoor track and field champions.

Academics, Awards and Activities

- Nine students in Sisler High School's University English program earned their first-year university English credits, with students attaining grades from B to A+. Also, as a culminating activity, students in this course attended Shakespeare in the Ruins' performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
- The Grade 10 Enriched English class attended the world premier of *The Comeback* at Manitoba Theatre Centre. This play was written by Sam Vint and Trish Cooper and is based on their own relationship and their experiences mixing Metis and Settler families and traditions. Students composed questions for the playwrights who visited their classroom the day after seeing the play. Students learned about the lasting legacies of colonialism, Manitoba history, and the process of getting a play produced at Manitoba Theatre Centre.
- Sisler hosted the Manitoba Chess Championships over Spring Break, with our team placing second in the team event.
- In May, Sisler Students participated in the Red River Heritage Faire at the University of Winnipeg. Our students won a variety of awards and medals:
 - CTV History Award: Angelica G. and Andre B. – Roots of Healing: The Impact of Indigenous Medicine on Modern Healthcare
 - Sustainable Development History Award: Julia Gaile Q. – Indigenous Sustainable Farming Practices
 - MSSTA Marie Zorniak Memorial History Award: Malaki K. – Reclaiming Indigenous Culture

- History in Art Award: Anastasiia T. – Continuity and Change: Ukrainian Immigration to Canada
- History of Canada Impact of Faith (CMU): Vaheek S. and Aishveer S. – Sikh History in Canada
- In May, ten Sisler students from grades 9 through 12 participated in the Model United Nations Assembly.
- The Schroeder Foundation and Vancouver Film School partnered to offer full scholarships to 18 CREATE students who wished to pursue studies in 2D animation, 3D animation, or game design.
- Three post-secondary scholarships of \$5,000 were given each year by IATSE 856 to students from the CREATE post-high film cohort.
- Toon Boom Animation awarded its first-ever CREATE scholarships. A financial award of \$5,000 was given to Kaya Schulz, the Top Animation Student, and Julia Vallega, the Top Storyboard Student in the program.
- Carole Vivier Scholarship for Women in Film: An annual scholarship of \$5,000 was given to Annie Castiblanco.



Sisler's Science Squad 2023-2024

- The science department is proud to announce the following 2024 Winnipeg School Science Fair winners:
 - Ethan B. and Austin T.: Gold Medal; Best in Category (Curiosity and Ingenuity); Most Outstanding Project - Intermediate level; and Award of Excellence in STEAM.
 - Heidi P.: Bronze Medal
 - Lorielyn B.: Gold Medal; and Best in Category (Environmental and Climate Change)
- The Sisler Science Squad worked with WSD to provide science demonstrations for their social media platforms for "Science March Madness".
- In the AP Science program, 46 AP exams were successfully completed in Biology Chemistry and Physics.
- A group of grade 10 Drafting students won Highest Voltage in the Skills Manitoba Model Wind Turbine competition, held at RRC in October.



*Award-winning drafting students
Joaquin S., Randy N., Drake P. & Troy B.*