



**River East Transcona**  
S C H O O L   D I V I S I O N  
**International Education Program**



[www.intl.retsd.mb.ca](http://www.intl.retsd.mb.ca) | **WINNIPEG, CANADA**



# The Right Choice!

## Leaders & Innovators

- Recognized leaders in providing innovative courses and programs for our Canadian and international students
- Low ratio of international to Canadian students in our schools
- Excellent support services for international students
- Teachers and staff who understand the unique challenges international students face when they move to Canada for the first time

## High Standards

- Education in River East Transcona schools respected internationally
- National and international recognition for our academic, music and athletics programs
- Close links to Canadian and foreign universities
- Students prepared for a lifetime of success

## Unique Courses & Programs

- One or two semesters of study, beginning in either September or February
- Short-term programs available (three and four months)
- A quality academic education with internationally-recognized diplomas and certificates
- Highly qualified, government-certified, experienced and accessible teachers who care about each individual student
- Students can choose from the diverse range of academic and technical vocational programs we offer

## State-of-the-Art Facilities

- Fully-equipped facilities to meet students' learning needs for a technologically advanced world
- Excellent academic and physical fitness facilities to promote well-adjusted student leaders for our global society



## **Recreation**

- River East Transcona campuses ideally located near the heart of Winnipeg's recreational and cultural centres
- A balanced approach to learning: academic studies and extracurricular activities in all our schools
- Wide variety of extracurricular activities available at each school

## **English as an Additional Language**

- English as an Additional Language (EAL) programs available to support language acquisition and overall fluency
- Communicative approach to learning English and other international languages

## **The Canadian Homestay Family**

- Safe, caring and supportive environments with our approved Homestay families
- Friendships that will last a lifetime

## **Winnipeg— The Heart of the Continent**

- A city of culture, sporting events and inviting multicultural festivals throughout the year
- A diverse climate with four seasons to experience exciting new adventures
- Spectacular natural environment complete with beaches, prairies, valleys, forests, rolling hills and over 100,000 freshwater lakes throughout the province

## **Our Website**

- [www.intl.retsd.mb.ca](http://www.intl.retsd.mb.ca)
- Learn more about the individual River East Transcona schools and the courses, programs and activities they offer
- Obtain the most current International Education Program information
- See what other students are saying about their Canadian experience and our programs
- Visit individual school websites for more information





# A Superior International Education Experience

## About Us

River East Transcona, centrally located in northeast Winnipeg, is the second largest public school district in the province of Manitoba. River East Transcona schools serve the educational needs of a portion of the city of Winnipeg. There are 42 schools in the school district ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

International students can study at one of our junior or senior high school campuses. They can choose from the diverse range of innovative, challenging and internationally-accredited academic and technical vocational programs we offer.

Our six senior high schools and our 11 middle schools (junior high schools) provide the opportunity for international students to study at a

location specific to their academic needs, interests and aptitude.

The enrolment rate of international students is less than five per cent of the total student population in our schools. This ensures international students will have the opportunity to be integrated into classes and interact with Canadian students. Our teachers, counsellors and International Education Program staff provide the support students need to make a successful transition to school life.

Our schools are in the quiet, secure neighborhoods of northeast Winnipeg near the scenic Red River, with quick, easy access to downtown. Our public transit system is affordable, has many routes and is easy to use.



## **Academic & Extracurricular Distinction**

Many of our River East Transcona schools have received national and international recognition for their strong academic, music and athletics programs. A large number of our students consistently rank in the top two per cent in various provincial, national and international physics and mathematics competitions.

We are well known in the province of Manitoba as educational leaders. We take pride in the outstanding achievements of our students.

We are closely linked to the Canadian and foreign university systems. Many River East Transcona graduates have consistently excelled in their post-secondary studies in prestigious universities throughout the world. We prepare our students for a lifetime of success.

River East Transcona high schools are also well known in the city and province for their numerous awards as champions in soccer, football, basketball, volleyball, track and field and hockey. We are respected for our world-renowned Music Production Technology programs, featuring state-of-the-art high school music recording studios.



# Excellence in Education

## **Unique Program Opportunities**

All River East Transcona schools follow the approved curriculum set by the Province of Manitoba, Ministry of Education and Training. All River East Transcona teachers have university-level training, are government-certified and have earned a Bachelor and/or Masters Degree in Education with specialization in their subject area.

River East Transcona is known in the province of Manitoba as an innovator in educational programming. Students can combine their chosen academic courses with specialized programs. Programs can be customized according to a student's interests and aptitude. This provides the opportunity to explore career interests and prepares students for future university studies.

Each of our six high schools offer all the compulsory courses for graduation. In addition, the broad array of innovative, state-of-the-art, highly specialized academic, technological and vocational course options allow international students to focus on their area of interest or enhance their skills in a specific curricular area.

At the senior high level, students can choose from a full range of courses in English Language Arts (Literary and Transactional), Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Social Sciences, Social Studies (History and Geography), Human Ecology, Business, Management and Law, to name only a few.

Computer Science is a high priority in all River East Transcona schools at every



level. Our classrooms are equipped with state-of-the-art computers for students to use. We incorporate computer technology learning in all aspects of the curriculum.

### **Examples of Specialized Courses**

The Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs are recommended for students who demonstrate above-average skills. These programs offer opportunities to gain advanced credit for courses at a post-secondary level. These credits are recognized internationally.

River East Transcona is a leader in curriculum design and development in many aspects of information technology. Some of our courses include Computer Science, Digital Media Design and Website Design.

In Music Production Technology, our students have produced, recorded and have been showcased internationally. We have graduates of Dramatic Arts and Music programs (jazz, band and choir) who have become successful professionals in these fields. They are well known across Canada and the USA as performers in major dramatic and musical productions.

The following innovative programs, also available to international students, provide a truly unique educational experience in combination with academic studies:

*Photography*

*Fashion Design Technology*

*Refrigeration & Air Conditioning*

*Graphic Design*

*Music Production Technology*

*Culinary Arts & Pastry Arts*





# Our Schools, Courses & Activities

## Detailed School Information

Our high schools vary in population between approximately 600–1,300 students. Our middle schools (junior high schools) generally have fewer students. The average class size at all levels ranges between 20–30 students per class. English as an Additional Language (EAL) classes have smaller enrolments, resulting in a more personalized approach to learning.

International students are assigned to one of our campuses by the Director of the International Education Program. The administrator or guidance counsellor of the selected school will determine the specific program of studies for the student. Transfer of home country credits will be granted based upon information provided from previous schools.

The six River East Transcona high schools and the 11 middle schools (junior high schools) provide a variety of course and program options for international students.

The school year at the senior high level is divided into two semesters, each five months in length. Semester 1 begins in September and runs through to the end of January. Semester 2 begins in February and is completed at the end of June. Students can begin their program of studies in either September or February. A full year of studies can run from September to June or from February until the end of January. Summer vacation is during the months of July and August.





### **Our Facilities**

River East Transcona campuses are state-of-the-art. They are equipped with a media resource centre, an online library system, science and computer laboratories, one or two gymnasiums and a fitness room.

Large indoor swimming pool facilities are located near our campuses and students can access these for recreational purposes at the end of their day of studies or during evenings and weekends.

We provide an environment to promote academic excellence and social and physical well-being for all our students.

### **Recreational Opportunities**

River East Transcona schools have their own soccer, cross country, hockey, curling, basketball, volleyball, track and field and football teams. These opportunities enable team members to learn various sports intensively and participate at a high level of competition. For spectators, the excitement of watching the games provides an excellent social outlet and means of meeting fellow students.

Examples of these activities include sports, theatre/dramatic productions and improvisation groups, concert and jazz band, choir, cheerleading, art clubs, crafts clubs, debating teams, student council, school newspaper and student leadership groups. A variety of cultural activities are also organized throughout the year so students can experience and learn about Winnipeg and Canadian traditions.



# The Canadian Homestay Family

## **Experience Canadian Traditions**

An important component to the success of our International Education Program is the placement of our international students in a secure, caring home with a Canadian family living in the school district. All our Homestay families are carefully screened to ensure our international students gain the most from this experience.

International students are welcomed at the airport upon arrival by their Homestay family, along with International Education Program staff. Homestay families provide airport transportation upon their arrival, three meals per day, a variety of snacks and a private bedroom with study facilities. Our international students essentially become a member of their Canadian Homestay family and are treated like a son or daughter. At the end of their program of studies, the Homestay family will

transport them to the airport for their trip home.

The success of the Homestay component of our International Education Program is due to our belief that our international students and our Homestay families need support as they adjust. It is a service we provide to ensure the best possible experience for everyone involved. Our Homestay team maintains close contact with students and their Homestay families. They visit students regularly at school and at their Homestay home. In case of an emergency, our program staff is available to international students after school hours or on weekends.

We believe the Homestay experience with a Canadian family provides our international students with an authentic, real-life situation where they can truly learn our customs, live our culture and learn English.



### **A Great Opportunity**

“This was the first year we had a student for the entire school year and I must say I am so glad we did. Being with us for a full year really gave our student a chance to become part of the family and the community.

We loved learning about Frida’s culture and traditions and teaching her about ours as well. Frida was always happy to try new foods and activities. She and our children grew very close, especially our daughter Julia. Julia and Frida went shopping, to the museum and spent countless hours together doing many activities.

Frida also auditioned for a dinner theatre production and this gave her an opportunity to learn English in an

environment outside of school and home. The time spent on this project gave her the opportunity to meet people from the community and she got to make new friends.

The main reasons we enjoy having a student in our home is to learn about their culture, help to teach them English, teach them about our culture but most of all we love all of the laughter and memories we make with our student.

We have a lifelong daughter in Frida and I know she will always be a part of our lives. We look forward to many more students in the future.”

*Laura and Jocelyn*





### **A Life-Changing Experience**

“My experience as an international student at my high school in the River East Transcona School Division was excellent and went far beyond just learning English!

I made many wonderful Canadian and international friends. I used to think the world was so huge but now that I have met so many people from all over, the world has become much more achievable and smaller.

My relationships at school with my teachers were great. They treat all international students so well and provide a lot of extra support for you. I also knew I would be able to choose many of my own courses but I did not imagine how great the potential and the quality of those courses would be.

My fabulous Homestay family and my participation in the community has helped me mature so much and also learn to be more independent. This is what I had hoped for!

I have become part of Laura and Jocelyn’s family and they have become part of my life, too! In fact, I’m sure that I will come back to visit them soon. My Homestay family has also been a great help and support to me to learn English as well as to teach me about Canadian culture in all of its aspects.

I am very happy to have been part of this amazing international experience. I hope I can be an inspiration to those of you who also want to have this great opportunity!”

*Frida*



# Winnipeg— the Heart of the Continent

## One Great City!

Winnipeg, a multicultural and vibrant city with a population of over 850,000, is situated in southern Manitoba. It is the business and cultural centre of the province and the oldest city in western Canada. The city offers a variety of rich and diverse cultural and sporting events, entertainment and festivals, as well as a secure and comfortable lifestyle. Many historical towns surround Winnipeg and are worthy of a visit. Centrally located in Canada, Winnipeg is only a short flight away from other major North American centres such as Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, Chicago and Minneapolis.

This lively prairie city has one of the country's highest employment and worker productivity rates. Winnipeg is a very affordable place in which to reside. As a result, people have a high standard of living. Our city provides a secure environment for its

citizens and for students from around the world.

Winnipeg and the province of Manitoba have developed a strong reputation in film-making and movie production. Hollywood movie producers often choose the historical downtown warehouse district to film multimillion-dollar productions. Well known movie stars are sometimes seen on our streets.

The city boasts one of Canada's most diversified urban economies. This includes an international garment industry, a thriving aerospace industry and expanding agricultural food processing businesses. In addition to a top-quality health care system, the city is also known throughout North America for its highly developed medical research. Winnipeg is home to the only Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health where researchers study diseases that affect many humans and animals worldwide.



## Four Seasons

Four distinct seasons allow residents of Winnipeg to take part in many diverse activities throughout the year.

Our winters allow for snowboarding, skiing, ice-skating, sledding, snowshoeing and horse-drawn sleigh rides. February brings our popular “Festival du Voyageur” where we celebrate the city’s French Canadian heritage. There are dogsled races, snow sculptures, maple sugar candy, traditional French Canadian food and entertainment.

Springtime brings green grass, new leaves on our trees, colourful flowers and the opportunity for different experiences. You will find more people out jogging, riding their bikes and enjoying the warmer weather.

Our summers are sunny and hot. Manitoba has many beautiful, sandy beaches and over 100,000 lakes to explore. Fishing, water skiing, canoeing, sailing, camping, hiking

and rock climbing are very popular outdoor activities.

Fall is a time of stunning beauty. The leaves on the trees turn bright shades of red, yellow and gold. The countryside is filled with a rainbow of agricultural crops ready for harvest; bright yellow sunflowers, deep red wheat, lush green corn fields and purple alfalfa are just a few colours one would find on a quick trip outside the city. The Canada goose gets ready for its yearly trip south and one can find hundreds of geese gathered in fields or flying in formation overhead. Fall also brings the start of the National Hockey League (NHL) Winnipeg Jets hockey season, the Winnipeg Blue Bombers football playoffs and the end of the Winnipeg Goldeyes baseball season.

Winnipeg is also known as a city with many festivals. From our yearly Canada Day celebrations to our world-renowned multicultural festival, “Folklorama,” there is always an exciting event to experience.



# Winnipeg Fun Facts



**Festival du Voyageur**  
largest winter festival  
in Western Canada



**Professional hockey team**  
the Winnipeg Jets



**Shopping malls**  
over a dozen malls  
throughout the city



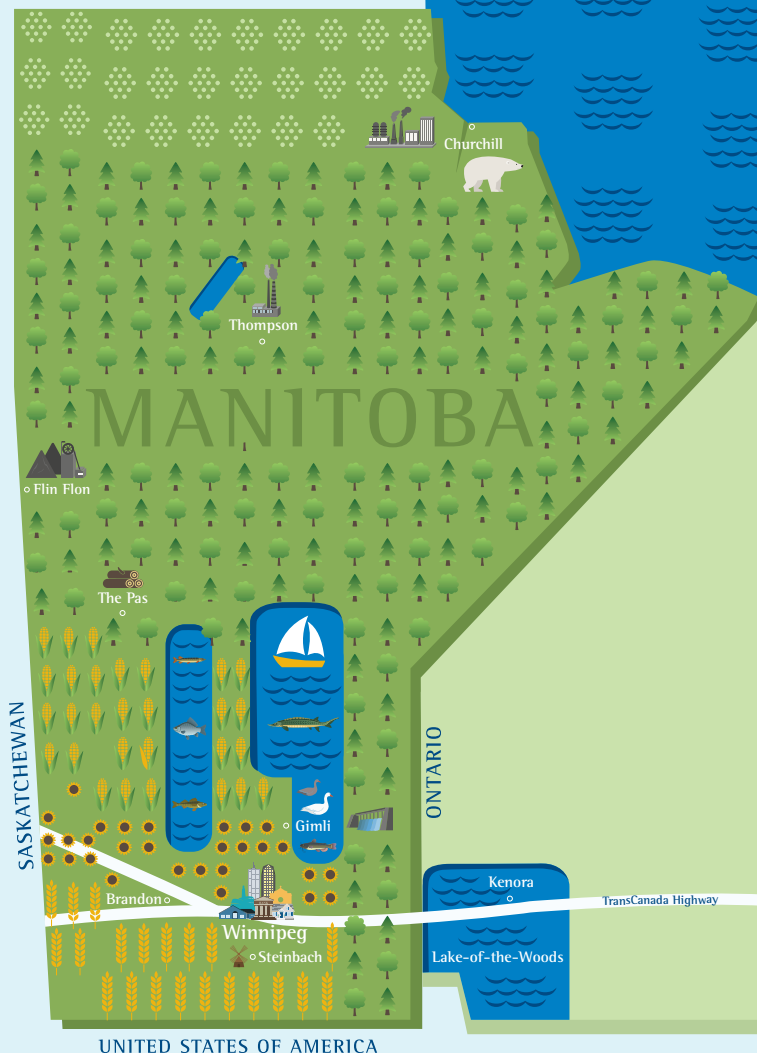
**The Forks**  
history, shopping,  
restaurants at the  
meeting of the Red  
and Assiniboine  
Rivers



**Museums and Galleries**  
Museum for Human  
Rights, Manitoba  
Museum, Winnipeg  
Art Gallery and  
dozens more



**River Trail Skating Rink**  
close to 10 km long



Manitoba  
**1.28  
million**

Winnipeg  
**793,400**

**Industries**



Average Summer Temp  
**25.4°C**

Average Winter Temp  
**-12.9°C**



Winnipeg is at the  
geographical heart  
of Canada



CANADA

Vancouver

WINNIPEG

Minneapolis

Denver

San Francisco

Los Angeles

Phoenix

Dallas

Houston



# River East Transcona

SCHOOL DIVISION

International Education Program







# The Application Process

Regardless of the time of year, international students have many options for entertainment and new adventures.

You have made the right decision to study with us! Please follow the steps listed below to enroll.

## STEP 1

Complete the program and Homestay application forms. These forms are available at [www.intl.retsd.mb.ca](http://www.intl.retsd.mb.ca). A complete application to our program must include the following:

- A fully completed and signed program application form
- Homestay application form
- Transcripts for the past two years—if the student is planning on graduating we require original transcripts as of grade 9, translated in English and notarized
- Medical Form, dated and signed

- Course Request Form
- Copy of student's passport (bio page)
- Rules and Regulations form, signed
- Parents information sheet

## STEP 2

All applications can be done over email. We no longer require the original documents to be sent to us. This helps us speed up the processing of applications. Send the completed application to [intl@retsdb.ca](mailto:intl@retsdb.ca).

## STEP 3

The Director of International Education will decide upon acceptance and placement of the student. Students who are accepted will receive a letter of offer and invoice from our program.

## STEP 4

Upon receipt of the invoice, students



must pay in total so we can issue the official Letter of Acceptance and Custodianship Declaration (for students of minority age). These official documents will be scanned and the originals sent to the student. Complete bank account/payment information is provided on the invoice.

#### **STEP 5**

The student must then begin the application process in their home country for the Study Permit (if program of studies is more than six months) or Temporary Resident Visa (if program of studies is less than six months). Please begin this process as promptly as possible to ensure entry into Canada by the start date of the program.

#### **STEP 6**

If participating in Homestay, our

Homestay Co-ordinator will begin the process to place the student with an appropriate Homestay family. Students will receive information about their placement as soon as an appropriate match is selected.

#### **STEP 7**

The student will be met at the airport upon arrival by program staff, along with the Homestay family. Program staff will help with all practical matters related to Homestay and settling in to life in Winnipeg.

#### **STEP 8**

Program staff will provide an orientation session for all incoming students at the beginning of each semester at the student's school. School staff will ensure that a proper schedule is planned for the student.



## **Contact Us**

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International Education Program

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