



Robert Andrews School Report to the Community for 2019-2020



Mission Statement

Committed to fostering a learning environment which promotes excellence through the realization of one's potential.

About Robert Andrews School

Robert Andrews School, located in East St. Paul, Manitoba, is a developmentally responsive middle school in the River East Transcona School Division. Our school conducts classes from Grades 6 to 8 with a population of 245 students and 18.6 full time equivalent staff members. We strive to help our students become independent, self-determining, life-long learners by developing and strengthening their literacy and numeracy skills. Through our emphasis on positive behaviour, we strive to create a climate and culture that is conducive to learning, and positive social and emotional development, as well as democratic citizenship.

Our teachers and our student services team closely support students at Robert Andrews. We help our students grow and develop through a commitment to middle years philosophy that meets the unique and diverse needs of young adolescents. Middle years philosophy ensures that all students are successful through challenging and integrative curriculum framed around a wide range of meaningful teaching and learning strategies.

Priorities and Progress 2019-20

Literacy

Robert Andrews School is the 'Hub' school for the Regie Routman in Residency Strategic Literacy Initiative. We continue to practice and implement the various strategies and methods that were demonstrated to us. Our focus is on the Optimal Learning Model which has the teacher demonstrate a strategy, do it with the class and then allow gradual release for the students to do it on their own. We have continued to expand the number of teachers who were able to participate in Reading Apprenticeship – another Strategic Literacy Initiative led by Manitoba Education and Training.

Teachers are practicing a variety of reading strategies in all disciplines that encourage students to be responsive readers and to predict, ask questions, clarify and make connections to summarize what they have read. This group meets monthly to discuss and share examples of reading strategies that they are implementing in the classroom. We had MYRCA award winning author Eric Walters come into the school to work with each grade level to discuss the importance of the writing process and identifying your audience and purpose for writing. We continue to have RAW (Robert Andrews Writes) and RARE (Robert Andrews Reads Everyday) daily to encourage student voice in writing and choice in reading. We are focusing on reading and writing as historians, mathematicians and as scientists.

Safe, Caring, Inclusive School

The Safe and Caring School, Professional Learning Committee at Robert Andrews implemented numerous activities targeting positive behaviour. There were 30 Grade 7 and 8 students who participated in Student Leadership. This is a committee of students who strive to be role models for younger students and facilitate community building, pro-social activities throughout the school year. In September, new students in the school were welcomed and mentored by Leadership Students who modelled appropriate school behaviour during the lunch hour. Teachers directly taught lessons for each expectation on the school's behaviour matrix; Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible. To further reinforce behaviour expectations, teachers provided positive feedback about student behaviour. Upon teacher discretion, students were rewarded with draw tickets, called RAM tickets, after our school mascot to win various school spirit rewards in weekly homeroom draws. Teaching staff at Robert Andrews, documented student behaviour that did not align with the school matrix and the Safe and Caring School Committee reviewed this data at monthly

meetings to problem solve proactive supports and strategies to improve student behaviour.

The Safe and Caring School Committee further supported positive school culture through school events, student committees, and partnerships with students at both elementary schools in the community.

Numeracy

Numeracy has continued to be a focus at Robert Andrews. The numeracy team participated in a book study on best practices in math which was then shared with colleagues at staff meetings. Students continued to grow in being able to use specific tools related to technology to enhance and demonstrate their understanding in math. In the coming year, our school is excited to see an increase in the frequency that students engage in numeracy time and of course, to have our numeracy team continue to carry the TELP (Technology Enabled Learning Plan) mandate.

Priorities for 2020-21

Our school priorities align with divisional priorities. Some main outcomes for Robert Andrews include:

Literacy

The main initiatives in this area will continue to enhance student learning and ability in reading and writing across curriculums as historians, mathematicians and scientists. We will continue to apply our learning from both the Regie Routman and the Reading Apprenticeship Strategic Literacy Initiatives. The purpose of these initiatives is to engage all learners in improving and applying a variety of reading and writing strategies for all disciplines. We believe this helps our students to develop as responsive learners who can think, read and write and be reflective in all interdisciplinary areas.

Another area we will continue to develop is digital literacy. The goal for digital literacy is for students to be able to effectively use a variety of digital platforms. Students will find, evaluate and compose clear information through writing. We believe that this helps our students gain a multitude of skills needed to effectively communicate with their audience.

Safe, Caring, Inclusive School

Using the Positive Behaviour Interventions and Supports framework, teachers will continue to teach behaviour expectations to students using common and consistent vocabulary. We will continue to teach and demonstrate the essential habits of good character.

Numeracy

We will continue to work to improve students' mathematical competencies, which will be reflected in the provincial Mathematics assessment. Numeracy teachers from all three grades will continue to work together to establish common practices, common language/vocabulary, and common and key outcomes to enhance student learning and engagement in mathematics and use technology to enhance and enable the learning.

Addendum:

Technology

Although it is not an official priority, technology is integrated into all our priorities and is used to enhance our curriculum instruction. TELP will continue to be supported throughout all grade levels, in Mathematics, Physical Education and Band. Our BYOD guidelines will align with divisional policy and protocols while still meeting the unique needs of our school. Students will be taught fundamental use of divisional software and will incorporate it to support their learning in all classrooms. Microsoft Teams and other programs in the Office 365 suite have been instrumental for instruction during Remote Learning and will continue to be the number one tool used in the coming year.