

2021-22



# ANNUAL REPORT

Mother  
Teresa   
Middle School  
A Jesuit Academy





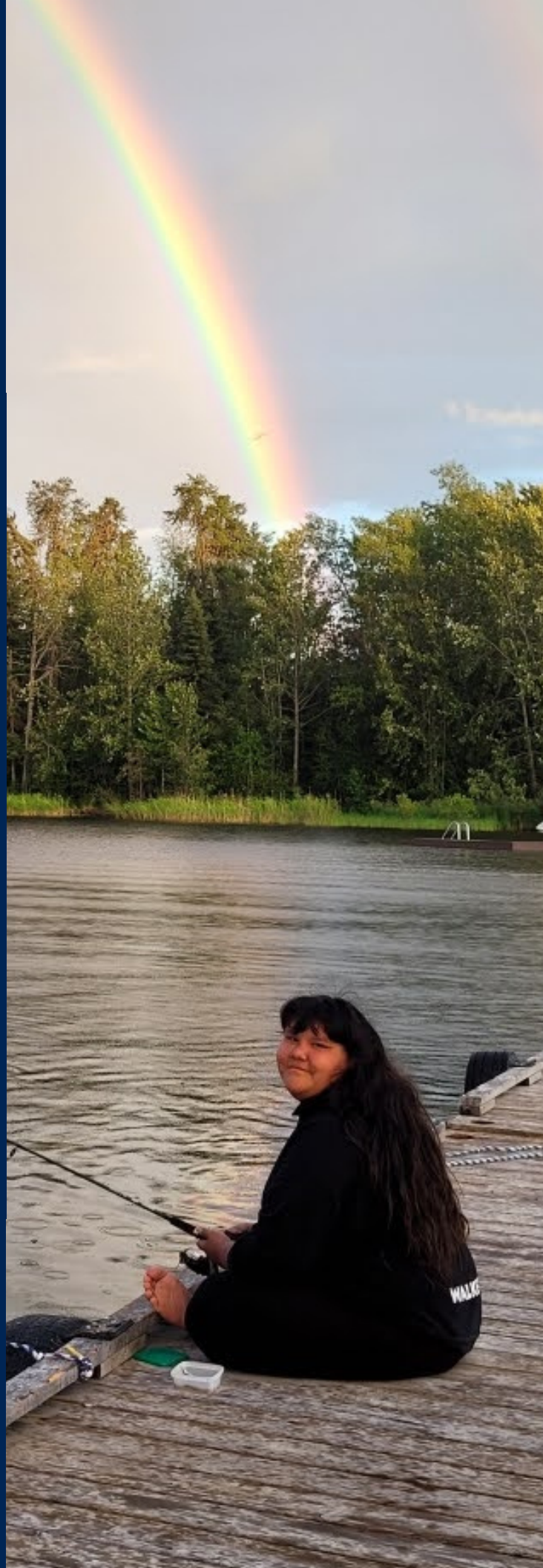
*Mother Teresa Middle School is proudly situated in Treaty 4 territory, the homeland of the Métis and the traditional territory of the Nêhiyawak / ᓂᕿᕐᕐᕐ / Cree, Nakawē / ᓂᓕᓂᓕᓂ / Saulteaux, Nakota/Assiniboine, Lakota, Dakota and other Indigenous peoples.*



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# STATEMENT ON RECONCILIATION

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## **Mother Teresa Middle School – Statement on Reconciliation**

**Regina: February 17, 2016**

2015 marked a historic time in Canada with the publication of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada and the establishment of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation at the University of Manitoba. The Mother Teresa Middle School Board as well as its staff and entire school community, profoundly respect the Commission's work and acknowledge the sorrowful legacy of residential schools with respect to Indigenous peoples, cultures, spiritualities and families.

The decisions, policies and actions which led to the legacy of residential schools must never be repeated in this country. The Commission calls institutions and Canadians from all walks of life to take actions that contribute, in a practical way, to reconciliation of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians. Mother Teresa Middle School is committed to doing its part.

Mother Teresa Middle School (MTMS) is working hard to be sensitive to this historical context and to build trust with all communities with whom we will work. We are committed to participating in meaningful and lasting change and creating a peaceful and respectful relationship with parents, students, and communities while building a better Canada.

MTMS is a school for students from low income families who live predominantly in the North Central and Core areas of Regina. It accepts students of all faiths, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. This includes Indigenous, new-Canadian and other visible minorities. We recognize that the neighbourhoods we serve are home to organizations and community leaders whose work and contributions are incredible examples of resiliency and reconciliation that are strengthening our city for everyone. MTMS's model of additional supports, programming and long-term educational commitment reflects the longstanding values and traditions in these neighbourhoods.

Leaders from Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities have graciously provided their advice and expertise upon start-up of the school and continue to do so today. They have reminded us of the TRC's findings with respect to the sorrowful legacy of residential schools and also of the important challenge it provides all Canadians: "to establish new relationships embedded in mutual recognition and respect that will forge a brighter future."

MTMS is inspired by Catholic and Jesuit values according to the "Nativity" school tradition and the spirit of reconciliation. It operates inclusively, being open to a variety of cultural traditions and expressions of spirituality including Christian and Indigenous traditions. MTMS does not proselytize, or aim to "convert" students of non-Catholic backgrounds. While students will be expected to participate in lessons, ceremonial activities and celebrations held throughout the school year, accommodation can and will be made for any student's additional spiritual needs in a way that is respectful of their own and other students' backgrounds. It is the hope of all involved in Mother Teresa Middle School that all students will be exposed to a breadth of spiritual traditions and practices from all walks of life.

# STATEMENT ON RECONCILIATION - CON'T

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The concern for a holistic education is seen as part of a Jesuit endorsed school's mission, "to develop men and women for others", where we will support our students of all cultural and faith backgrounds becoming hopeful, confident, morally responsible leaders for love and service of their families and communities. MTMS will strive to encourage our students to become people who are loving, intellectually competent, open to growth, spiritually alive and committed to doing justice. These five key aims are common to all Jesuit schools. MTMS will strive to create a school culture of individual care and concern for each student – where students feel they are known and cared for by their teachers, where they feel respected and where they learn to respect themselves and others and learn a sense of responsibility for serving their community.

Concern for the spiritual development of our students is seen as part of providing a holistic education which also attends to students' academic preparation, physical health and general wellness, and development of social skills. MTMS does not follow the traditional approach to teaching religion. Instead Catholic and Christian beliefs and spiritual practices will be infused into the overall curriculum and school practices. Teaching about and showing respect for other faiths, beliefs and traditions including Indigenous beliefs, and prayer practices are also included in curricula and the school day. In keeping with the mandate of the Truth and Reconciliation Report, MTMS teaches curriculum regarding the residential school legacy in Canada as well as the Catholic Church's role in its development and delivery.

MTMS's goal of encouraging students to be "spiritually alive" means to help them learn to respect their own faith and spiritual traditions, to understand where they come from and who they hope to become and to also learn to respect other faiths and traditions. We will encourage the understanding that we are all Treaty people and that we need to nurture a relationship of mutual care and support between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. As suggested in the TRC Report, Indigenous Studies will be part of the curriculum and we will continue to seek the support of Indigenous educators and consult Indigenous elders with respect to this curriculum and Indigenous spiritual teachings and practices.

Finally, we endorse and encourage the Calls to Action of the TRC Report with respect to education and also with respect to how we treat each other: that "reconciliation must become a way of life" and that it is "about respect – both self-respect for Aboriginal people and mutual respect among all Canadians." We understand that we will need to continue to learn from the community and our students as we embark together on our educational journey. The TRC Report concluded, "Establishing respectful relationships involves learning to be good neighbours. This means being respectful—listening to, and learning from, each other; building understanding; and taking concrete action to improve relationships." Our commitment at Mother Teresa Middle School is to put that conclusion into action. It is an incredible privilege and responsibility — and it is essential for our city, for our province and for future generations.

Curtis Kleisinger  
Executive Director  
Mother Teresa Middle School

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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The 2021-22 school year was, in many ways, better than the one that came before. School life at Mother Teresa Middle School (MTMS) started to return to normal but the remnants of the COVID 19 Pandemic were still present. It was a very interesting time, as MTMS spent its first nine years of existence constructing routines, procedures and operating norms, only to spend the past couple of years deconstructing these and “pivoting”. Fortunately, the 2021-22 school year was a time to start building again and the staff was committed to, “Building Back Better”. The 2021-22 school year was a time to reflect and review and, in some cases, perform an audit of some of the routines, procedures, operating norms and programs offered. The transition out of the Pandemic was seen as an opportunity for the school to improve and get better and I couldn’t be prouder of how the staff and students responded.

Having widespread vaccinations within the community allowed MTMS to return to regular classroom routines, with no transition to online learning. The school started to, cautiously, allow visitors back into the building after Easter and started to deliver after school programs again. In June, MTMS celebrated its first, in person, Grade 8 Promotion Ceremony in almost three years. The day was ultimately bitter sweet though, as those in attendance watched the grade 8’s walk across the stage knowing, full well, that they had not received the whole MTMS experience during their time at the school. That group had only experienced a couple of months of after school programming and much of their time was spent learning at home. They also did not get the opportunity to experience a summer program or summer trip.

Thankfully, the Summer Land-Based Learning Retreat was reinstated and a group of the grade 6 and 7 students were able to experience a summer trip in July of 2022. The Land Based Learning Retreat, **generously sponsored by Mo Bundon and Michelle Carr**, was a huge success that saw a group of 45 staff and students journey north of La Ronge, Saskatchewan, to Missinipe, and experience five days of cultural programming with the wonderful people of Grandmother’s Bay First Nation. The people of Grandmother’s Bay are kind, deeply knowledgeable and incredibly generous. It was great to see students and staff engaged and have the opportunity to learn more about fishing, drumming, tee pee raising, moss bag making, birch bark biting, basket making, medicine walks, canoeing, beading and ceremony. The week was a welcomed break and a bonding experience for our school community. Students also spent the week playing games, swimming and singing around a campfire. The Thompson’s Lake Resort, on Otter Lake, provided an amazing backdrop and some incredible accommodations. **This was made possible by Mr. Greg Yuel, a good friend and generous supporter of MTMS.** The week was definitely a highlight of the school year and a much-needed respite from the events of the past two years.



**Curtis Kleisinger**

Executive Director

*B.Ed., B.A., M.A.*



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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The Student Support Team worked diligently over the past year to get our high school students back on track, coming out of the Pandemic. It was not easy to undo some of the complexities created over the past couple of years but staff dug in and did all that was possible to see students succeed. Unfortunately, the 2021-22 school year brought with it the lowest, on time, high school graduation rate in MTMS history. The almost three years of on again, off again, learning has unfortunately created some gaps and caused students to, in some cases, derail a bit. The impact on student mental health is extremely evident and will take some time to heal. Having said that, the MTMS staff has created new plans for students who are still willing to engage and persevere. It is not clear what the final impact of the Pandemic will be on student success but MTMS will continue to journey along side students.

Our post-secondary students continued to excel, with some nearing the end of their respective programs. Malik Hassan-Weiss completed his EMT training and is now employed, full-time, in Swift Current (see story on pg. 21). Eunice Domingo completed her undergraduate degree in English and was accepted to a Master's program at the University of Saskatchewan. In the next couple of years, MTMS students are scheduled to graduate in the areas of nursing, social work, education and computer science to name but a few. Once again, the COVID 19 Pandemic may have caused students a bit of a delay in their studies but many have since picked things back up and although a little behind, are back on track. It is amazing to see our young people grow before our eyes and become young professionals.

Transportation was huge challenge again this past year with both busses seeing lots of down time and a lot of repairs. Staff however, was quick to step up and help out in times of emergency. Our hearts were heavy when our beloved bus driver, Vlad Panio, passed away in early July. He was a kind and gentle man who gave a lot to MTMS. He will be missed.

Fundraising, in a post-pandemic world, picked up a bit in 2021-22 but is still moving slowly as corporations and individuals re-evaluate their priorities and their charitable mandates. We were unable to hold a fundraising event and gather with the larger MTMS community. Our hope is that 2022-23 will afford us the opportunity to do so. Looking ahead, the main priorities for the next three years will be financial sustainability, governance, a possible school relocation and succession of leadership. We will, without question, have some staff turnover but with change comes opportunity. We will continue to look for the best people, who identify deeply with the MTMS Mission.

In 2021-22, MTMS leadership engaged in a deep dive into the mission, vision and philosophy of the school. The main question asked was: After 10 years of operation, are the mission, vision and philosophy statements of MTMS still relevant? Are they a true reflection of what goes on at the school? Following much work and a bit of an audit of the current mission, vision and philosophy statements, it was determined that the wording was very narrow, deficit focused and in need of a change. Viewing the current mission, vision and philosophy statements through the lens of United States based educator and motivational speaker, Trabian Shorters, and his work around the idea of "Asset Framing", it was decided that the MTMS mission, vision and philosophy statements needed to be more aspirational in nature and more accurately define what goes on at the school. It needed to be more positive in its wording and it needed to speak more to who our students will become - as opposed to where they are start out. The new mission, vision and philosophy statements are included on page 11 and they are in the process of being changed on and all school-based communication. I would like to thank MTMS Director of Student Supports, Ron Gonzales and MTMS Principal, Terri Cote, for their work in this. We believe that this new messaging will serve us well as we embark on the next 10 years at MTMS.

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

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**Terri Cote**

Principal  
B.Ed., M.Ed.

MTMS celebrated the Ignatian Year with the Society of Jesus. May 20th, 2021 marked the 500th Anniversary of St. Ignatius' conversion. On that fateful day, Spanish soldier St. Ignatius of Loyola had his leg shattered by a cannonball. While waiting for his leg to heal and during his time of "quarantine", Ignatius trusted that God was speaking to him through his human experience and this trust led him down a new path. Ignatius' experience 500 years ago, reminds us to pay attention to our own thoughts and feelings in the middle of this COVID-19 pandemic and to see them as important places for God to be found already at work in our personal and professional lives.

To start the year, the MTMS team practiced a posture of openness to the Spirit's movement. Collectively, students and staff reflected on their own experiences during the pandemic and recalled personal "CANNONBALL Moments". Cannonball moments at Mother Teresa Middle School, were moments we experienced that forced us to stop how we were living. They invited us to live in new ways, deepen our faith, and permitted us to tell the MTMS story of being touched by others' pain. As Pope Francis noted, "A Crisis Reveals What Is in Our Hearts" and the pandemic revealed the heart of MTMS. Collectively, MTMS committed to seeing all things new in Christ. We celebrated the anniversary of the conversion of Ignatius, continued to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, and remained committed to putting down Ignatian roots in and through the four **Universal Apostolic Preferences: Showing the Way to God, Walking with the Excluded, Journeying with Youth, and Caring for Our Common Home.**

MTMS is creating a new narrative, rooted in the relationship building with youth, that His Honour, the Honorable, Russ Mirasty, spoke of in his reflection on his first year. He noted,

***"When I think about reconciliation, it includes relationship building. In fact, the foundation of true reconciliation is to have strong relationships and think about how youth fit into the picture of reconciliation because the future is about them, about us to a certain extent, but more so for young people and what we leave behind for them in terms of relationships, in terms of understanding, in terms of coming together as different peoples for a better future for all."***

*- His Honour, the Honorable, Russ Mirasty*

MTMS students were able to see themselves in the leaders and role models who visited MTMS. Lt. Governor, Russ Mirasty and his wife, Donna Mirasty visited the school. Their Honours each shared their personal stories and Cree language with the students. MTMS also welcomed the former National Chief, Phillip Fontaine, First Nations University of Canada (FNU) President, Dr. Jacqueline Ottoman, and VP of Academics Dr. Bob Kayseas to MTMS. MTMS students were strongly encouraged to seek higher education at FNU.



# PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

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**Climbing the Truth & Reconciliation Mountain, Bringing Back the Buffalo, and Orange Shirt Day 2021** was rooted in a pipe ceremony led by Elder Harry Francis. The week of events included scraping a buffalo hide, beading orange shirts, participating in drumming workshops, and bannock making. There were opportunities for everyone to learn the truths regarding the long-term effects of Residential Schools and Canada's history. On September 30th, MTMS paused to acknowledge Orange Shirt Day. The day was not one of celebration, but rather a day to hear and listen to the voices of Residential School Survivors Doreen Topp and James Peigan.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the Government of Saskatchewan chose to focus on three areas: Learning Response, Reading, and Mental Health & Wellness. The MTMS Team was poised to continue to lead and do the work already intentionally started in these areas. Taking care of MTMS students and leaning into the Ignatian-Jesuit characteristic of cura personalis included Traditional Indigenous Ways of Knowing, land-based learning, and outdoor adventures that supported the positive mental health and wellness of all students. MTMS students are fortunate to be surrounded by an incredible network of individuals who believe in their potential and who continue to support them on their educational journey. The network and connections shared with students at MTMS continue to impact their lives in so many positive ways.

The 8th-grade Promotion Ceremony took place at MTMS on June 18th, 2022, the first in-person celebration in two years. Cadmus Delorme, Chief of Cowessess First Nation, inspired everyone with his address to the graduates where he used humor and storytelling to instill a sense of hope for the future.

Maintaining connection with MTMS students was a priority over the Summer. Students were offered drop-in summer programming. The programming was an opportunity to participate in cultural and sporting activities such as swimming, Par 3 golf, as well as drumming and dancing at Pow Wow. MTMS was fortunate to partner with the Lakeshore Tennis Club where tennis lessons, for students, were provided. This new way of proceeding is one that we will continue to provide during the summer months. Students also had the opportunity to take part in a Land-Based Learning Retreat at Missinipe and Grandmothers Bay in northern Saskatchewan. Engaging with Elders in the community and learning their language and culture was at the heart of the excursion. The trip North was another first for MTMS that created lasting memories for both students and staff.

We will continue to lean into the challenge that Pope Francis presents to us, "To come out of this pandemic better than we went in, we must let ourselves be touched by others' pain. A Crisis Reveals What Is in Our Hearts." At MTMS, we have and will continue to let ourselves be touched by others' pain, each day, as we go to the margins revealing what is truly in our hearts.

# CHAIR'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Mother Teresa Middle School (MTMS) Board of Directors, I would like to congratulate the entire Mother Teresa Middle School community on a most excellent 2021-22 school year. In spite of the many challenges and difficulties that the COVID-19 pandemic presented, the Board is very proud of the work being done and we are excited by the growth our students are exhibiting. They are truly becoming, People for Others.

As a Board, our main mandate is to ensure that the mission is being fulfilled and that the school is sustainable for years to come. We have forged some incredible partnerships over the past number of years and these relationships are integral to the school's successes. We value the incredible association we share with the Regina Catholic School Division, the NativityMiguel Coalition of Schools, the Jesuits of Canada, Campion College, the Jesuits Schools Network and with the One Life Makes a Difference Foundation and we look forward to journeying forward, together.

We also know that the school would not be possible without the trust and commitment of our parents and guardians and the relentless passion and vision of our staff. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible donors, volunteers and mentors for all they give to Mother Teresa Middle School.

The Mother Teresa Middle School Board of Directors is looking ahead. In June of 2022, we revisited and re-envisioned our Mission, Vision and Philosophy statements. We believe that the new statements are more accurate and more positively frame the work being done. The statements are more aspirational in nature and outline who we hope to see our students become. We will continue to seek out the best data driven, researched based practices in education as we strive to improve the life chances of the students we serve. As a board, we will continue to meet the needs of all students and make all decisions in their best interest.

Sincerely,

Mr. Paul J. Hill

Mother Teresa Middle School – Board Chair



**Paul J. Hill**

Mother Teresa Middle  
School Board Chair

*Chairman, President and CEO  
The Hill Companies*

## MTMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Hill - *Board Chair*

Mo Bundon - *Vice-Chair*

Fr. Sami Helewa, SJ - *Director*

Tina Svedahl - *Treasurer*

James Camplin - *Secretary*



*Mo Bundon, Carol Hill, and Paul Hill receive a Queen's Platinum  
Jubilee Medal with MTMS students Trevon and Amou in attendance.*

**56**

**Middle School  
Students**

**62**

**High School  
Students**

**29**

**Post Secondary  
Students**

**42**

**Students Employed  
Full or Part-Time**

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## ***Five Strategic Pillars***

Spiritual Identity

Academic Excellence

Development, Marketing and  
Communications

Finance, Facilities, Partnerships, HR &  
Governance

Graduate and Student Supports

## ***Mission***

Recognizing Truth and Reconciliation, MTMS ignites a love of learning and empowers students to embrace their personal and cultural identity while overcoming obstacles and growing their spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical well-being.

## ***Vision***

MTMS seeks to form spiritual, reflective citizens who exhibit love and compassion, are intellectually competent, engage in healthy behaviours and are resilient, self-sufficient leaders for their communities.

## ***Philosophy***

MTMS is built on the Jesuit ideal of “cura personalis”, which means care for the whole person. This includes ministering to students’ spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social and physical well-being.

## ***Living Life in the Service of Others***

MTMS seeks to create “People for Others”, using Jesuit philosophies, models and teaching methods to graduate students who are: Loving, Spiritually Alive, Intellectually Competent, Open to Growth and Committed to Doing Justice.

## ***Core Values***

seek, learn, serve, excel, connect, persevere, love.



# PARTNERSHIP ROOTED IN SHARED VALUES



MTMS is an associate school of the Regina Catholic School Division (RCSD). RCSD emphasizes faith development, student learning, leadership skills, community service projects, as well as academic success.



Jesuit education, grounded in the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola, focuses on guiding a person to understand God's role in their lives, and helping that person to respond in love and service.



The Jesuit Schools Network of North America animates the educational ministry of the Society of Jesus in Canada, the United States, Belize, and Micronesia in service of the Catholic Church by strengthening Jesuit schools for the mission of Jesus Christ.



MTMS is a member of the NativityMiguel Coalition (NMC) of Schools. NMC schools follow a successful model in preparing children from low-income backgrounds for the rigors of high school and post-secondary education. Each of the participating 50 schools in the Coalition adheres to the same set of universal standards that challenges its students to go beyond academic excellence, to be reflective and to be committed to service.



Campion is a Jesuit university college federated with the University of Regina. As a Jesuit, Catholic college, Campion provides a university experience characterized by a strong sense of community and ongoing commitment to a personal approach to higher education.

# GRADE 6 CLASS



## STUDENT QUOTES:

"MTMS has taught me how to read and write better."

"I love the MTMS afterschool program and the new things I get to try."

"MTMS is teaching me how to drum and sing."

"I love that MTMS provides students with transportation and meals."

"MTMS has taught me that we are family and can be there for one another."

# GRADE 7 CLASS



## STUDENT QUOTES:

"MTMS teaches me about my culture and I learn more about who I am."

"MTMS has taught me to be grateful for the things I have."

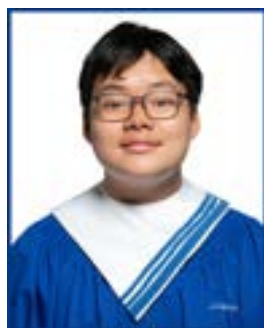
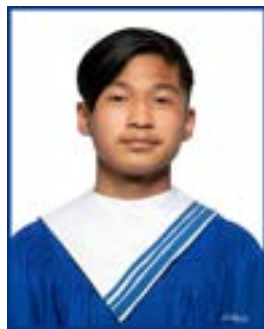
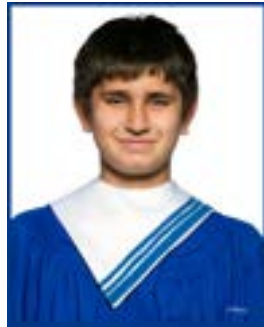
"MTMS has opened many opportunities for me. One day I hope to be a CEO."

"Something I appreciate about MTMS is how everyone is so loving and caring."

"MTMS has helped me discover my talents and strengths."



# GRADE 8 CLASS



# GRADE 8 CELEBRATION





# **AWARDS**

***MTMS presented the following Jesuit awards to five students:***

***LOVING— Moo Lweh Shee  
COMMITTED TO DOING JUSTICE — Tyvan Peters  
INTELLECTUALLY COMPETENT— Emerys Bolesta  
SPIRITUALLY ALIVE— BillieRose Cook  
OPEN TO GROWTH— Brianna Mercer***

***Students were selected as recipients of the following awards:***

***ANGELA OXMAN READING AWARD — Georgia-Lynn  
ASHRAE SCIENCE AWARD — Yuan Lopez  
KEITH GRANDMOTHER SPIRIT AWARD — Breanna Mercer  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AWARD — Emerys Bolesta & Moo Lweh Shee  
ELLIOT MCGUIGAN ATHLECTIC AWARD — Anthony Htoo***



# GRADUATE SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Graduate Support Program (GSP) continues to journey with all MTMS graduates at their respective high schools, providing them with the following services and supports.



Visits with students at their respective high schools to check-in with them. This includes communicating regularly with students' high school guidance counselors/advisors.



All students receive ongoing care, including glasses and dental care throughout their time in our program. MTMS provides transportation to these services when required.



Support extra-curricular activities at students individual high schools by assisting with: participation fees, training camps and equipment.



Provide academic supplies, clothing, hygiene care, dorm supplies, and transportation/bus passes when needed.



Provide opportunities to engage in cultural programming and traditional Indigenous teachings.



Provide crisis intervention / support (academic, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual wellbeing)



Problem solve barriers to attendance, engagement and participation. Connect students to academic supports and tutoring when necessary.



Connect students with potential summer job opportunities.

# GRADUATE SUPPORT PROGRAM

## Graduate Support Director's Message



**Ron Gonzales**

Director of Student  
Supports/Graduate Support

*BPAS, B.Ed.*

The 2021-22 academic year provided many great memories and exciting moments at MTMS. Even though each year creates its own set of challenges, we always remember to pause, reflect and celebrate the success stories and small victories that come throughout a student's educational journey. It was still not a regular school year due to the Pandemic, so the Student Support Team (SST) continued to adapt and be flexible to the ever-changing situation.

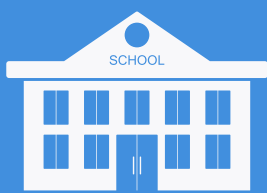
Transitions Classes at MTMS were offered weekly to MTMS Grade 8 students to prepare them for their first year of high school. The goal is to ease the tension, and anxiety to build more confidence with the grade 8's who are entering high school and transitioning from a small school to a school that could consist of over 1,000 students. MTMS is proud that students will be starting the next phase of their educational journey at O'Neill (6 students), Notre Dame (5 students), Luther (3 students), Miller (2 students), Riffel (1 student), and Neelan High School (1 student) in Brandon, Manitoba.

This past year, the SST worked with 8 cohorts of students ranging from Grade 9 to fourth-year post-secondary. We are very proud to see MTMS alumni reach success in different areas and gain employment, post-secondary certificates, trade certificates, and undergraduate degrees. Alumni attended the First Nations University of Canada, University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, University of Alberta, University of Waterloo, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Gabriel Dumont Institute, Campion College, and the Vancouver Institute of Media Arts.

The consistency, commitment, and energy the SST team brings to the school each day is truly second to none. The team consists of the Graduate Support Director, Intervention Specialist, College and Careers Coach, Graduate Outreach Coordinator, Student Support Assistant, and Graduate Support Assistant. The team connects to draw up solutions and brainstorm ways to continue moving students in the right direction. The aim is for all students to graduate from high school and follow their dreams, whether it is pursuing a trade/skill or a diploma or degree to gain employment. As Mother Teresa said, "The miracle is not that we do this work, but that we are happy to do it." The SST is blessed to finish another year and will always remain optimistic about whatever new challenges lie ahead.

# POST-SECONDARY PROGRAM

Mother Teresa Middle School's educational model incorporates three individualized phases. Each builds upon the former phase to increase a student's chances for success. The third and final phase is known as the Post-Secondary Support Program (PSSP). Ongoing support is a critical component of MTMS's model, and as such, the PSSP aims to empower students to pursue their career goals following high-school graduation. Beginning in grades 11 and 12, the College and Careers Coach provides alumni with the tools and knowledge to explore, apply and matriculate to post-secondary education. Beyond advocating for the student on their journey, the PSSP provides MTMS alumni with counsel in college course selection, social-emotional transition support, coaching related to academic, social and financial concerns as well as support in employment searches and networking opportunities.



## Post-Secondary Institutions Alum Attended in 21-22

First Nations University of Canada  
Gabriel Dumont Institute  
Saskatchewan Polytechnic  
University of Alberta  
University of Regina  
University of Saskatchewan  
University of Waterloo  
Vancouver Institute of Media Arts  
Western University



## Areas of Study

Arts and Sciences  
Biomedical Sciences  
Building Systems Technician  
Computer Networking  
Computing Science  
Dental Assistant  
Education  
Fine Arts  
Game Art and Design  
Licensed Practical Nurse  
Police Studies  
Primary Care Paramedic  
Psychology  
Sport and Recreation Management  
Social Work







## **MTMS ALUM RESPONDING TO HIS CALLING AS A PARAMEDIC**

Helping others has always come naturally for Malik Hassan-Weiss, “I always knew I wanted (a career) where I could help people. I really liked health and knew I wanted to do something in the healthcare field,” said Hassan-Weiss. He credits his experience at Mother Teresa Middle School (MTMS) for helping guide him on a path to success. MTMS uses an innovative educational model that pledges to follow students from grade six, throughout high school and post-secondary up to employment.

**"MTMS helped me envision my future. By showing me what success looked like at such a young age, that was something that I was always pushing towards. I wanted to be a positive, good person in society." - Malik Hassan-Weiss**

“MTMS really had you think about your future and what you wanted to do. The school would invite successful business leaders and people who had different careers into the school,” recalled Hassan-Weiss. At the start of grade 6, each student was provided with a book to hold business cards. When a guest would visit the school, students would ask for a card to add to their book. “By the time I finished middle school, my book was full of business cards. Through networking with the guests MTMS helped me envision my future. By showing me what success looked like at such a young age, that was something that I was always pushing towards. I wanted to be a positive, good person in society,” said Hassan-Weiss.

The passion for learning, that was ignited in middle school, carried over when it was time for Hassan-Weiss to attend high school. He felt the support received by the Graduate Support Program (GSP) at MTMS made the transition into high school easier. The GSP at MTMS strives to engage students’ intellectual curiosity, celebrate their culture, and equip students with the support they need to succeed throughout High School. “The GSP provided all the essential things I needed. They (The Graduate Support Team) were good at keeping in contact and would send you a message, letting you know they were there if you needed anything. They would also visit the school to check in and just wanted to make sure you were doing well,” said Hassan-Weiss. With the support of the GSP, Hassan-Weiss was able to keep his focus and energy on his academic and career goals. Upon graduating from high school, Hassan-Weiss turned his attention toward the healthcare field.

Although Hassan-Weiss envisioned working in the healthcare field from a young age, the idea to pursue a career as a paramedic came from an unexpected source. “I was on YouTube one day and a video came up where a guy was documenting his journey as a paramedic in Canada. I found his experience very interesting and I kept it in the back of my mind,” said Hassan-Weiss. When the time came to choose a career path in the field, he was determined to explore becoming a paramedic further. “MTMS was really supportive. They brought me to Saskatchewan Polytechnic for a walkthrough to see the actual paramedic program and I got to spend a day there. I was able to talk to the school and see how it was run and then I actually got to see the students going through scenario training and what I was getting myself into, it was really cool,” said Hassan-Weiss.

Feeling exuberant after the visit to Saskatchewan Polytechnic, he was more certain than ever that becoming a paramedic was what he wanted to do. However, there were barriers that he needed to overcome. He needed to obtain several different certifications as admission requirements and had to navigate the financial barrier of tuition and fees associated with the program. “MTMS helped me get those (certificates) in order and provided financial support by assisting me in accessing the different funding avenues available, like grants and scholarships, including the MTMS MacKay Family Bursary,” said Hassan-Weiss. The perseverance of Hassan-Weiss was further put to the test as he began his program amid the COVID-19 Pandemic, with no in-school learning in place. “It wasn’t until my second semester that we were able to resume the small groups and scenarios. It was an obstacle to overcome. I was thankful for the friends I made in the program, it was stressful because if you failed the final exam, you have to try again the following year. My schooling was online but I was staying up until 3 – 4 in the morning. I was trying to figure out a balance between studying and my regular life outside of school. The MTMS College and Careers Coach helped me navigate through that difficult time,” he said.

Despite the challenging circumstances Hassan-Weiss faced, he passed the final exam on the first try. He was employed as a paramedic in Moose Jaw on a casual basis and recently moved to Swift Current to begin a permanent position. Hassan-Weiss’s path to get to where he is today is inspirational to other MTMS students. His brother, Abraham, who just started High School this Fall, is one of them. “I tell my younger brother that you need to stick with it and figure things out. You need to just go for it and work hard towards a better future for yourself. When I see how excited and happy my brother is for me, it is an incredible feeling,” said Hassan-Weiss. Exemplifying Hassan-Weiss’s helpful nature, he hopes that sharing his story will inspire future MTMS students and that he can have the same impact the guests he looked up to in middle school had on him. “When I look back at MTMS and what they have shown me, they have shown me what it takes to be successful. When I come in now (to the middle school), I feel in a type of way, they (MTMS students) can look at me as that guest that I looked up to when I was in middle school. I feel like I can be a role model for future students,” said Hassan-Weiss.

# LAND-BASED LEARNING RETREAT

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In July 2022, MTMS students took part in a week long Land-Based Learning Retreat in Missinipe and Grandmother's Bay. Students were out in the fresh air, taking part in cultural activities such as: fishing, trapping, storytelling, canoeing, tipi-raising, beading, fish net making, hand games, medicine walks, birch bark biting, drumming, and ceremony. The Retreat provided students with the opportunity to connect to the land and build relationships, their self-esteem and leadership skills. We are grateful to Mo Bundon and Michelle Carr for making this experience possible.





# HONORING THE CALLS TO ACTION



*MTMS students listen to Residential School Survivor James Peigan*



*Students took part in a beading workshop with local Indigenous Designer/Artist Tracey George Hesse.*



*MTMS students and alum perform at the Canadian Western Agribition*



*The MTMS Buffalo Boys drum group performs at the Grade 8 Promotion Ceremony*



*MTMS was able to engage in Bringing Back the Buffalo and scrape a buffalo hide with artists Lorne Kequahtoo and Joely Big-Eagle Kequahtoo of the Buffalo People's Art Institute.*



## Cultural Programming



## Summer Programming



## Athletics



An extended school day, cultural programming, summer enrichment and after-school programming are all integral to the innovative approach to education for MTMS students.



# PEOPLE FOR OTHERS



MTMS Grade 6 students wrote letters of love and created donuts with positive messages for Mr. Pham, whose Country Corner Donut Shop was vandalized.



MTMS students walked with seniors from Eden Care to a round dance on Orange Shirt Day.



Grade 8 students raised \$1,300 for Jesuit Refugee Services by organizing a "Bike, Bead and Walk-A-Thon."



Grade 7 students partnered with Glen Elm Church of Christ to create posters and crafts to help with a Garage Sale in support of Ukrainian Refugees.



Students spread kindness by gifting MTMS toques to members of the community.



# TOGETHER, WE ARE CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

## OUR IMPACT



*Higher education*



*Increased  
graduation rate*



*Higher  
annual income*

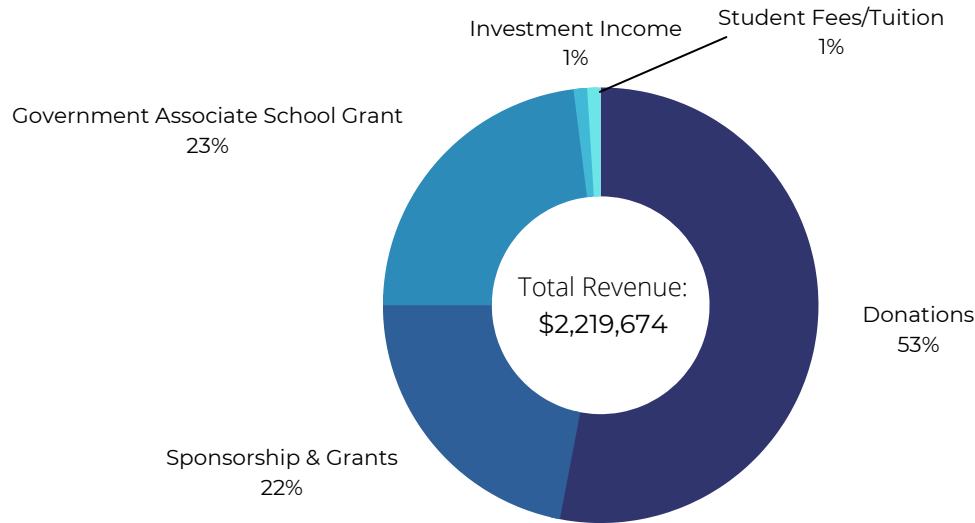


*Increased  
employment rates*



*Decreased  
reliance on social  
assistance*

# OVERALL GIVING



## Number of Students

### **Middle School Students - 56**



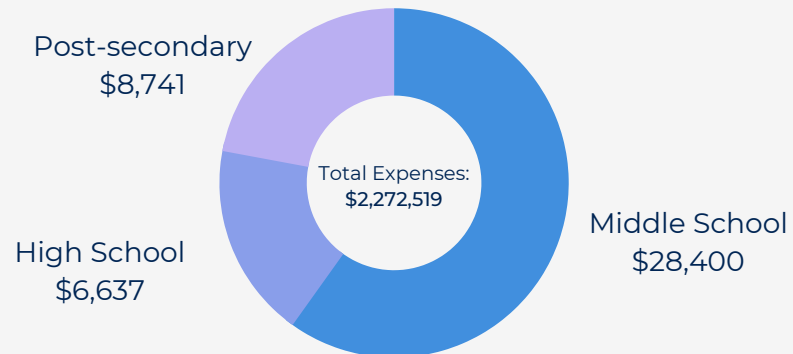
### **High School Students - 62**



### **Post-secondary Students - 29**



## Annual Cost Per Student



# BE OUR GUEST...



**Evie Sawatzky**

Director of  
Development  
CFRE, BA Mus

Six months into my role as the Director of Development, I am daily moved by the stories of our students, staff and supporters. Stories of strength, commitment, and hope. Mother Teresa Middle School (MTMS) is the result of *your* support. Dreamers like *you* who wanted to redefine, reimagine and reinvent education for youth in Regina. Donations & sponsorships account for 71% of our annual budget. Thank you.

This year, we are going back to our roots. We want to reconnect with you and celebrate the 11-year journey we have travelled together. Thank you for honouring your values while supporting our students.

**I invite you to schedule a school tour, coffee or lunch.  
We would love to have you visit!**

Thank you for sharing your MTMS stories with me. Thank you for serving, volunteering, donating and supporting our team for the past 11 years. You help deserving students realize their dreams.

If you have any questions about how you can support our programs with your donation, bequests or other legacy gifts, contact me. I would love to connect.

306-569-6867 (ext. 4)  
esawatzky@mtmschoolregina.com

# 2021 - 22 COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS

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# ONÎKIHKOMÂWIN

- A Cree word meaning parenthood. The meaning of parents in Cree can be viewed as "those who provide a home". A home provides a safe place to learn and grow.



# WAHKÔTOWIN

- A Cree word meaning kinship or family



THE LORENE AND EVELYN JOHNSON FOUNDATION



# WAYS TO GIVE



## *Did you know?*

***Some of our students have attended 15+ schools before MTMS.***

The **Transportation Program** provides students in grade 6 to 8 with consistent, reliable access to transportation to and from school wherever they move in the city. Vital to '*cura personalis*', this program ensures that MTMS can '*care for the whole person*'. Middle school students are transported to eye, dental, auditory and counselling appointments as well as to extra-curricular activities and field trips.

The **Nutrition Program** ensures our middle school students are ready for a day of learning, with 2 meals and 2 snacks a day. In the 2021-22 school year, we provided *over 21,000 balanced meals and 21,000 nutritious snacks*, 90 Christmas Food Hampers, and education about eating well, being physically active and positive body image.



## ***Become a Blues Believer. Provide for a student from grade 6-8.***

Your contribution supports a student for three years at MTMS (from Grade 6 to Grade 8) and sets the foundation for their educational journey. Instill a positive school experience and work and life habits, while providing the necessary supports to ensure students' overall well-being and success.

## **Make a difference today.**

Gifts to MTMS can be made by cheque, phone or using the secure online platforms listed below:

[www.mtmschoolregina.com](http://www.mtmschoolregina.com)

Benevity

Canada Helps

Charitable Impact Foundation (Canada)

United Way of Regina



***BELONG.  
BELIEVE.  
BECOME.***

**Mother  
Teresa**   
Middle School  
A Jesuit Academy

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