



Tailored Teaching Makes a Difference at MET

Students choose course of academic journey

One student at a time is more than just a motto at the Seven Oaks School Division Met School ... It's an everyday way of life.

At the Garden City Collegiate-based Met – just one of the divisional initiatives that aims to help students discover themselves – students are engaged through creative and challenging academic work combined with internships that provide real-world learning opportunities.

Small class sizes, four-year teacher advisor partnerships and a student-centered approach to teaching and learning makes for a unique, rewarding academic journey – one routed in Seven Oaks' overall philosophy of developing passion and personal interests.

"By the time they graduate ... they've explored a number of interests and passions and the work they do is so relevant," says Nancy Janelle, a teacher advisor with the Met School.

Students start in the Met School exploring their interests, examining career connections and doing research on our city. They develop resumes, work on their interview skills and arrange to interview people who work in the field of their interest.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday are Academic Days, while Tuesdays and Thursdays are Internships Days.

On Academic Days, students

participate in regular classes, independent studies, research projects, field trips and assignments to help develop skill and meet standardized curriculum benchmarks.

On Internship Days, students work alongside appointed mentors and design projects to build their interests and academic skills.

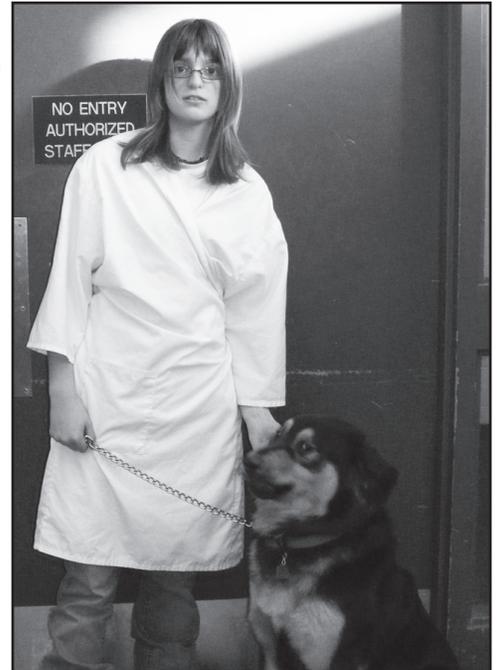
Janelle – a recent addition to the teaching force, who has worked all three of her years at the Met – says her proudest moments are when she sees her students demonstrate their experiences ... with an extra sparkle.

"Watching my students grow and mature over the last three years while finding themselves is remarkable," she says. "I have one getting Shaw TV to back her documentary on political refugees. I have one who made a video for Winnipeg Animal Services – doing everything from learning to use a video camera to figuring out how to edit the film to presenting the video to the director of Volunteer Services.

My students get up four times a year at exhibitions, in front of their parents, peers, advisory and mentor and proudly talk about how they steered their own learning – and how much they've grown because of it."

In their own words

Here's what a few of our Met School students from over the last two years have to say about their experiences exploring their passions and interests:



A Met student hard at work at internship

I am a student from the Met School and my name is Amber James. I have been in the Met School since it started in September 2009. I, along with my classmates, will be the first Met School students to graduate having finished grades 9-12 in the school. I have a year and a half to go and I am excited. I have done many projects that are based on my interests, like art and drawing. The project I am doing right now is on Career Development. My passion is animals, and ever since I was little I wanted to be a vet and nothing else. It is really hard to get into the veterinary health program at Red River College, so just in case, this quarter I am looking into different jobs that deal with animals, like guide dog trainers, therapy dog trainers, regular dog trainers, and zookeepers. Last year I had an internship at Winnipeg Animal Services for a year and a half I was able to do that through the Met School. Next quarter I plan on interning at a veterinary clinic. I am glad I am in Met School as it has helped me so



A Met student hard at work at internship

much. I liked the idea of having the same teacher until you graduate. I am very close to my teacher she has helped me many times, whether it was personal stuff, school stuff, or even my ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder). I have learned so much about myself, and I have learned to cope with my ADHD. That was very difficult for me. I am happy to be a part of Met School and I am happy to share my experiences. I have a year and a half to go and I cannot wait.

- Amber James

Hi, I'm Adam. I came to the Met School because I had an interest in broadcasting. For the past few months I have been interning at City TV as a student reporter. It's been an interesting experience. I now know that being a reporter isn't as easy as it looks. My main goal for this internship project was to create a news story of my own, and to actually produce it using the resources at City TV. My first step to create this story was to shadow a reporter for two weeks. I would watch the reporter schedule interviews, research topics, gather footage, write scripts, and of course, edit the video. This process takes a full day for a reporter to complete, and sometimes

they would have difficulties getting the footage they needed. I was amazed that it takes so much work and effort to create a ninety seconds news report. After two weeks it was time for me to create my own news report. I chose to do my news report on distracted driving. I wanted to know what impact distracted driving was having on Manitoba roads. I also wanted to know what students, who are about to get their drivers licenses, thought about distracting driving. I had to follow the same process as a real reporter to create this video. I had to schedule interviews, research topics, gather footage, write scripts, and of course, edit it all into a 90 second video. I had a lot of help and useful tips from the staff at City TV. The biggest thing I struggled with was writing my script. The video turn out very well and my mentor decided it was good enough to air on Breakfast Television, so it's set to air Thursday, December 1st.

- Adam Kolody

My name is Anna MacDonald and this is my third year in Met School. I have always had a passion for acting, and it wasn't until a few years ago that I realized I also had a passion for film. It is because of the Met School that I have had the chance to explore those passions. It was through my internships at Merit Motion Pictures and City TV that I realized I want to make documentaries. So this year I'm making my own documentary about political refugees who have settled in Winnipeg. What inspired me to make this documentary was my mother; she was a political refugee from Guatemala. She is such an inspiration to me and she is my hero, so I wanted people to hear, not only her story, but other's as well. I am going to interview a man from Ethiopia, a man from Burma, a man from Chile, and of course, my

mother. I'll be exploring the history of those countries, what happened to make those people become political refugees, and how their lives are now. I may have the whole year to do this, but just like in the real world, I have due dates to meet, and a clear time line to follow. So keep your eyes open, you might just see my documentary on Shaw TV, one day.

- Anna MacDonald



A Met student hard at work at internship

Here, there and everywhere

Our students can be found on internships throughout Winnipeg. Some spots we currently occupy are:

- City TV/Breakfast Television
- Animal Hospital of Manitoba
- Regis Hair Salon
- Merit Motion Pictures
- S m a I I m a n Records
- Safety Bakery
- McPhillips Animal Hospital
- Oxfords Hair Salon
- Sid's Complete Car Care Centre
- City of Winnipeg Animal Services
- Paradise Found Art Academy
- Manitoba Children's Museum
- Ronald McDonald House
- Ecole Seven Oaks Middle School

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