



Maples Met School
SEVEN OAKS SCHOOL DIVISION

Maples MET School
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Maples Met School: Report to Community 2021-2022

It was during the first week of school that we realized just how much had been taken from us the year before due to the pandemic. Students were as excited - by their own admission - as they had ever been to return to school; a place with friends, caring teachers, mentors, familiarity, and the opportunity for growth. There is no doubt that the impact of the pandemic were and still are, far reaching, however, by coming together, working hard, embracing the ability to move freely within the community and taking advantage of learning experiences, students quickly began chipping away at the barriers that had been in place from the year before.

This year marks my last as Principal of Maples Met. I want thank all of the students, staff, families, mentors, trustees, superintendents, and colleagues that supported my efforts, and ultimately the school's, over these past four years. We are pleased to welcome Marshall Mays as the incoming principal in September.

Maples Met School is a special place. It's the meeting grounds for some of the most creative, inspiring, thought provoking, and passion driven learning you could imagine. We are grateful to the hundreds of community members that sign up every year to be mentors and guest speakers – we literally could not do what we do without you.

Although every week was packed with amazing experiences and stories to tell, below are some of the standout moments from the year. In addition to those highlights noted below, there were some other wonderful developments during the year:

- We had students participate in a drone project that lasted several months and culminated in a flying session where students gathered data that will help the city identify Dutch Elm disease.
- The M.I.C.E. program continued at North Forge, resulting in dozens of new creative entrepreneurial ideas and experiences.
- Several graduating students earned scholarship for their post-secondary studies, including Armaandep, who was awarded the prestigious and generous Schulich Scholarship, valued at \$100,000.
- We embraced *Thinking Classrooms*, a cutting-edge approach to mathematics education that sees students moving around, collaborating, and working through problem solving together. The result has been a drastic improvement in outcomes, attitudes, and delivery.
- We welcomed dozens of new mentors, including professors in the sciences on university campuses, who helped students pursue their passions and undergo rigorous learning relevant to their projects and aspirations.

- We started to do *Kick Me Outs* again – the old Met tradition of gathering together in the Great Room (like an assembly) to share stories, give shoutouts, and plans for future events. It was wonderful to have that ability to build culture together again.

Maples Met TEDx:

Yet again, staff and students put their talents on display by organizing and participating in the annual Maples Met TedX. This event brought together students from not only the Maples Met, but across Seven Oaks, to listen to guest speakers and musical performances. We heard from students on the topic of systemic racism, education reform and social justice, to name a few. Sarah Fine, a leading U.S. educator from California joined us, along with Kevin Chief, a well-known Seven Oaks mentor who talked about his journey towards being proud of who is and where he comes from. It was a moving day that reaffirmed to the powerful impact young people can have when they come together around a cause.

Kitchenette:

Thanks to the incredible efforts of Karen, a Gr. 11 student in Amber/Christine's Advisory, we were able to realize a long time Maples Met dream: the construction of a new kitchenette. Working alongside her mentors, Karen meticulously planned the drawings herself, presented to superintendents, budgeted items, and managed the entire project development. As a result of her hard work and determination, there will be a fully renovated area, with more access, newer accessories, and a more welcoming feel. This was a wonderful example of what can happen at the Met, when curiosity, passion, and real world needs meet up with project-based learning, mentorship, and experiential education.

Newsletter:

The Maples Met Newsletter, *One Student at a Time*, continued to circulate electronically on a weekly basis, with highlight of learning across all advisories (classes) shared by teachers and students. The newsletter not only serves as a weekly account of student learning, but it has created, over many years now, a wonderful historical archive that details the school's growth, accomplishments for future staff, students, families and community members.

Graduation Pow Wow:

One of the biggest highlights for the entire school division this year was the return of the Grad Pow Wow. For the first time, it was held in the field at Maples Collegiate, and several thousand people came out to celebrate our communities' diversity. We were thrilled to have nearly the entire graduating class from Maples Met present. Gr. 12s were part of the Grand Entry, where they were cheered on and part of a special group of dignitaries. At the end of the Pow Wow, each grad was called up and given a pin

and certificate of appreciation, as well as a shirt and the customary congratulatory handshake! It was an event to remember.

We were fortunate this year to have Christine Wren on staff, an engineer with a passion for all things STEM! Christine did a great job of rallying staff and students around some really interesting projects/clubs:

In STEAM Club, we did the following projects over the course of the year:

- Coding and micro:bits games
- Gingerbread House Contest
- Spaghetti Bridge Competition
- Soldering projects
- STEAM Fest 2022
- STEM LTI project support
- Tomatosphere project

Robot Fight Club:

Gr. 9, 10, and 11 students built mini sumo robots and learned about machine design, energy transfer, gear design, electronic circuitry, and learning how to solder. They worked in teams to design and build the robot bodies for battle advantage, including 3D modeling and printing. We are wrapping up the year with a Robot Fight Competition for the title of Ultimate Robot.

We wish everyone a wonderful summer and look forward to another great year ahead!

Sincerely,

Ben Carr
Principal, Maples Met School