

# Magrath High School - Annual Report



## Principals Message

Over the past year, our hard work has paid off as MHS continues to be a leader in academics in Westwind School Division and in the province. Every year, the school receives a report called “The Accountability Pillar” which rates our school in several areas based on our results as well as on the results of the surveys filled out by grades 7 and 10 students and their parents and also by our teachers. As a school we value the feedback that we received from the parent survey. To the parents who filled out the survey, I say Thank You. Based on all the information gathered at our school compared with parallel information gathered around the province, we can see that MHS is doing very well. Our school received the top rating of “very high” in the following areas: Safe and Caring School 89.0% compared to the provincial average of 86.9%; Drop Out Rate 1.8% compared to the provincial average of 4.8%; High School Completion Rate (number of students that complete high school after three years from when they enter grade 10) 87.9% compared to the provincial rate of 70.7%; Diploma Exam Participation Rate (number of students that write 4 or more diploma exams) 66.4% compared with the provincial rate of 63.3%; Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate (percent of students that received the award in any grade) 91.7% compared with the provincial rate of 57.3%. We are extremely proud of these results which reflect the quality of students and teaching that we have at MHS. However, the report indicated other areas where improvement is needed. Below are our plans to deal with these issues.

### Program of Studies:

The program of studies that are offered at MHS was rated as low based on the results of the surveys that were done. Overall MHS’s program of studies was rated as 71.3% satisfied, but the students rated it as 65.6% and the parents 64.4% compared to the



different CTS projects to make significant improvements in the what students are able to do in

provincial overall average of 80.3%. MHS has been working in a number of different area to make improvements in this area. First, we have initiated two

the areas of Shop, Home Ec., and Computers. We have purchased over \$100,000 in equipment which is now available for CTS students. This goes a long way toward reaching industry standards. Plans are underway where students will be able to go further in Home Ec. by expanding into commercial cooking.

Secondly, MHS has been working to expand the offerings that are available to students. Plans are underway with the community Cultural Arts where students will be able to expand in the area of Drama through a joint production in the spring. Also new courses have been added over recent years so that students are now able to take Sport Performance, Drama in Junior High, and all grade 7 students now

get to experience both Home Ec. and Shop. Obviously a school the size of MHS is not able to have the same course offerings as a school that has 800 students, but we do try to meet the students' wishes. If there are other areas where you would like to see the school expand please feel free to contact the school.

### Diploma Exam Standard of Excellence:

This past year has seen the percentage of students writing the diploma exams that have reached the standard of excellence decrease compared to the previous year. MHS was still rated at an intermediate level for this year, but the issue was that the level of success had decreased from last year. In 2009 18.9% of students that wrote a diploma exam achieved the standard of excellence where the provincial average was 19.1%. It is important to remember though that MHS has a very high number of students writing the exams so there is actually a greater percentage of the students in the school that reach the standard of excellence compared to the province. The teachers at MHS are taking time to study the reports that are sent out from Alberta Education to see the areas that our students did not do as well and are looking at how each of these areas can be improved in their classroom. If you look at the three year averages comparing MHS to the province, MHS is still 7.6% above the province. Hopefully this little blip will be corrected going forward.

### Parental Involvement:

Even though there was an increase in the percentage of individuals that were satisfied with the involvement of parents in the school the results were still rated as low overall when compared with the provincial average. At MHS the percentage of parents and teacher satisfied with the parental involvement was 72.9% where the provincial average was 80.1%. The overall average of parents being satisfied last year compared to the previous year increased by 5% which may show that at MHS we are making some progress in this area, but there is still a way to go. The School Council at MHS has been playing a larger role in the the school and if there are any other parents that would like to be involved please contact the school. At recent Parent Teacher interviews the School Council has been at the school, meeting with parents and providing information in regards to what they are doing. School Council has been playing a key role in the Breakfast for Learning Program as well as some of the healthy choice initiatives. Members of School Council have also been involved in providing recommendations in regards to the hiring of new teachers. If there are parents that would like to volunteer in other ways to help at MHS please contact the school.

As a school we have been trying to do a better job of communicating with parents in regards to what is going on at MHS. There have been a number different improvements that have taken place over the past few months. I would hope that as parents you have seen our new website [www.magrathhigh.ca](http://www.magrathhigh.ca), that you are looking at the upcoming events on the new marquee that is shared with MES, that you have learned more of what is going on through our school newsletter that is put out every other month, that you have seen our new school handbook and as always, that you are taking advantage of PowerSchool. On the website you will see pictures of past events as well as the calendar of upcoming events and the homework section. Through the website you can contact any of your students' teachers. Starting later this week there is the new automated phone out system for attendance and other announcements or emergencies.

### School Improvement:

The past year has seen a decline in the overall percentage of individuals that believe that the school has improved compared to the previous year. There were 76.1% satisfied with the improvements made compared with the provincial average of 79.1%. MHS is continuing to try to improve the school through its plan for improvement. A focus of MHS is to improve its teaching strategies to ensure that students have the tools to be successful in

the 21st century. There is a continued push to ensure that technology is being effectively used to enhance the excellent teaching that is already taking place. A key tool that was used to help in this area was the Level One training that took place last year. The focus of this training was on effective uses of the Smartboards in classes and assessment for learning. There are plans in place to continue with this training in the future.

A key area that we are now focusing on at MHS is the development of a Pyramid of Intervention. The purpose of this pyramid is to deal with the question, “What do we do when students have not learned?” A key part of this work is the Love and Logic training that took place earlier this year and is continuing now in our Professional Learning Community. As a school we are working through some lessons to help us implement this training into our school. The Love and Logic training will focus of some of the strategies used at the bottom level of the pyramid. This will continue to be a focus at MHS over the next few years.

## Exam Results

	Acceptable Standard			Standard of Excellence			Participation		
	MHS	WWSD	Province	MHS	WWSD	Province	MHS	WWSD	Province
ELA 30-1	93.9	92.4	86.1	12.2	13.3	12.3	73.4	60.1	59.8
ELA 30-2	100.0	89.2	88.2	5.6	10.8	8.5	25.0	31.0	27.4
SS 30	93.9	89.2	84.2	30.3	20.6	21.4	45.3	38.7	53.2
SS 33	100.0	87.5	85.6	52.6	20.6	20.2	51.6	52.4	34.1
Pure Math 30	79.3	89.5	82.1	17.2	24.8	26.3	45.3	39.9	45.8
Applied Math 30	69.6	75.8	79.4	0.0	16.8	13.5	35.9	34.7	22.0
Biology 30	85.4	80.8	83.0	19.5	21.0	26.6	65.6	65.7	44.3
Chemistry 30	74.3	77.9	76.3	17.1	19.5	27.7	54.7	42.3	33.3
Physics 30	80.0	75.6	79.3	10.0	19.5	23.1	14.1	14.9	19.8
	Acceptable Standard			Standard of Excellence			Participation		
	MHS	WWSD	Province	MHS	WWSD	Province	MHS	WWSD	Province
LA 9	90.9	81.9	78.7	25.0	14.9	14.7	95.5	92.9	89.7
Math 9	79.5	64.4	67.0	29.5	16.4	18.5	93.2	90.4	89.7
Science 9	81.8	73.0	72.2	15.9	12.1	15.8	93.2	91.8	90.4
Social 9	90.9	77.3	65.5	27.3	24.2	20.9	95.5	84.1	79.3