Virden Junior High School
Community Report 2002-03

Each school in Fort La Bosse has created a “Community Report” to strengthen links among Fort La Bosse schools, families, and communities.

This initiative is province-wide and focuses on sharing some “school profile” information, as well as various school-based priorities and some of the action plan currently under way at each school. The final page of each school’s report highlights some common information from the school division as a whole. Please take the time to read over the report. Should you have any questions or comments about any information contained in the report, please contact the appropriate school or division personnel. Your opinions on how Fort La Bosse School Division is “preparing students for the future” are important to us.

Cliff Chutskoff, Superintendent of Schools

Virden Junior High School Mission Statement

Virden Junior High strives to provide excellence in education by preparing students to achieve personal fulfillment and to reach maximum potential.

Recognizing that our students are in a distinct period of human development, our mission is:

• The development of personal responsibility.
• Fostering positive interaction among students, teachers, parents/guardians, and our community.
• Enabling growth of students academically, emotionally, physically, morally, and creatively.

School Profile

• 269 Middle Years students in Grades 5–8
• 17.8 educators
• 10 educational assistants
• 1 secretary / 1 librarian / 12.2 custodians

Programs (beyond the 4 regular core subjects)

• Band/Music, French/Dakota,
• Art/Outdoor Education
• Business Entrepreneurial Program
• Keyboarding, Computer
• Agriculture, Family Life
• Physical Education
• Resource Program, Life Skills

Facilities

• Modern Gym, Science Lab
• Science Classroom, Music/Band Room
• Student Service Center, Life Skills Suite
• Upgraded Playground, Chevron Rink
• Art Room, Canteen Area
• 2 Networked Computer Labs
• all 80 computers in the building are networked

(continued)
School Priorities 2002–03

School Priorities for 2002–03 School Year

- To further instil in students a pride in their country.
- To continue to enhance student’s desire to achieve to the best of their ability in a fun-orientated environment.
- To further enhance the school’s code of conduct policy.
- To continue to refine the student and staff leadership models.
- Advisory Council Priority – To continue to enhance playground facilities.

The above priorities are five of the school’s 10 priorities, of which nine were developed by the school staff and one by the school’s advisory council. From these priorities, staff developed plans of action, expected outcomes, and activities. These priorities were also matched with priorities of the school division and the Department of Education. Some positive results would include: various school activities that enhanced student appreciation of how lucky they are to live in Canada, improved student Canadian Achievement Test scores, even better student attendance rates, a revised code of conduct policy that included the opportunity for student merits, the development of a formal teacher leader model and more opportunity for students to develop their leadership skills, and formal school playground plans being developed and some degree of fundraising for the project.

VJH 2002–03 Canadian Achievement Test (CAT) Results

(Students should be at their grade level plus 8 months)

Grade 5: 6.3 (5 months above Canadian average)
Grade 6: 7.5 (7 months above Canadian average)
Grade 7: 8.2 (4 months above Canadian average)
Grade 8: 10.4 (16 months above Canadian average)

Peer Helpers

Virden Junior High has a 20-year record of having a student peer helper program, which involves formal training so that students may assist other students either academically or with personal problems. The students are available to listen to the problems of classmates and point them towards agencies within the school.

VJH Student Attendance

We are pleased that the students who attend this school have an attendance rate of 95.6%. VJH Students must like their school.

Extra Curricular Events

The students at Virden Junior High were exposed to many opportunities, which included drama, volleyball, music, basketball, art, badminton, Track & Field, leadership, and participation activities to name a few. The staff members at Virden Junior High are firm believers in the Middle Years philosophy. This philosophy emphasizes participation and cooperation rather than the “got to win at all costs” mentality.

If you have any questions, comments, or ideas in regards to this Community Report, or any aspect of your community school, please feel free to call the school any time at 748-1932.

Parents are always welcome!
Fort La Bosse Division Profile

- 2500 sq. kilometres in area in Fort La Bosse
- 1550 full-time equivalent students
- Buses travel over one million kms./yr. on 36 daily routes
- 11 schools – over 275,000 sq. ft. of space
- Approximately 500 full- and part-time employees
- Over 750 computers in the division
- A broad range of Academic, Business, and Vocational Programs
- 15.8 to 1 Pupil/Classroom Teacher Ratio (Division Average)

Priorities/Initiatives
1. Efforts to address staffing shortages through recruitment fairs, enhancements for substitutes.
2. Responding to declining student enrolment by participating in Virden & Area Education Initiative to promote post-secondary learning opportunities and regional development.
3. Addressing “At Risk” learners through Early Literacy intervention, Social Skills/Counselling Programs, Aboriginal Academic Achievement grant support, Healthy Schools Project initiated at VCI, developing an Early Numeracy initiative, Threat Assessment inservice and policy development, and the Alternate Classroom at VCI.
4. Communication through pre-budget consultation meetings with community, developing graduating student “exit surveys”, and publishing our first annual “Community Report Card”.
5. Technology: extensive integration inservice of staff, high-speed wireless network in place, and the expanding of S1–S4 online course delivery.
6. Facility & Safety Infrastructure: new Workplace Safety and Health program/policy in development, playground safety enhancement initiatives, and major facility improvements at various schools.

Student Assessment and Evaluation

- Division policy based on the Canadian Principles of Fair Assessment
- Belief that the most authentic assessment is classroom-based
- Participation in mandated provincial standards tests
- 2003 Grade 3 Assessment results:
  - Literacy: 85% of students either independently or with limited assistance met or exceeded expectations.
  - Numeracy: 91% of students either independently or with limited assistance met or exceeded expectations.
- Jan. 2003 Senior 4 Pass Rate & Division Average:
  - ELA: Pass Rate 93.5% & 69.6% (aver.)
  - Pre Calc.: Pass Rate 74.3% & 61.2% (aver.)
  - Consumer Math: Pass Rate 97.9% & 75.9% (aver.)

Senior Administration

Cliff Chutskoff, Superintendent
Bob Findlay, Supervisor of Operations
Kent Reid, Secretary Treasurer
Craig Russell, Chairman
Jim Skelton, Vice Chair

Fort La Bosse Board of Trustees
Brent Cook, Garry Draper, Yvonne Sheane, Margaret Walker, Dawn Jamieson, Bob Cochrane, Carl Johnas

School Information

Box 1510
447 Princess St. W
Virden, Manitoba
ROM 2C0

Phone: 748-1932
Fax: 7481-1944
Email: vjhadm@flbsd.mb.ca

HOME OF THE SAINTS
Niverville Collegiate Institute

Our Mission Statement
Niverville Collegiate’s staff and students are committed to working co-operationally within the community to develop well-rounded, lifelong learners in a safe, respectful, and positive learning environment.

About Us
We have 20 teachers and three support staff working with one administrator in a Grade 7 to 12 setting that provides a multi-faceted education for 334 students. NCI offers both the French and German language options. All Jr. High students take both Tech. Ed. & Home Ec. for three periods/cycle in alternating semesters during the school year. We have 74% of our school’s population enrolled in the Band Program. Jr. High non-band students are enrolled in Study Skills (Gr. 7), Lion’s Quest (Gr. 8), or Transitional Math (Gr. 9). Our Resource Teacher works alongside the classroom teachers to program for nine level-I students and nine ESL students, as well as our less successful learners. The E.A.’s assist in implementing the programs. Enrichment opportunities are also available. All three Math streams (Consumer, Applied, & Pre-Calculus) are timetabled at NCI. Business & Technology courses continue to be in demand in our school. Two computer labs facilitate these courses. Our SIC courses this year included Publishing & Journalism (Gr. 10) and Media Literacy (Gr. 9). The IITV Lab offered eight courses to our Senior students, which might not be offered locally. Our organized Intramural Program & competitive House League (Gr. 7 & 8) allowed students to practice skills learned in the Phys. Ed. Class. The Student Council acted as a liaison between staff and the student body. It provided opportunities to develop skills in leadership and committee participation. An extracurricular club produced the school yearbook for release in June. We worked closely with the Parent Advisory Council, Band Boosters, Town Council, and Church Groups.

2002 - 2003 Priorities
We will strengthen public understanding of who we are and what we do by consistent open communication and cooperation with the community.

Successes: Various records and statistics will help us to track responses to school communications on paper and on the web.

All teachers will implement five diversified instructional strategies to incorporate into the learning process.

Successes: In staff meetings and one-on-one sessions with the resource department, teachers have begun to understand and implement principles and procedures of differentiated instruction in order to reach more students more effectively.

We will continue to make our school more attractive and appealing as a place in which to work and learn.
Successes: With the help of student council, parents’ input, and the efforts of the faculty and staff, we have implemented a number of positive programs and innovations in the physical setting and procedures of Niverville Collegiate Institute. We will have remained fiscally responsible and accountable at the school level for any computer-related purchases.

Successes: The Maplewood database software is streamlining and speeding up the reporting of attendance, marks and credits, and library usage.

Our school will have finished implementing the new science curriculum.

Successes: The new provincial curriculum, including Grade 7 – Senior 2 Science Power textbooks, is in place; professional development will continue to aid in the implementation and success of the new curriculum.

We’d need a whole booklet just to list our highlights this year, but here’s a quick capsule:

Student council did amazing things this year, like the Twelve Days of Christmas including a rollicking talent show, and making some stylin’ NCI-wear available to the students.

Music continued to be a strength as the bands all did well at the Christmas Concert and at the Optimist Festival; the Senior Band trip was the most successful ever.

The Princess Bride was an incredibly successful and enjoyable dramatic achievement.

School planning and effective discipline processes were staff focuses this year, as a team attended Effective Behaviour Support seminars and worked on SMART school planning procedures.

Student activities like field trips and the “Mitch Dorge: In Your Face and Interactive” sessions provided non-classroom learning experiences.

Parent activities continue to be crucial to school life, as demonstrated by the completion of the north-side portion of the ongoing beautification project, the purchase of a computer projector, two laptop computers, and many other examples of PAC contributions.