

**2024-2025
Annual School Development Report
June , 2025**

Macdonald Drive Junior High



MDJH Mission Statement

To encourage students to be lifelong learners in an environment that fosters their physical and mental well-being.

MDJH Vision Statement

To be an inclusive community that creates a respectful, safe, and caring environment where all students reach their full potential.

Strategic Issue/Goal: To further increase students' sense of belonging to our school.

Positively influence school climate by embedding student voice and enhancing community involvement.

How did you know these were Strategic Issues/Objectives?

- Attendance has decreased (province-wide and nationally).
- PMF and SD surveys highlight concerns around student engagement and belonging.
- Student focus groups and admin/guidance conversations emphasize the need for greater classroom-based ownership.
- Review 360 and BEV Tables support the need for proactive engagement strategies.

What evidence did you have?

- Year-End SD Report (2023–2024)
- PMF & School Development Data
- Review 360 Reports
- BEV Tables and Attendance Trends
- Student Focus Groups
- Parent & Caregiver Input
- Guidance/Admin Case Notes

What actions and initiatives have been taken to address this strategic issue?

Student Voice & Leadership:

- Student School Development Team
 - Ongoing student-administrator-guidance meetings on school climate.
- Student Focus Groups
 - Used to gather regular feedback on inclusion and belonging.
- Holiday Trees
 - Thematic trees for Pride and Multiculturalism (flags, languages, identities).
- Curriculum Night Redesign
 - Staggered approach to increase family engagement (Grade 7: admin-first; Grades 8–9: teacher-first).

Community and Family Involvement:

- Community Garden Project
 - Joint project with students, seniors, and broader learning community.
 - Fencing and greenhouse already installed.
- European Trip
 - Travel opportunity for current and past Grade 8–9 students to Greece.
- Quebec Trip
 - French cultural experience for second-language learners.
- Inclusive Playground Grant
 - Application submitted to enhance accessibility.

- Student and Family Handbook
 - Updated and posted to the school website.
- RNC Safety Presentation
 - Informed families of local safety issues; attended by Safe and Caring Schools itinerant.
- Multicultural Fair
 - Half day event to showcase all cultures represented within our school community.
- Recognition of Celebrations
 - Websites and announcements feature a variety of cultural and religious observances.
- Partnerships with:
 - Junior Achievement
 - Kids Eat Smart
 - Bell Let's Talk
 - Skills Canada
 - Memorial University
 - Eco Schools
 - Dart Outdoors!
 - City of St. John's

Inclusion & Representation:

- After-School Mural Club
 - Collaborative mural projects led by the Art teacher.
- Multicultural Mural
 - Display in the main entrance showcasing student countries of origin.
- Redistributed Flags
 - Visibility increased throughout the building.
- Greetings in Multiple Languages
 - Posted across school spaces.
- EAL and LEARN Support Services
- Ramadan Quiet Space
- Multicultural Signage and Visuals

Belonging Through Clubs & Enrichment:

- New Clubs & Student Activities (2024–2025)
 - Mental Health Club
 - Crochet and Knitting Club
 - MakerSpace Additions
 - Multicultural Fair (half-day; plan to expand to full-day)
- Continued Clubs & Co-Curriculars
 - Best Buddies
 - Talking Circle

- Coming Together
- Pride Club
- DND Club
- Drama Club
- Homework Haven
- Gaming Club
- Music Programs
- Lego Robotics
- Intramurals
- STEM Club
- Seedy Folk
- ROV Team

Wellness Initiatives:

- Wellness Wednesdays
 - Schoolwide initiative for student and staff well-being.
- Merch Mondays (*Planned*)
 - Promote school identity and pride.
- Monthly Treat Days & Coffee Deliveries
- Pampered Preps
- Staff Handbook Updates

SEL Supplement: Resources from Well-Being Canada:

Our school used this resource as a supplementary resource to our Health Education Outcomes. The data revealed that this program is a huge success to intermediate school youth.

Summary

https://legacyplusorg-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/sarah_zurbuchen_legacyplus_org/EXl6aLK5n5VJjpil0QRNk08BZtJNwh9JNl16ucnf2qMH0A?e=vou95B

Raw Data

☐ [Pre Post Data - Student - Grades 7-8](#)

☐ [Pre Post Data - Teacher - Grade 7-8](#)

☐ [Pre Post Data - Student _ Grades 9-12](#)

☐ [Pre Post Data - Teacher - Grades 9-12](#)

What are the next steps?

Continue and Deepen Current Initiatives:

Goal: Continue growing programs that have shown strong student and staff engagement.

- Student Focus Groups
 - Move from informal feedback to structured cycles that include reflection, action, and review.
 - Consider offering leadership credit or recognitions for regular contributors.
- Murals and Visual Culture
 - Plan seasonal or thematic murals co-designed by students to align with various events.
- Clubs & Co-Curriculars
 - Use survey data to identify gaps in interest groups (e.g., environmental activism, writing, coding, etc.).
 - Offer club mentorship opportunities from staff/community experts.

Communication:

Goal: Improve home-school communication and transparency.

- Determine the idea frequency and assign responsibility to streamline contributions from staff.
- Include student voices (quotes, work samples), spotlights on clubs, teams, classroom projects, multilingual welcome messages and calendar updates.
- Format for accessibility (e.g., mobile-friendly, PDF, and email versions).

Community Safety Initiative:

Goal: Proactively address safety concerns and support student wellness.

- Partner with law enforcement for:
 - Grade-specific safety sessions (e.g., digital literacy, vaping awareness, etc).
 - Parent information nights with space for Q&A.
- Co-develop a Safe Spaces school campaign.

Data-Informed Review of Belonging & Engagement:

Goal: Monitor and improve school climate over time.

- Use PMF data and student survey scales (e.g., sense of belonging, engagement, teacher-student relationships).
- Add one or two internal surveys during the year to check in with the student body.
- Use the data to adjust programming (e.g., target support to grades or cohorts feeling disconnected).

School Culture:

Goal: To improve and promote positive school culture.

- Merch Mondays
 - Promote school identity by encouraging students and staff to wear school-branded clothing every Monday.
 - Partner with local businesses to offer student-designed apparel.
 - Have options and opportunities for gently used clothing to be upcycled.
- Wellness Wednesdays
 - Continue building on current practices by rotating themes:
 - Mental health awareness;
 - Outdoor classroom activities;
 - Staff shout outs and gratitude walls;
 - Lunch-and-learns or mindfulness breaks.

Multicultural Representation:

Goal: Expand visibility, understanding, and celebration of all student identities.

- Multicultural Fair Expansion
 - Include guest speakers and storytellers from local communities.
 - Include more student performances, food sampling, and cultural workshops.
 - Cross-curricular tie-ins.
 - Create and promote a Multicultural Calendar of observances with student co-leads responsible for sharing messages and leading activities.

Community Garden - Phase 2:

Goal: Transform the garden into an inclusive, cross-curricular outdoor classroom.

- Add raised and regular garden beds.
- Ensure wheelchair accessibility through paved or firm-surface paths.
- Install multilingual signage (student-created, representing school languages).
- Connect to science, wellness, and home economics curriculum.
- Invite more community gardens (e.g., seniors, conservation groups) for planting days or workshops.

Possible Shift of Focus for the 2025/2026 School Year:

Macdonald Drive Junior High has recently been in the media spotlight, and not always in a positive way. We recognize the importance of acknowledging these concerns—every student and family deserves to feel heard. At the same time, we have a responsibility to ensure that all members of our school community feel confident and comfortable in the school environment. As we look ahead to a new school year, we remain committed to the strength of our school community and to our long-standing focus on creating a positive, safe space for everyone at MDJH. Our positives outweigh greatly the challenges faced this 2024-25 school year.