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Principal: Ms. M. Timmins

Vice-Principals: Mr. A. Byres, Ms. S. Garr, Mr. H. Ghaug

School Population: Grade 8-12, ~ 750 students

School Philosophy:

The central goals of education are **intellectual, social, and career development**. We at A. R. MacNeill Secondary School believe that this development is more a journey than a destination. MacNeill has been founded on the guiding principles of effective practice, flexibility, and choice. As part of a community of learners, we believe in extending learning outside the walls of the school building. Students learn to set goals and formulate plans for healthy intellectual, physical, emotional and social development.

School Focus:

Student connectedness and engagement. At A.R. MacNeill Secondary, we believe that high levels of engagement and a sense of belonging in schools is an essential element for student success.

We Value:

Positive Climate - Every student is known, appreciated, and included; staff and students participate in the school's decision-making process.

Dynamic Teaching - Teachers explore and employ a growing repertoire of instructional and learning strategies with their colleagues and students.

Depth - Students engage in challenging inquiry with their teachers. Students are actively engaged in their own learning.

Community Experience - Students are involved in their school, local and global community.

Flexible Scheduling - The structure of the school day provides for flexible and variable learning times.

Technology - Technology is a tool that supports students as collaborators, critical thinkers, researchers, writers, and presenters.

Assessment - Teachers help students to set goals and to monitor, guide and assess their own thinking in mastering learning outcomes.

Professional Development - Teachers as learners explore opportunities to enrich the MacNeill community.

Balance - We recognize the need for balance in the lives of our students and staff.

Important Features of A.R. MacNeill Secondary:

Curriculum

Teachers at MacNeill Secondary are engaged in the process of integrating [BC's new curriculum](#). This involves a focus on the [Core Competencies](#). The core competencies, along with literacy and numeracy foundations and essential content and concepts, are at the centre of the redesign of curriculum and assessment. Technology is also a vital component of 21st century learning. Students have access to wireless computer technology to enhance learning in their classrooms. This creates a natural relationship between the curriculum and technology. Where possible and appropriate, curriculum is integrated through theme-based studies, special projects, scheduling flexibility, and regular teacher collaboration and co-planning.

For more information on BC's new curriculum: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca>

Advisory

Students have the opportunity to develop and sustain meaningful relationships with staff and peers through our advisory program. [Research shows that students who have strong connections to their school community and have strong relationships, both with their peers and with the adults in the building, are more likely to be successful.](#) The Advisory model supports social, emotional and academic success. The advisory class meets for 25 minutes, four times a week, and 35 minutes on Wednesday.

This program allows each student to be part of a small group with an ongoing connection to an individual teacher. On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday the time is used for silent reading. On Wednesday the main focus of the Advisory program is to assist students in the awareness and development of the MacNeill POWER focus, and their social responsibility.

In addition, the staff supports students in the area of academic goal setting and planning. During the year, the Advisory teacher helps the students select their work to be part of their portfolio presentations in June.

Positive Behaviour Model - POWER

[Positive Attitude](#) – We participate enthusiastically.

[Ownership](#) – We are accountable for our actions.

[We Not Me](#) – We are safe, empathetic and welcoming.

[Excellence](#) – We strive to do our best.

[Respect](#) – We care for self, each other and our environment.

Choice & Diversity

A.R. MacNeill Secondary offers a wide range of [academic](#), [elective](#) and [extra-curricular](#) options and programs for all students. We have numerous clubs and teams that students are able to participate in, as well as opportunities for [student leadership](#).

International Students

At MacNeill Secondary, we value *student connectedness and engagement*. We believe that high levels of engagement and a sense of belonging in schools is essential for success. This philosophy extends to our International Students. We are thrilled to welcome students from China, Ecuador, Ghana, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Nigeria, Qatar, Taiwan, United Kingdom, Venezuela, and Vietnam to MacNeill. As a school that values diversity, inclusion, and intercultural experiences, our International students help to enrich our community.

District Programs

ASPEN:

Aspen Learning Centre (ALC) is a therapeutic program for students with complex special needs who currently benefit from a smaller learning environment until the time that they are ready to return to the mainstream inclusive school community. Each student's individualized goals include developing improved self-regulation, communication skills, social/emotional development and foundational academic skills.

Incentive Outdoor Program:

The Incentive Outdoor Program attracts creative and motivated students with a passion for the outdoors. The fundamental goal of the program is to provide opportunities for students to develop critical thinking skills, creativity, innovative problem-solving and adaptability, both in the classroom and in the larger community. Incentive is an experiential program that develops competent, confident and caring people with strong leadership and outdoor education skills. Incentive Outdoor Program offers a strong outdoor education component with a focus on environmental sustainability and stewardship. Students will develop skills in a variety of areas throughout the school year. These sessions culminate each year in an extended outdoor excursion (e.g. Strathcona Park Lodge) in late May. This outdoor programming is also integrated with students' academics, with opportunities for students to explore their relationship and responsibilities to their natural environment while learning outdoor skills. As this is a district academy, Incentive students participate in many activities that have an associated cost. An application is required.