



# MENNONITE BRETHERN COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE



As an independent school, MBCI has the opportunity and privilege of shaping a learning environment that nurtures the whole child. Our work moves beyond acquiring skills and content, focusing instead on student faith and character formation through learning.

I acknowledge that this sounds like a lofty goal. How do we equip students to learn, love, and engage with the world? The path toward these goals becomes more visible when we pay attention to the habits we cultivate within our MBCI community and the questions and culture that we nurture.

As MBCI educators, student learning is first embodied in our own practices. Do we practice curiosity, reason, joy, patience, and love? We must first commit ourselves to being “reformed” and “transformed” by God so that we can “apprentice students to a love for the Good, the True, and the Beautiful as revealed to us in Christ.”

[Smith, 2016, p. 160]

The habits we model can then grow into community habits: practicing a culture of worship in which we embody and nurture a Christ-centred spirit in the classroom; celebrating students for qualities of stewardship, empathy, graciousness and service; looking beyond ourselves to the ways in which we can take care of each other.

We are also pursuing student faith and character formation by the ways we ask students to engage with curriculum content. Wherever possible, students learn in ways that foster connections: with their peers; with the culture that surrounds them; with the broader community; and with the development of their own identity. Teachers design learning opportunities that connect students to real world challenges and questions, allowing for greater understanding of content, improved communication and interpersonal skills, as well as enhanced leadership capabilities and deepened creativity.

We are excited by the work that God has entrusted to us at MBCI. Our students continue to be the evidence of our vision at work.

Andrea Neufeld, Principal

## MBCI AT A GLANCE: 2017 - 2018

- Staff - 50
- Students - 411
- International Students - 13
- Students with membership in MB Churches - 28%

## LEADERSHIP AND LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017 - 2018

- Our Student Council designed a new format for our High School Christmas celebration, planning an afternoon for grade 9 - 12 students that brought us together as a community: to reflect on the birth of Jesus; to serve others by supplying and packing 17 hampers; and to have some fun, eating and playing games.
- Students from grades 7 and 12 collaborated on a French-language project for the zoo, with the older students creating an “Amazing Race” - style activity that zoo staff are using with visiting school groups. Our younger students served as the test-subjects, working together to help critique and revise the final activities.
- Students are planning and leading chapels as part of their Biblical Studies classes, providing all students with the opportunity to shape the character of our corporate worship, and to offer both public and behind-the-scenes gifts of leadership.