École Sage Creek School

Our amazing learning environment!

Who Are We?

École Sage Creek School is an amazing school, not just because of the impressive facility, but because of the remarkable people in its community! We are currently home to over 700 students, their parents and families, as well as a talented and dedicated staff – all of whom work together daily to celebrate and support a rich and diverse community of learners. The school provides programming in both English and French Immersion from Kindergarten through Grade 6.

Photo taken before Covid

Curriculum and 21st Century Learning

Connecting provincial curricula to research-inspired educational strategies provides a multitude of learning possibilities for students at École Sage Creek School, regardless of the age, grade or language program. Unlike the concept of "school" as a place where children's minds are filled with facts and information, the process of learning at École Sage Creek School begins with the belief that all children have various strengths and our job is to engage them in their learning. This belief influences how learning occurs, especially in terms of choosing creative ways to hook students' interest. Innovation in education embraces students asking questions that require research, conversation and analysis before coming to a conclusion. It also champions children learning skills by "doing", which includes both structured and unstructured activities and exploration of materials in all subject areas. Innovation and creativity in the 21st century is best served by continuous access to technology and reference to current realities in the world, all of which helps students become involved as active global citizens.

The Building as a Learning Tool

École Sage Creek School is the first new school to be built in the Louis Riel School Division since 2001. It is more than just a building where "school" takes place. It is a purposeful tool for learning, as evidenced in the many aspects of the physical structure that promotes learning, exploration and discussion.

We shape our buildings; thereafter, they shape us. *Winston Churchill*

Neighbourhoods

The school is divided into 5 "neighbourhoods" or "wings." These neighbourhoods have names which connect them to plants that are found naturally in the prairies: Wood Lily/Lys des prairies; Prairie Sage/Sauge des prairies; Paper Birch/Bouleau à papier; Dogwood/Cornouiller; and, Prairie Crocus/Pulsatille. Large murals, found at the entrance to each wing, provide an artistic representation of the plant, as well as a description of its size and growing season. Each of the murals is written in English, French and Ojibwe. The choice of Ojibwe is connected to the history of the land on which the school is built and the Anishinabe (including the Ojibwe) nations that lived here prior to the signing of Treaty 1 in 1871.

The four Grades 1 - 6 neighbourhoods have classrooms located around the perimeter of a Neighbourhood Commons, a common learning area that can be used for collaboration between classes, larger projects, small group work and performances. Each neighbourhood also includes a "Breakout Room" - a quiet area where students and staff can work together.

The Kindergarten neighbourhood is located in the East Wing, near the Main Office, and is adjacent to a large privately run child care centre that provides care to babies, toddlers, pre-school and school-aged children.

Second Floor Learning Commons

Students at École Sage Creek School collaborate and work with others from their own class, within their own neighbourhood, between older or younger grades and from a combination of Immersion and English programs. Students can also access our Second Floor Learning Commons which is used by small or large groups to collaborate, work together, showcase work, and do activities together.

Second floor Learning Commons (Library and Media room)

Flexible Spaces

Being able to use spaces for multiple purposes is a key component at École Sage Creek School. Some examples include:

Photo taken before Covid

- A large, sound-insulated wall separates one of our Music Rooms from the Gymnasium. When needed, the Music Room becomes a performance stage when the wall is retracted into the ceiling.

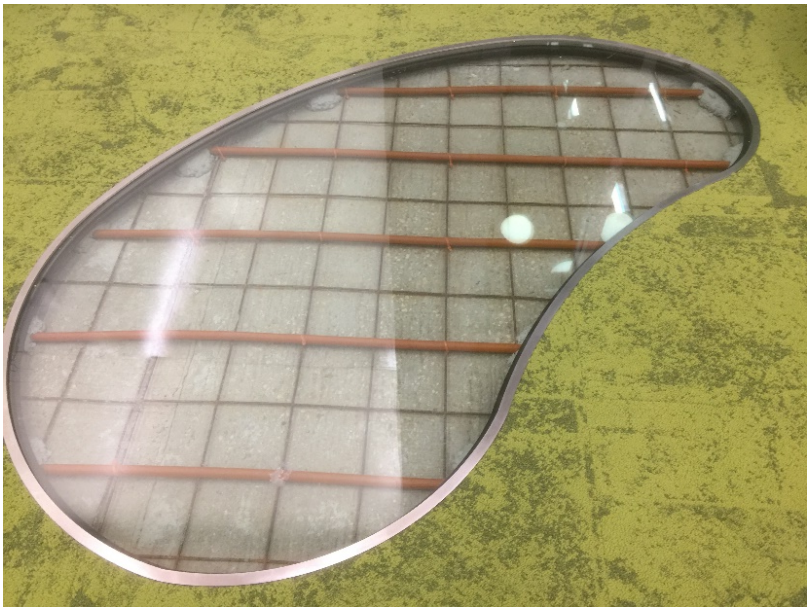
- Each of the four neighbourhoods has one classroom that is equipped with an accordion-fold retractable glass wall which, when open, allows students access to the shared common area in each wing.
- A garage door in the Makerspace which permits students to work outside on their creative projects.

- A garage-style door between two classrooms to allow space for team teaching, collaboration, etc…
- Shelves in the Second Floor Learning Commons (library) which are all moveable and can be repositioned quickly to answer various needs (see the bottom of the previous page).

Environmental Sustainability

There are many parts of the school that are built to use resources efficiently and with purposeful concern for the environment. These include:

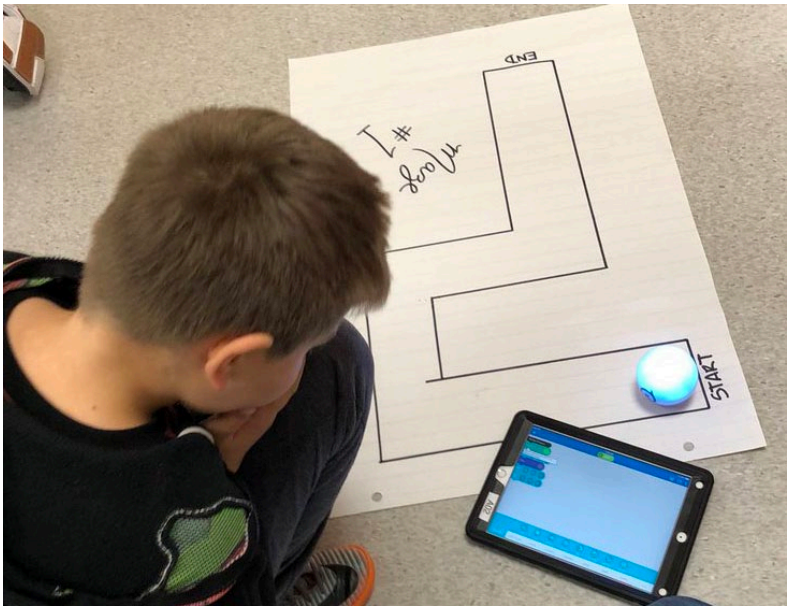
- LED lighting that adjusts its intensity to the amount of daylight in a room; if it is sunny, light fixtures closest to windows won't turn on so that energy isn't wasted;
- Lights in rooms will turn off if sensors indicate there has been no movement for a prolonged period of time; this ensures that lights aren't left on after leaving a room;
- Water cisterns that collect rain water from the roof and store it for use in toilets;
- Geothermal heating and cooling; harnessing the power of what's below the earth's surface to keep floors warm in winter and the air cool in summer;
- Energy efficient multi-pane windows that allow light in, but are also excellent insulators in both hot and cold weather.



Gender Neutral washrooms

Each of the four main wings in the school has bathroom facilities that allow increased privacy for those who use them. Individual rooms – with floor to ceiling solid doors – contain a toilet (in the younger students' areas) or a toilet and sink (in the older students' areas). Although there are also "traditional" bathrooms for boys and girls on the main floor, the idea of individually contained bathrooms is meant to mirror those that would be contained in a home while providing a gender neutral option for all students.

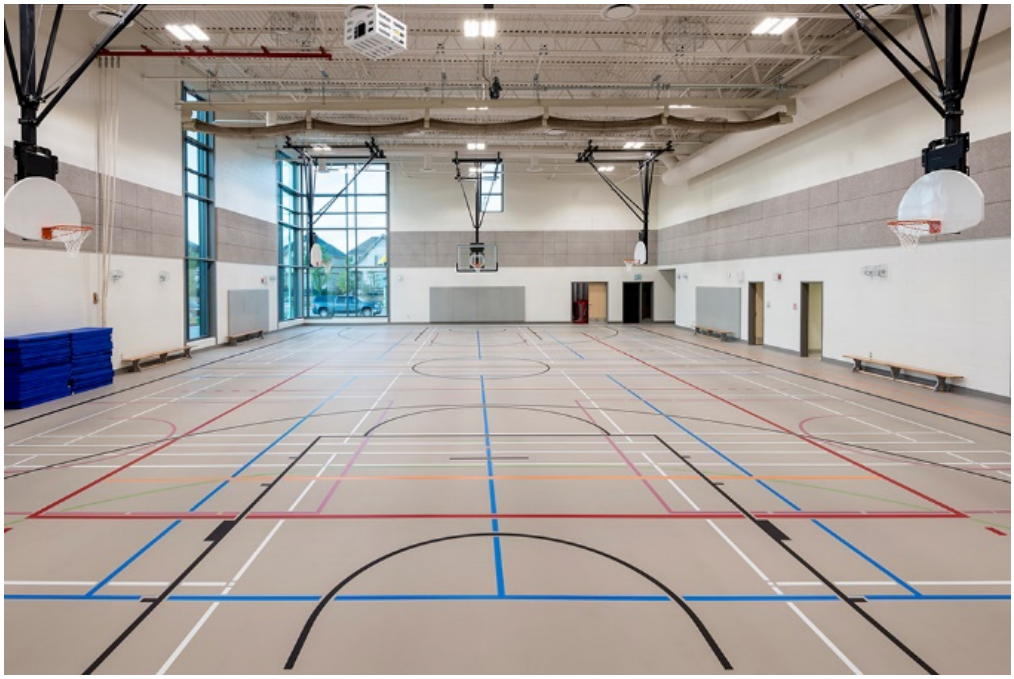
Creativity/Technology/ “Making”



One of the priorities at ÉSCS is to encourage and develop students’ creativity. On any given day, you will see students demonstrate their creativity in various ways including writing, various projects, music, the arts, etc… You will also see students working with various hands-on “tech” activities including, coding, programming robots such as Ollie, Spheros, Dash & Dot, Bee-Bots, Circuits, etc... Students also have access to laptops and iPads with various apps that let them get very creative. Students are able to use the Green Screen in the Media Room (in the Second Floor Learning Commons) where they can record videos using iPads, various cameras, various specialized microphones, and other equipment. Students also show their creativity with other “non-tech” hands on activities such as Lego, K’nex kits, Rigamajig (large wooden blocks), KEVA Planks, Magformers, etc… In addition, we also offer school-wide projects where students have the opportunity to showcase their creativity (concerts, LipDup, etc…)

Each classroom and learning commons is equipped with an interactive projector, ceiling mounted speakers and an entire wall that can be used as a whiteboard. Students and staff can interact with their computers by simply using their finger on the whiteboard.

Modern Physical Education Facilities



Embracing the idea of physical activity at École Sage Creek School goes beyond learning how to play volleyball, basketball and other traditional sports. All students have access to state of the art equipment in the form of rowing machines, stationary bikes and free weights in a fitness studio adjacent to the main gymnasium. Large windows welcome in natural light and a provide a greater sense of connection to the community beyond. Wireless microphones for the Physical Education staff and a large projector and screen support students' experiences in activities like dance and yoga.

Furniture

"Adaptability" is a key word to describe the furniture throughout the school. Every classroom has an assortment of table and chair types, sizes and heights so that students have options when they are doing their work either individually or in groups. A variety of seating options, that may include chairs that rock or stools that wobble, are available to all students who have a need for movement when they are attending to tasks. In each of the neighbourhood common areas, as well as the large common area adjacent to the main office, there is specialized seating which includes couches, sectional soft-seating that can be pushed together or pulled apart according to need, as well as ergonomically shaped hard plastic stools. Add in tables that have white board tops so that students and staff can plan projects, work on math concepts, brainstorm, or complete graphic organizers , and there is sure to be a lot of engagement throughout the day!

Fossil Wall

On the southern exterior gym wall of the school, facing Sage Creek Boulevard, there is a wall of tyndall stone which contains a very large concentration of fossils, including gastropods, brachiopods, cephalopods, trilobites, corals and stromatoporoids. The wall has provided a meeting point to discuss, explore and learn about curriculum connections, especially in Science and Social Studies.

Specialized Glass

École Sage Creek School is full of windows which allow an abundance of natural light to enter classrooms and common spaces throughout the school. With this much glass, a concern for the safety of birds is a primary concern. To help reduce the number of birds tricked by the reflection of the sky in the glass windows, small dots, in regular patterns, were added to the glass in some of the main areas of the school. This "bird" glass has been very successful in reducing the number of birds that might be injured flying into the windows.

Design is thinking…made visual.

Saul Bass

Connection to Outdoors

With so much glass, there is an obvious visual connection to the outdoors. The landscaping that surrounds the school is meant to entice learning outside the building and the gardens are reflective of the plant-named wings and murals in each neighbourhood in the school. Access to trails that wind through naturalized tall grass prairie, as well as play structure and meeting circle elements that are made from logs and stone, make learning in any curricular area exciting and valuable for establishing robust connections to nature.

Some of the pictures included in this program are provided courtesy of Bockstael and were photographed by Joel Ross.

École Sage Creek School

315, boulevard Sage Creek Boulevard

Winnipeg, Manitoba

R3X 0G4