

English Montreal School Board proud of its success rate

With a youth and adult sector population of more than 44,000 students, the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) is the largest English public school board in Quebec. The network consists of 35 elementary, 16 secondary, eight alternative and seven social affairs schools, as well as 10 adult and vocational centres.

The EMSB is very proud to boast one of the strongest success rates of any public school board in Quebec at 88.6 per cent. "The student success rate, in terms of certification or qualification, remains for us an important factor," says EMSB chair Angela Mancini. "Measures adopted over the last number of years, aimed at a recurring increase in student success rates, have produced significant positive results."

Learning and understanding French goes hand in hand with the EMSB's mission. In order to guarantee that students receive comprehensive French education, the EMSB offers excellent programs in which students graduate as bilingual and biliterate. Students at the elementary level are eligible for free transportation to the school closest to their home offering the French program of their choice.



Students and staff at Elizabeth Ballantyne Elementary School in Montreal West enjoy some matzah during a Passover activity.

When it comes to high school, there are a wide variety of choices based on the particular student's needs, including enriched CEGEP preparatory programs offering advanced mathematics and advanced placement, the International Baccalaureate program, music and fine arts concentrations and sports-études.

For students with special needs, the EMSB follows a special education policy in which its objective is to provide and organize educational services – whether the students have physical handicaps, social maladjustments or learning disabilities

– with the hope of integrating them into regular classroom settings. The EMSB produces *Inspirations* (inspirationsnews.com), a much-praised special needs publication that is distributed twice annually across the Greater Montreal, Laval and South Shore areas.

The alternative Outreach High School is designed to provide an opportunity for students who have left school before graduation to return to a different educational setting. It is set up in a way that students can continue their studies in a less formal atmosphere. Some programs will lead to

sufficient credits for a high school leaving certificate, while others will permit the student to return to a regular high school setting. In some cases, the student will be prepared for entering the labour market.

In the adult sector, the EMSB offers a variety of excellent vocational options, from cooking, auto mechanics and hairdressing to cabinetmaking, computers, business and travel courses.

The EMSB is very active on social media and can be found on Facebook, Twitter, Vimeo and YouTube.

At the EMSB, the PELO (*Programme d'enseignement des langues d'origine*, or heritage language program) for Hebrew is offered at three elementary schools: Royal Vale in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (NDG), Merton in Côte-St-Luc and Gardenview in St-Laurent. The Free Hebrew for Juniors after-school program is offered at six elementary schools for kids aged three to 13: Edinburgh and Elizabeth Ballantyne in Montreal West, Hampstead, Willington and Mackay Centre in NDG, and Parkdale in St-Laurent. ■

For a complete listing of EMSB elementary and high school open houses, visit emsb.qc.ca.