SCHOOL: Island ConnectEd (K-12)

YEAR: 2024/25

PRINCIPAL: Justin Mark

OUR SCHOOL

Island ConnectEd K-12 is a District Online Learning School serving students within NLPS.

We provide the ability to support students that require a flexible educational model in some cases to supporttheir athletic or professional pursuits. (actors, athletes, students with medical challenges, students
pursuing career technical center programs.

K-12 school with targeted programs for K-7, 8-9, 10-12 full time and dual enrolled and graduated
and non-graduated adults.
Supporting students with diverse learning needs (including anxiety, neuro-diversity, gifted designations) who seek the flexibility of online curriculum delivery which enables them to learn at
anytime at any place
To increase K-12 academic engagement within our learning community.

OUR SCHOOL GOALS

Truth and Reconciliation

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To make our school more welcoming to indigenous students.

Student Success

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To increase student engagement for our full time grade 10-12 students.

Student and Employee Wellness

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To continue our Thursday clubs days and various in-person community and staff events.

OUR CELEBRATION STORY

K-7 Student

Many families are interested in a learning model that is more flexible than a traditional classroom. One such family joined Island ConnectEd in 2022/2023 following multiple years of their child experiencing limited academic engagement due to isolation and anxiety. With the support of our teaching team, the student engaged meaningfully at their own pace as the family was provided flexibility and control over the pace of course materials. Throughout the year, the student developed missing skills through home learning opportunities and branched out to discover new passions, such as 3D printing through our club day activities here on site. Friday floor hockey allowed them to make meaningful social connections which grew into friendships. The growth and change our teaching team saw in this student throughout the year exemplifies the type of individualized support and pacing we strive to offer students through our blended K-7 program.

8-9 Student

The transition to high school can be an overwhelming change, especially for neurodivergent students and those who struggle with anxiety. One particular student joined our Grade 8/9 program because of the smaller, quieter classroom and the more flexible learning schedule. Initially the student expressed their anxiety by hiding from staff and students in various places throughout the building, they slowly built up their confidence and connections. The selective mutism that prevented them from engaging teachers and peers faded as they became a part of the school community. Years later, they graduated and are now attending university.

10-12 Student

Many students struggle to fit in or feel seen in large high schools with unpredictable social environments and multiple daily disruptions such as school bells, classroom changes, and unstructured breaks like lunchtime. A student who was struggling while working through their journey of gender transition came to Island ConnectEd after a series of serious bullying incidents left them feeling unsafe at their catchment school. By connecting with our staff, as well as other students who identified as non-binary or trans, this student found a safe, supportive community in which they could be themselves. In particular, they appreciated being able to complete their Physical Health & Education credit in a non-gendered space. Following a year of online learning, this student successfully returned to their brick-and-mortar school with a renewed sense of confidence.

Adult Learners

At Island ConnectEd, success in learning is achievable at any age. In one particular instance, our teaching team celebrated alongside a father and son who graduated together in the same year. Inspired by his son's academic pursuits, the father felt comfortable working toward his Adult Dogwood diploma in a school environment that he found both supportive and non-judgemental. The flexibility of our online learning model allowed him to progress and complete his courses around the demands of family life and full-time work. Without the rigid schedule restrictions and considerable fees of other adult education programs, our free accredited program is a great fit for adult learners to pursue their academic goals independently.

Dual Enrolled Students

Island ConnectEd serves many students in other schools within the district. Scheduling issues, illness, or other factors may motivate enrollment in online courses. One student chose to complete their Career Life Education 10 course online because of scheduling difficulties and at first struggled with the self-paced nature of the course. However, with support from our on-site Computer Tutors (CTs) and teaching staff in the Island ConnectEd computer lab embedded in their home school, they successfully completed the course. In doing so, they also gained valuable skills in how to learn independently. Since then, they have enrolled in and completed multiple online courses through Island ConnectEd, embracing the challenge and benefit of both