



School: Samuel Robertson Technical Secondary  
Principal: Ken Elphick  
Director/Assistant Superintendent: Ken Cober

## A. Goal (One goal per page)

Goal: SEL (Culture and Climate)

SRT will strive to find creative ways to build community in this unique year when traditional methods of community-building are no longer possible.

## B. Rationale

Students, teachers, support staff, and families thrive best when they know they belong to a community where they feel welcome, safe, and free to share their big ideas and, when necessary, their concerns. During this challenging year, our traditional ways of building community are no longer available to us: parent meetings, assemblies, dances, school clubs, and teams, staff meetings, student-led conferences, department meetings, Christmas parties, grad barbecues, etc. This year, we need to find new ways to build community because in this time of incredible isolation it is more important than ever for people to belong to something and to know that their community cares.

## C. Action Plan (List specific actions, school level and district level resources or structures used)

Our plan is to increase our capacity to build community virtually, as well as to organize a large number of safe gatherings to allow students to connect. On the virtual front, we are boosting our use of Microsoft Teams to create opportunities for staff to share ideas through channels and for students to interact regularly and safely with their classmates and teachers. We have also planned virtual staff and student events throughout the school year, like Grade 8 Pod Challenges, grade and grad assemblies via Zoom, and special ways to celebrate monthly. Our graduating students will be able to share their digital Capstone portfolios with each other and our community online. Smaller in-person events are also being planned. Our school has found safe ways to open the cafeteria, store, library, and computer labs. We plan to run intramural activities for cohorts and our student leadership team has created scavenger hunts that are COVID-19 friendly. We have safely opened our Epic program for food and for group counselling sessions. We will continue scheduled meetings with our "new to SRT" grade 9 to 12 students in order to help them connect. We have started a regularly scheduled staff book club and we have implemented coffee and scones on Wednesdays for staff. We plan to do grad barbecues in cohort groups and celebrate each grade through similar in-person events. We also have successfully promoted staff participation in district-led assessment and inquiry groups, which allows them to connect and share with colleagues outside of the school. We have committed to regularly sending newsletters to our parent community to keep them informed about school events. Finally, our administrative and counselling team, along with a group of students representing different grades, are committed to meeting regularly to plan better ways to connect the SRT community.

## D. Evidence / Data (How will you measure success?)

There are both qualitative and quantitative ways to assess the success of our plan. Significant increases in traffic on Microsoft Teams, on our social media platforms and on the school's app will indicate engagement in our community efforts. We'll be keeping track of how many students sign up for different activities and we'll be using the information to assist us in planning future activities. In addition, we'll be monitoring the work habits that our students receive on report cards as they can indicate commitment and connection to classroom activities. Both office referrals and attendance will be analyzed throughout the year for trends as they may give us insights into how students are feeling about their classes and their classmates.

Qualitatively, we'll be seeking regular feedback from our counsellors, youth-care worker, Aboriginal support worker, EAs and teaching staff regarding whether students and staff are feeling connected to our community. Finally, we'll also be meeting regularly with our student advisory group for feedback and ideas.

Principal:

Superintendent:

Board Chairperson:

Date: