

Secondary Education in New Brunswick¹

In 1995, New Brunswick embarked on a new organization for high school education that focusses on a four-year programme called the High School Programme.

It will be important for readers to realize that a phase-in approach is being taken, so that new programmes will not be fully in place until 2001.

Meaning of Specific Terms

Public education in New Brunswick is divided into:

Primary/elementary: Grades K - 5

Middle School: Grades 6 - 8

High School (secondary): Grades 9 - 12

Academic Calendar

School programmes and activities are organized on a one-year basis with the school year extending from after Labour Day through mid-June. The year consists of 195 days for teachers and 187 for students divided into two semesters. Hours of instruction are a minimum of five and one-half hours per day.

Curriculum Organization

The high school experience will normally be of four years duration including Grades 9-12. Grades 9/10 offer an opportunity for consolidation of, and growth in, necessary skills and knowledge across a broad common curriculum. Grades 9/10 have a broad common outcome-directed curriculum. Through 10 subject areas grouped in four categories, students are expected to achieve a level of knowledge to prepare them for Grades 11/12 and to develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes in the area of aesthetic expression, citizenship, communication, personal development, problem-solving, and technological competence, developed collaboratively by the four Atlantic Provinces.

The Grades 11/12 programme leads to a New Brunswick High School Diploma. There are compulsory courses and an opportunity for students to choose electives that reflect personal interests, post-secondary intentions and career aspirations.

The common core curriculum for the Foundation Programme has four components: Languages and Humanities (English, French, and Social Studies); Mathematics, Science, Technology; Fine Arts (Visual Arts, Music); Life role development (Physical Education, Career and Life Management).

¹ Adapted from *Secondary Education in Canada: A Student Transfer Guide*. 7th ed. Toronto: Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, 1998. Available: <http://www.cmec.ca/tguide/1998/english/index.stm>

Credit Requirements

In Grades 9/10, schools may organize differently to meet the outcomes and course requirements. English and Mathematics are taught throughout the year while other areas may be semestered, or blocked, over a period of time. Students work towards achieving the outcomes using time as necessary.

In Grades 11 and 12 a credit is granted for successful completion of work (50% is the passing mark) that should normally require 110 hours of instructional time.

The opportunities for students to challenge for credit (up to 2 challenges allowed in Grades 11, 12) and to take independent study (one independent study allowed in Grade 11,12) are exceptions to the normal time allotment.

Requirements for Graduation

Grades 11/12 are designed to allow considerable flexibility for students with a variety of skills, abilities, and needs. To be awarded the New Brunswick High School Diploma, students must successfully pass 14 courses, including seven compulsory courses, of which four must be at the Grade 12 level. The student course load is eight courses a year.

The following list constitutes the compulsory subjects for the Graduation Programme: English 111, 112, 113(one of); English 121, 122, 123(one of); Math 111, 112, 113(one of); Math 121, 122, 123(one of); Science (one course) from any Physics, Biology, Chemistry or Environmental Science course, or Control Technology 120, Engine Electrical Systems 120, Micro Electronics 120, Introduction Electronics 110, and Physical Geography 110; Modern History 111, 112, 113(one of); one from Fine Arts/Life Role Development cluster. In addition to the above course requirements, students must pass the Middle Level Language Arts Assessment and the Computer Literacy Skills Checklist.

Examinations and Grading Practices

Testing, assessment and grading are the responsibility of the school in all areas of the High School Programme. However, there are provincial examinations in Mathematics and English in Grade 11, which count for 30% of the student's mark. Students who may fail the Middle Level Language Arts Assessment in Grade 8 are offered further opportunities in Grades 10, 11, and 12. Passing this assessment is required for high school graduation. In addition, students must pass a Computer Literacy Skills Checklist prior to graduation.

For Further Information

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RCS Netherwood
“A Sound Mind in a Sound Body”

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Telephone: (506) 847-8224; Fax: (506) 847-9101
WWW: <http://www.rcsn.nb.ca/>
E-mail: headmaster@rcsn.nb.ca
Type of School: Independent coeducational university preparatory
Religious Affiliation: Anglican Church of Canada
Grades: Middle School, 6-9
Senior School, 10-12 plus AP¹
Boarding Grades: 7-12
Application Deadline: Open
Scholarship Exams: February

Location

RCS Netherwood is set on a 160 acre campus overlooking the beautiful Kennebecasis River. The School is located in the small town of Rothesay (population 1,695) and is some nine miles (15 kms) from Saint John (population 72,494). Its location permits the School to offer numerous outdoor activities--both on land and water and the proximity to Saint John allows students easy access to libraries, symphony concerts, dramatic and musical productions, dance recitals and cinemas.

History

RCS Netherwood is the product of the decision in June 1984 of Rothesay Collegiate School (RCS) to become fully co-educational. Since 1971, RCS and Netherwood schools had been in academic affiliation (classes being co-educational), and when the new school opened, the Netherwood School (and campus) closed its doors permanently.

RCS Netherwood is now the only boarding school in New Brunswick.

Its individual components date back to the nineteenth century. Rothesay Collegiate School was founded in 1877 by William Thompson, who early on established close connections between his new school and the Anglican Church. As well, Thompson's determination to prepare boys for admission to the Royal Military College, Kingston began a military tradition which endured for many years through the cadet corps. Netherwood, the girls' school, was founded in Rothesay in 1894 by Miss Mary L. Gregory (who left for Japan within a year as the new bride of one of the masters of Rothesay). The real character of the School was provided by a later proprietress, Miss Susan Ganong, who increased the School's emphasis on academic excellence, and on the teaching of French as a means to open up understanding between Canada's two

¹See Appendix IV.

founding peoples.

In more recent years, under the leadership of its current Headmaster, RCS Netherwood has renovated existing buildings and added new ones in its drive to modernize. Improvements are symbolized by the move towards what the School calls the “The Millennial Campus” which reflects the increasing availability of relatively inexpensive technology that can assist the educational process, from the teacher's, student's and administrator's perspective. The trend started in 1992 when the School's Parent Guild donated a 386 computer with CD-ROM to the library, and it sped up to the point now that RCS Netherwood has one of the most advanced technological infrastructures in the country. In the School, teachers have undergone extensive training in the use of laptops in the classroom and on several occasions the School has hosted conferences for New Brunswick teachers on the use of technology in the classroom. The new technology helps reinforce the ongoing personal interaction between staff and students which is a hallmark of RCS Netherwood.

Today, RCS Netherwood is governed by an independent board and is a member of the Canadian Association of Independent Schools², the Conference of Independent Schools, the Atlantic Conference of Independent Schools and the Canadian Educational Standards Institute. In 1991, RCS Netherwood became the first school outside Ontario to be fully accredited by the Canadian Educational Standards Institute³; its academic programme is also accredited by the New Brunswick Department of Education. Normally, 99% of the School's graduates proceed to post-secondary education in New Brunswick as well as in other Canadian provinces and abroad.

Philosophy

RCS-Netherwood is committed to the principles of independent education. These include: an academic curricular programme geared towards excellence, and developing university entrance skills, a controlled, disciplined environment for learning; access to greater attention for both the gifted student and the under-achiever; co-curricular programmes of sport and activities based on participation, and directed toward lifetime skills; a broader social development aspect than that provided by the public system giving rise to individual strength of character and purpose.

Campus

The large campus contains six playing fields, two tennis courts, a 340 meter track, as well as numerous trails for horseback riding and cross country-skiing. Swimming is available in Saint John. Buildings on campus include: the Alumni Memorial (indoor) Arena, refurbished in 1996; the Irving Gymnasium, opened in 1996; squash courts; South House which contains the

²See Appendix III.

³See Appendix IV.

administrative block, the infirmary, and some teachers' residences; the Chapel and the Dining Building (erected in 1922 as a memorial to the Old Boys who lost their lives in the First World War); the School House, containing classrooms and a new 200-seat Performing Arts Centre (named after Dr. Susan B. Ganong); and Hibbard House, holding biology, chemistry, physics and a computer lab. In August 1998, the School erected three new faculty houses made necessary by the growing size of its staff as well as school policy that all faculty live on site. In addition, there are three student residences.

Boarding Facilities

At RCS-Netherwood, the residences can accommodate 100 students.

North House, the Middle boys residence, comfortably holds 14; MacKay House, the Senior boys residence, houses 42 seniors; and Quinn House, newly renovated in 1997 to include hardwood floors, a Jacuzzi and a kitchen can be home to 44 girls.

In residence, students must supply towels, wash cloths and toiletries. All else is provided, including laundry facilities. Dry cleaning is provided by a local laundry service.

Boarders are not permitted to bring their cars to school.

Residences are under the supervision of teachers who live-in. In addition, all students, boarding and day, belong to a House headed by a houseparent. These men and women act *in loco parentis* to the students in their charge, providing direction, guidance and encouragement throughout the school year.

Each day, the whole school—students, teachers and staff—enjoy a sit-down meal in the School Dining Building where boarders also eat their breakfast and lunch. Meals are prepared by a qualified chef on the advice of several dieticians, and students with special dietary requirements can be accommodated.

Health and Safety

The School has an infirmary on the premises as well as a registered nurse on the premises at all times; a doctor is on call in Rothesay. Students also have access to qualified health sciences personnel and modern facilities in Saint John.

There is a security firm which patrols the grounds each night and recently, campus safety has been enhanced by the decision to build a ring road to keep traffic out of campus core. The replacement of the old roads with pedestrian walkways, and new green areas, as well as the planting of 200 additional trees and shrubs has made the School's setting not only more safe but more attractive.

Administration and Faculty

Since 1987, the Headmaster has been Mr. Paul Kitchen, B.P.H.E., B.Ed. (University of Toronto). Mr. Kitchen has spent his life in boarding schools. Between 1965-70, he attended St. Andrew's College as a boarder; after he earned his degrees, he became the athletic director of Ridley College (1975-1981), and between 1981 and 1987, immediately before coming to RCS Netherwood, Mr. Kitchen was a house Parent and teacher at St. Andrew's.

In addition to his drive to modernize the School, Mr. Kitchen has paid particular attention to the quality of his teaching staff. In selecting instructors, he looks for those who possess superior teaching ability and both competence in and dedication to their subject area. Love of young people is of paramount importance together with the ability to fit into a varied school environment. As well, he looks for their enthusiastic participation in activities and the values they demonstrate in their personal lives.

In 1998/99, including Mr. Kitchen, the RCS-Netherwood faculty consisted of 23 full-time staff, all of whom are well qualified in the fields in which they teach. Four hold a Master's degree; one an LLD; and one is an Anglican priest. All full-time staff and their families live on campus.

Student Body and Student Dress

In 1998/99, 199 students were enrolled in RCS-Netherwood. Of this number 99 were day students and the remainder, 100 residential. Of the 199, there were 107 boys and 92 girls. The residences were full. Residents come primarily from the Maritimes, but as in the past, the School attracts boarders from Quebec and Ontario, as well as numerous foreign countries.

There is a school uniform. There is a Number 1 uniform to be worn Fridays, on formal school occasions and when representing the School. For boys the uniform is a navy blazer with school crest, white shirt, school tie, grey flannels, navy blue or black socks, and black polished dress shoes; for girls, a hunter green tunic and blazer with school crest, white long-sleeved blouse, school tie, green knee-highs or leotards, matching knee socks and brown polished dress shoes. On more informal occasions, boys may wear the school sweater in lieu of the blazer and blue shirt in lieu of white; girls may also wear the sweater in lieu of the blazer or a black watch kilt in lieu of the tunic.

Academic Calendar and Programme

The academic year is divided into fall, winter and summer terms with breaks at Christmas and in March and all students are required to leave campus during those times.

During the school week, residents normally observe the following schedule:

7:00 a.m.-7:15 a.m.	Rising
7:20 a.m.-7:50 a.m.	Breakfast
8:00 a.m.	Room inspection
8:20 a.m.-8:35 a.m.	Chapel
8:40 a.m.-9:30 a.m.	Period 1
9:35 a.m.-10:25 a.m.	Period 2
10:25 a.m.-10:40 a.m.	Advisor period
10:40 a.m.-10:55 a.m.	Break
10:55 a.m.-11:45 a.m.	Period 3
11:50 a.m.-12:40 p.m.	Period 4
12:45 p.m.-1:15 p.m.	Lunch

1:40 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	Period 5
2:35 p.m.-3:25 p.m.	Period 6
3:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	Extra help / Supervised study
4:15 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	Sports and activities
6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.	Evening meal
7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.	Study
9:00 p.m.	Grades 7 and 8 in the house
9:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.	Free time / Out of house (Grades 9-12)
9:30 p.m.	Lights out for Grades 7-8
10:00 p.m.	Grades 9-12 in the house
10:30 p.m.	Lights out for Grade 9
11:00 p.m.	Lights out for grades 10-12

At RCS-Netherwood, the curriculum is designed to favour the traditional values of a sound basic education. Remedial reading and writing programmes are available, as are courses in English as a Second Language.

The study of French is compulsory from Grades 7 to 11. The programme can challenge the immersion student in advanced courses at every level. There are also core courses for students less familiar with the language.

Middle School

In Grades 6-9 the curriculum includes: English-Social Studies, Mathematics-Science, Art, Music, French and Information Technology and in Grade 9, Maritime Studies or Ancient and Medieval History.

In Middle School, the teaching is aimed at urging students to be individually and actively involved in their learning. Every attempt is made to make the development of critical thinking and communication skills a high priority. One particular feature of the curriculum is the “Fluid Block”, which is an extended period in which the teacher manages the instruction of two or more subjects, allowing for greater integration of theme. The Grade 6 class has a Fluid Block of English-Social Studies-Mathematics-Science.

The Middle School celebrates learning by hosting a Science Fair, a Social Studies Fair and a Spring Art Show.

Senior School

In Grades 10-12, the curriculum includes: English; French; Art, Media Studies, Music, Theatre Art; Social Studies, Economics, Geography, History, Law; Mathematics; Information Technology; Biology, Chemistry, Physics; and Physical Education.

The School also offers Advanced Placement courses in the following subjects: Art, Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, Computer Science, Economics, English, Music, Physics and French.

The Senior School provides a challenging academic programme aimed at stimulating intellectual curiosity and independent judgement as preparation for a post-secondary career.

At RCS Netherwood, the teacher-student ratio is 1 to 8, among the lowest in the country.

Study skills are taught within the context of the subject area. Directed notebook analysis, mapping, Cornell note-taking, examination preparation and test-taking skills enable students to manage the challenging curriculum.

Each year, students take formal exams in December and June. Continuous evaluation also takes place throughout each term generating reports on student's progress and effort at mid-term and at the end of term. These reports are sent to parents at the end of each term and before the fall mid-term break. Tri-weekly reports are sent out to parents in Grades 6 through 10. Since all faculty live in the residences or on campus, they are therefore available for extra help.

Information Technology

The School's RCSNet connects computers from every residence room, every staff desk, every classroom and every academic area on campus, as well as students' desks at home via modems. The conference room, the new theatre, and all classrooms have been wired to accommodate a full class complement of laptop computers. The present library and one other classroom are supplied with sufficient drops for a "mini lab".

The difficulty was finding the computers for the students to use. One possibility was to purchase additional desktop machines and fill the labs that classes could swap in and out of - this would require each student to purchase their own machine for their desk at home (otherwise they have to stay at school to work) or in the residences (students' assignments would change to require the use of computers in the evenings if the staff were using them effectively during the day). The School could not afford to maintain several computer labs to meet student (or staff) demand. As well, the added inconvenience of scheduling would reduce the effectiveness of curricular integration.

In the fall of 1998, the solution the School decided upon was to require each student (presently only those in the Senior School, but the future indicates this will quickly spread down to Grade 6) to purchase (or acquire through a leasing programme) a laptop that will be used in class and at home. The laptop programme alleviates several problems: the staff are now be able to incorporate changes to the curriculum that information technology allows, the students will utilize these skills to facilitate their learning and the staff and students will make full use of the information found on both the School's network and the Internet.

Student Activities and Student Conduct

Daily nondenominational chapel service is compulsory for all students.

Each student is also required to participate in a daily sports activity either as a member of a school team or in the multi-sport programme. This programme is designed to promote an interest in physical fitness, to teach the basic skills and rules of a number of games and to instill a sense of fair play and sportsmanship. Periodic interhouse competitions among the four houses foster school spirit.

The School also participates in interscholastic leagues according to the following schedule: In the fall, the School fields teams in the following sports: cross country running, rowing, soccer and tennis; in the winter: badminton, basketball, hockey, and in the spring:

rowing, rugby, tennis track and field and volleyball. The School's highly competitive interscholastic teams, named the River Hawks since 1994/95, have won a number of provincial and league awards and compete regularly with local public schools as well as other independent schools.

Each November, one week is set aside to allow students to travel and be educated outside the classroom. In the past, "Expansion Week" activities have included visits to the Îles de la Madeleine by the Grade 7 class, leadership training for the Grade 8 class, a visit to the Huntsman Marine Laboratory by the Grade 9 class, Stratford for the Grade 10 class, further leadership training in Nova Scotia for the Grade 11 class, and a hiking trip on Mount Washington for the Grade 12 class.

During the winter and spring, students are required to participate in a school activity on Saturday mornings. The activities vary each year according to student interest, but in the past popular ones have included: yearbook, photography, choir, art, cooking, skiing, ballet, tennis, drama and scuba diving. Students may also work to earn their Duke of Edinburgh's Award⁴.

Traditional events at the School include a visit of the entire school to New River Beach and a weekend at Camp Glenburn both during the first month to contribute to school spirit. Throughout the year other special events take place such as: the Annual Fete for charity, the Christmas Carol Service, Christmas dinner, Spirit Week and the Closing Ceremonies, held on the lawns of the School.

RCS Netherwood puts great priority on developing leadership skills of its students. The prefecture programme is designed to challenge each Grade 12 student to choose an area of responsibility, such as sports, graphic design, the environment, the theatre or the chapel. Each prefecture is an appointment of the Headmaster. While there is a staff advisor for support, the success of a prefecture is entirely in the hands of the student. In Grade 9, students may take a leadership role by assuming a stewardship.

During the week, only grade 12 prefects may obtain leave and only after meeting their responsibilities; week-end leaves are granted to every boarder so long as parents have given prior consent.

While the School sponsors chapel service on Sundays, students have the option of attending other services in the area on Sunday mornings.

Upon admission to the School, students are provided with the rules and regulations that they must observe. These include a prohibition on smoking, drugs and alcohol. All rules are included in the school calendar and agenda books.

Admission and Costs

RCS-Netherwood seeks young people eager for the opportunity to grow and develop to their maximum potential regardless of race or religious persuasion. When applying, report cards from previous schools must be submitted. Each candidate for admission must also supply a medical report, and a reference from a previous school principal.

Candidates for admission may be asked to write an entrance exam. Whenever possible, a

⁴See Appendix VI.

personal interview will be arranged.

An application fee of \$100 is required.

In 1999/00 boarders pay \$19,700, day students \$9,900.

Cash discounts are available as are discounts for families.

Parents of boarders are required to deposit \$500 at the beginning of the first term and \$250 at the beginning of the second and third terms to help off set the additional costs of books, sports equipment, clothing, social activities, pocket money and other incidentals that occur during a term. Credits are brought forward and shown on subsequent statements.

Before starting classes, students have the option of purchasing a laptop to school specifications (c. \$3,000) or of renting one from the school (c. \$100 monthly).

There are a limited number of scholarships and bursaries for deserving students.

For Further Information

Contact: The Admissions Office