

The **W5s**

Manitoba School for the Deaf

Resource Team

The Manitoba School for the Deaf (MSD) is your one-stop shop for resource services! Our team of specialists works collaboratively to meet the needs of every student. The team meets on a bi-weekly basis to share information and plan the best overall path for your child.

At MSD, your child will have access to all educational resource services in the same location and can be seen by our resource specialists any time during school hours. In addition, parents are able to make appointments to meet with any member of our team. We are one phone call away if you have questions or require information about your child.



American Sign Language (ASL)

Who?

ASL Support Teacher:
Sarah Rabu, B.Ed., M.Ed. student
Email: srabu@msd.ca

What?

The ASL Support Teacher works collaboratively with the school's language and resource teams. In addition to classroom support, the ASL Support Teacher provides direct service in individual or small-group sessions. This allows for

- assessment and evaluation of each student's ASL skill level
- focus on individual goals regarding the development of ASL
- knowledge and awareness of Deaf culture

The ASL Support Teacher also serves as a valuable resource to staff members and families.

When?

The ASL Support Teacher is available to be seen throughout the school year by all students enrolled at MSD. An ASL screening is scheduled in September/October for all Junior Kindergarten students and any other

students who are new to MSD. Annual ASL assessments for students in bimodal bilingual classrooms are scheduled in May/June during school hours, in collaboration with the classroom teacher.

ASL Literature (ex: ASL Poetry, storytelling, tales and legends) is celebrated and shared during a special focus week in October. ASL Arts is taught throughout the school year.

Where?

All diagnostic and ASL sessions/services are provided in the MSD language lab (for individual sessions) and the ASL/common room (for group sessions). The ASL Support Teacher is available to support students in both the bimodal bilingual and ASL classrooms.

Why?

MSD is the only ASL educational milieu in Manitoba. ASL enables and empowers students to communicate with each other and to understand conversations. Students enrolled at MSD gain a sense of belonging because they share experiences and the same language with other students. They develop life-long friendships that extend beyond the school environment to the outside world.

They are able to become aware of, learn about, and eventually internalize Deaf culture because they are provided with numerous Deaf role models in the school. In addition, they are provided with opportunities to make connections in the Deaf community, which can last a lifetime. Teachers have easy access to the ASL Support Teacher for questions regarding ASL and Deaf culture support.



ASL/Deaf Culture/Public Relations

Who?

ASL/Deaf Culture Support Worker:
Mar Koskie, Diploma of Human Services
Email: mkoskie@msd.ca

What?

The role of the ASL/Deaf Culture Support Worker is multi-faceted. Among the services provided are

- advice and support for students regarding life skills and individual experiences
- communication support for students who struggle with language skill development
- development of independent living skills for students (ex: waking up, using city transit)
- guidance and social/emotional support for students during school-level transition times and during the transition from school to post-secondary education or to the workforce (career exploration)
- tours for individuals/groups interested in learning about MSD, or for parents who are considering MSD as a school for their child
- video pal relationships between students at MSD and students who attend regular schools throughout the province by means of distance video technology
- in-service presentations on topics such as ASL, Deaf culture and ASL/English Interpreters
- facilitating ASL classes that are offered to the public in northern, southern, eastern and western locations in the city of Winnipeg

When?

The ASL/Deaf Culture worker has an open-door policy for students seeking advice or information during the school day. Some students may be scheduled to be seen on a daily, bi-weekly or weekly basis, depending on individual needs.

School tours and consultations with school staff members may be requested by completing a "Visit Request Form", indicating potential visiting dates. In some cases, parents can request that their child make regular visits to a classroom at MSD if this is deemed beneficial by the student's parents, home school team and the MSD school team.

Where?

The ASL/Deaf Culture Support Worker has an office on the 2nd floor of the school (Room 274). Students are also supported off-site in work experience settings.

Why?

MSD is similar to other schools and only differs in that it provides access to an ASL learning environment that is influenced by Deaf culture. Access to a supportive adult Deaf role model is invaluable to students as they learn about themselves, their families and the world in general. Those who are involved and interested in MSD need to receive current and accurate information about the role of ASL and Deaf culture in the lives of Deaf children. The importance of ASL and Deaf culture is reinforced daily by the ASL/Deaf Culture Support Worker.

Audiology

Who?

Educational Audiologist:
Lisa Dessens, R.Aud., M.Sc.
Email: ldessens@msd.ca
Telephone: 204-945-8937

What?

The Educational Audiologist documents the hearing status of students and makes recommendations for hearing instruments and assistive technologies that can support the student in the classroom and at home. Services available include

- assessments of hearing status and speech perception
- hearing aid fitting and programming
- management of FM systems
- recommendations for assistive devices
- ear-mould impressions
- referrals for medical follow-up
- documentation of hearing loss for outside agencies
- auditory training
- consultation regarding cochlear implants

When?

All students enrolled at MSD can be seen by the Educational Audiologist throughout the school year. Annual and biannual assessments are scheduled during school hours in collaboration with the classroom teacher. Individual appointments with students and their parents are made as required.



Where?

All diagnostic and hearing aid fitting services are provided in the MSD Audiology office, which houses a full-size testing booth. The Educational Audiologist is available to troubleshoot problems with hearing aids and FM systems in the classroom, and to work with teachers to maximize the benefits of amplification devices.

Why?

It is important that students who benefit from any form of amplification receive the ongoing services of an Educational Audiologist. MSD is fortunate to have these services available on-site from someone who is bilingual and can communicate in ASL or spoken English. Teachers have easy access to the audiologist to ask questions regarding hearing status and hearing technology support. Parents do not have to wait for appointments or take time off work for audiological follow-up.

Reading

Who?

Reading Clinician: Barb Garrioch, M.Ed.
Email: bgarrioch@msd.ca
Telephone: 204-945-8934

What?

The Reading Clinician is a specialist in the areas of literacy and learning and is certified by the Province of Manitoba as both a teacher and a reading clinician. Trained in research-based instructional strategies, the Reading Clinician, through assessment and diagnostics, aims to identify the individual learning needs of each student and make specific recommendations linked to all areas of academic instruction. The Reading Clinician also supports classroom teachers in developing programs that aim to meet the needs of diverse learners.

When?

Students at MSD have access to the services of the MSD Reading Clinician at any pre-arranged time throughout the school day. The service may be scheduled on a daily, bi-weekly, weekly or consultative basis, depending on individual needs.

Where?

The Reading Clinician provides support within classrooms or on a one-to-one basis in the MSD language lab.

Why?

Deaf students have difficulty learning to read because of the lack of exposure to spoken English and the difficulty decoding text, as they have not heard the language represented by the text. Strong reading skills are essential for every child in order to access information in the classroom setting as well as in environments outside the school. It is imperative that reading program goals are established for students and that reading instruction is tailored to nurture individual abilities and potential.



Social Work

Who?

Family/School Liaison Worker:
Marion Bremner, B.S.W.
Email: mbremner@msd.ca
Telephone: 204-945-4650
Cell: 204-791-1934

What?

The Family/School Liaison Worker provides social, emotional and behavioural support to students, families and school teams. Services may include

- individual counselling and support to students
- family counselling and support to parents
- referrals to community programs/agencies
- home/school collaboration
- transition planning: high school to adult program
- exploration of and, if needed, development of programs to meet the recreational needs of Deaf/hard of hearing youth
- facilitation of regular school attendance

The Family/School Liaison Worker will follow through on the multi-agency services provided to students and their families, particularly as the needs and services affect educational adjustment.

When?

All students and their families are eligible to receive support from the Family/School Liaison Worker while enrolled at MSD. The worker is available by phone/email or in person, and students can access support throughout the school year.

Where?

The Family/School Liaison Worker has an office at MSD (Room 124). Visits will be made to family homes or to offices of other agencies/programs, as scheduled or required.

Why?

The Family/School Liaison Worker offers a unique perspective and knowledge to the student's educational team, which can strengthen the home/school/community partnership. All students should have the opportunity to maximize their educational opportunities. Involvement of the Family/School Liaison Worker can assist educators in offering the most valuable, holistic and complete education to all students in order to facilitate their development as healthy, contributing members of society.

Psychology

Who?

School Psychologist: Jaga Russell, M.A.
Email: jrussell@msd.ca
Telephone: 204-945-8393

What?

The School Psychologist provides a wide range of services intended to promote the learning and development of students. Some of the core psychological services offered include

- consultation
- assessment
- direct/indirect intervention planning
- conflict mediation
- direct counselling
- behaviour program development and monitoring

Services are tailored to provide supports that are student-specific based on individual needs. The School Psychologist works in conjunction with the school, families and other individuals close to the student to provide academic, behavioural and/or social-emotional support.

When?

Your child has access to the School Psychologist's services at any pre-arranged time throughout the school day. Ongoing sessions may be scheduled as a result of recommendations for program planning.

Where?

The School Psychologist has an office at MSD (Room 120). Observations may be made in classrooms and other settings within the school.

Why?

The School Psychologist is part of a multidisciplinary team that strives to deliver services that assist students in reaching their full potential. Involvement of the School Psychologist can help students and youth succeed academically, socially and emotionally.



Speech Language Pathology

Who?

Speech Language Pathologist/Spoken Language Consultant:
Shauna Arbuckle, RSLP, M.Sc.
Email: sarbuckle@msd.ca

Speech Language Pathologist/Spoken Language Consultant:
Elaine Litvak, RSLP, (C) M.Sc.
Email: elitvak@msd.ca

Speech Language Pathologist:
Vanessa Selman, RSLP, M.S.
Email: vselman@msd.ca
Telephone: 204-945-3955

What?

Speech and Language Pathology (SLP) services at MSD include

- screenings
- diagnostic assessments
- goal development and programming for home and school
- supervision of programs delivered by the SLP educational assistant
- classroom support and consultation in the areas of speech, language and auditory skill development
- the use of current technology to develop and hone skills

When?

Students have access to SLP services at any pre-arranged time throughout the school day. Individual and group sessions are scheduled and delivered by speech-language pathologists and a fully trained SLP educational assistant, who is supervised on-site by qualified and experienced SLPs. SLP services may be scheduled daily, weekly or on a consultative basis, depending on the needs of the child.

Where?

In addition to the classroom support provided by our spoken language consultants and SLPs, individual and group sessions are scheduled in the MSD language lab and therapy rooms.

Why?

A strong foundation in language is essential to a child's academic, social and cognitive success and communication competence. At MSD, students have access to on-site SLP services that focus on promoting language abilities and developing speech intelligibility, thereby providing the tools for successful thought and learning.

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