



MENNONITE BRETHREN COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE PHOTO

# STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY

## MBCI MISSION STATEMENT FOCUSES ON TAKING CARE OF THE ENTIRE CHILD

Hannah Severa found the environment at the Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute (MBCI) to be very welcoming. A Grade 12 student at the school, she says the sense of community is very strong.

“I have friends at the school that I can relate to on a really personal basis. There are a lot of activities that we do in school together and there are things outside of our school that we can all go to,” such as Unleashed, a monthly worship night.

“There’s a lot of things within the school that I like, especially from a faith perspective. We have chapels once a cycle and there are Bible studies once a week,” she says.

MBCI is a grade 6 to 12 independent middle school and high school with a foundation built upon five distinct aspects.

Principal Norbert Bargaen says, “We have these five distinctives because they tell you who we are as a school. We’re striving for excellence in a place where there is a Christian atmosphere.”

MBCI is the only school in the Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools that has a campus pastor.

Ken Opalko, assistant principal of the middle school, says, “One of the things I really love about the school is that we get to know our students really well. Our school, in relation to other schools, is quite small; grades 6 to 12, so you’re looking at about 600 kids. We’re interested in their spiritual well-being, their emotional well-being and their physical well-being.”

The Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute was founded in 1945 by the Mennonite High School Society and dedicated to the task of providing Christian Mennonite education at the secondary school level. “If you take a look at our mission statement, it talks about taking care of the entire child — the mental, emotional, physical and the spiritual aspect,” says Bargaen.

The five distinctives form the foundation of MBCI.

The school is well known for its strong musical tradition, high academic standards and excellent sports program. These are the five distinctive areas of programming in which the school strives for excellence: Academics; athletics; music; performing and visual arts; faith and friendship.