

Significance



2016 - 2021

TMS Strategic Direction

sig-nif-i-cance
/sig'nifikəns/

noun

The quality of being worthy
of attention; importance.

Message from the Head of School



A man's reach should exceed his grasp

- Robert Browning

The partnership we enter with our families serves the most important and sensitive of journeys. Our partnership serves to guide, encourage, inspire, nourish and educate our students, your children. TMS has shown itself to have a uniquely powerful journey for our students. At its best, the journey our students take at TMS produces a young adult who desires more than mere success. But rather, imbued with habits of excellence, they desire to contribute, to impact, to engage, to serve. In short, they desire to have significance.

At TMS we believe strongly that significance lives at the intersect of goodness and excellence. This is in evidence from our youngest students who are so open to learning to our graduates who find places in the world that balance their passions with doing good.

Significance is a strong word. It means being of a high quality. There is an innate sense of boldness and courage and belief in being worthy of attention. It implies something of meaning, of impact and of importance. Our work is to create an environment that allows our students to develop the skills, perspective and desire to constantly go beyond and aspire to significance in all they do.

For all those reasons, we have chosen to call the TMS 2016 - 2021 Strategic Direction **Significance**.

A strategic plan should provide direction, shine a light on opportunities, and bring clarity to our purpose. This plan is an aspirational roadmap for TMS, laying out an exciting and ambitious journey for the School. In **Significance**, we have laid out three overarching strategies:

- Knowing our **Significance**
To ensure our value is known
- Growing our **Significance**
To grow and enrich the fullness of the TMS community
- Building our **Significance**
To develop and grow the physical spaces that animate and highlight our work

What we do is important, it has impact. TMS has **Significance**. I invite you to join us as we move forward with this bold and courageous plan.

David Young

Head of School
TMS



***TMS students do good things,
special and significant things.
They are bold, courageous
and authentically themselves.
They can do these things because
they have a foundation; they
are cared for, they are known.***

- David Young, Head of School

Our Strategic Planning Journey

In 2016, TMS undertook a strategic planning journey intended to engage the entire community in a conversation about the future of this incredible school. The journey began by surveying students, parents, staff and alumni. We then held three focus groups with parents to capture their thoughts. We also met with students of all ages (18 months to 18 years) to hear their ideas about TMS, spent time with staff to gather their perspectives and reached out to our alumni for their suggestions. From there, a small working group of staff, Board members and parents assessed and distilled the input from those conversations and created a strategic framework that will guide TMS over the next five years as we lay the foundation for the School's future.

Throughout the strategic planning consultations, the discussions were guided by questions in each of three areas of strength at TMS, which we referred to as the 3Cs: Currency, Community and Campus.

Community

The collection of people who are connected to the School in some way.

Currency

Our unique value proposition.

Campus

The physical spaces that animate our work.

These areas of focus retain central validity and strategic integrity to the place, context and opportunities of TMS and as such, they hold the key to TMS creating the environment from which our students can springboard into **Significance**.

Building on our strategic engagement journey, in **Significance**, we have laid out three overarching strategies:

Knowing our Significance

To ensure our value and excellent work are known.

Growing our Significance

To grow and enrich the fullness of the TMS community.

Building our Significance

To develop and grow the physical spaces that animate and highlight our work.



*To be known, truly known,
means that you are cared for.
You can't really know someone
without caring for them.*

- David Young, Head of School

Knowing our Significance



Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.

- Albert Einstein

Articulate and celebrate the value and exciting differentiation of TMS within the educational landscape and larger community.

Knowing our Significance means that we have a clear understanding of who we are as a school and as a community. We are more than a series of buildings with learning materials and educators. Our role is to prepare our students academically and in terms of their personal character. To do that well (and we know we do great work), we have to know our students, our staff and faculty, and be mindful of the larger community.

As we move forward with our strategic plan, we will build on our existing foundation of goodness and excellence with emphasis on growing some emerging areas of strength.

KNOWING



We know there is a time to challenge and a time to hold, a time to inspire and a time to listen, a time to nudge and guide and a time to lead and expect. These things can only happen if you are known.

- David Young, Head of School

Growing our Significance



Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.

- Henry Ford

Entrench and enhance the relationships across all parts of the School Community to enrich the learning experience and outcomes of our students while at TMS and beyond.

Growing our Significance means we value TMS as a true community that believes strongly in our collective role of caring for, supporting, guiding, nudging and celebrating our students. We engage our families who often make sacrifices to ensure their children are at TMS. We reach out to our alumni to ensure they always feel a connection to TMS. We seek out ways to make an impact on people and places in the extended community. This is work done best in partnership with our whole school community.

GROWING



Knowing you are cared for gives you a foundation from which to grow, to be ambitious and bold, taking strength that comes from a strong foundation.

- David Young, Head of School

Building our Significance



We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us.

- Winston Churchill

Develop a superb campus designed with thought and beauty, **creating spaces specifically capable of allowing the programs, culture and outcomes of the school to excel and uphold the strategic work in Knowing and Growing our *Significance*.**

Building our Significance means excellently providing a venue within which students, families and staff can find a home. At TMS, this means developing intentional spaces through which excellence in learning can occur in ways that realize TMS' vision and values and facilitate Knowing and Growing our ***Significance***.

We do important and valuable work in building a foundation of support for our students. Our campus and spaces are important. They tell our story, they inspire our work, they allow our innovations and they combine to become our place, our home. A campus should be the foundation on which an amazing school can prosper.

BUILDING

What will *Significance* look like at TMS?



KNOWING

Embedding **I Am Known** as a central tenet of TMS that is evident in how we embrace new families, gently nudge and guide our students and drive new and fresh approaches to teaching.

Exploring ways to transform student work from concept to reality. This might mean taking a design for a bus shelter and working with local businesses to actually create it.

Creating an IT pathway that can grow and branch into curricular, co-curricular and work placement opportunities.

GROWING

Growing a loyal Alumni who come back to share their stories and talents with each other and our students.

Actively engaging our parents who are invested in TMS.

Designing a narrative, images and messaging that delight our own community and attract new families.

Developing strategically-considered partnerships within the extended community that allow for the work of our students to be enhanced.



BUILDING

In parallel with our strategic plan, we are moving forward with our Campus Development Plan and Capital Campaign to further develop places and spaces in which our community can learn, socialize, perform and share.



A journey is rarely uniform. It has twists and turns that bring forth unexpected hurdles and require many different skills to successfully manage the changing landscape. To journey well requires both a consistent approach and personal adaptability. It requires a vision of the destination and knowledge of the terrain along the way. And through it all, a journey shapes us. It builds strengths, perseverance, habits and a secure sense of self.

Our journey has **Significance**.

- David Young, Head of School



Significance

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