



COLLINGWOOD SCHOOL

Alumni Association

SURVEY RESULTS

2022



Courage | Curiosity | Community

www.collingwood.org/alumni

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Collingwood School Alumni **SURVEY RESULTS**



In the Fall of 2022, Collingwood School called upon its alumni to anonymously submit feedback pertaining to their experiences while attending Collingwood. The purpose of this survey was for the school and the Alumni Association to better understand the experience of its former students, and where applicable, use the feedback to improve upon the experience for current and future students, and to improve the future engagement of alumni with the School.

The survey was open to any person who attended Collingwood School regardless of whether or not they graduated, and was emailed to approximately 2,300 alumni.

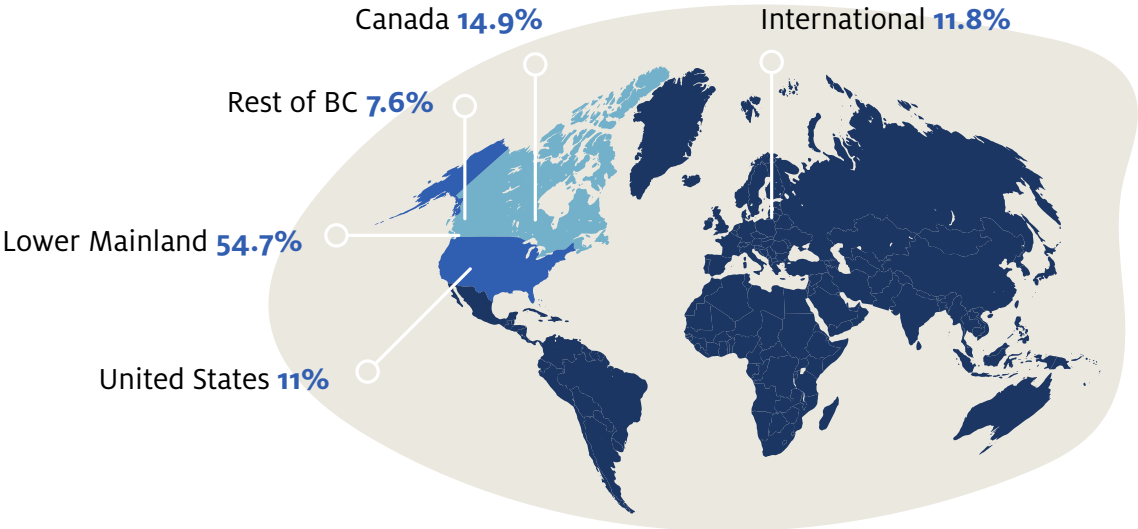
The survey was shared through social media and direct email to alumni, resulting in a 22.2% response rate, with 511 individual survey responses. We were pleased to surpass the average response rate of 15% for alumni surveys. Respondents of this survey ranged across age groups and number of years having attended Collingwood. The majority of respondents currently reside in and around the Lower Mainland; however, we also received a number of responses from alumni living internationally.

Results of this survey have been shared with the Senior Leadership Team, the Board of Governors, and the Alumni Executive Committee to ensure the voices of our alumni are heard and valued. These groups have found actionable ways to include feedback into curriculum that is in alignment with our Strategic Plan. We are excited to share the results with you, our alumni.

Who participated?

The survey data included in this report comes from 511 individual responses, 22.2% of Collingwood's alumni community.

Where do you live now?



When did you last attend Collingwood?



How many years did you attend Collingwood?



What industry do you work in?

Our Collingwood Alumni work across a breadth of industries. Our survey asked respondents to select their work industry from a long list, and also gave the option to include others. The following are the top 20 most popular industries that our alumni work in:

Healthcare
12.5%

Finance
8.8%

Marketing & Communications
6.5%

Legal
6.3%

Computers & Technology
5.5%

Education (K-12)
5.3%

7. Visual or Performing Arts (4.1%) **8.** Engineering (3.7%) **9.** Entrepreneurial Enterprises (3.7%) **10.** Sales (3.7%) **11.** Psychology (2.9%) **12.** Higher Education (2.9%) **13.** Biological and Biomedical Sciences (1.8%) **14.** Social Services (1.2%) **15.** Stay-at-Home Parent (1.2%) **16.** Architecture (0.8%) **17.** Veterinary Medicine (0.8%) **18.** Culinary/Hospitality (0.8%) **19.** Fashion (0.6%) **20.** Other (12.4%)

Satisfaction with Collingwood

The following questions asked alumni to rate individual aspects of their Collingwood experience on a 5-point scale (1= low mark, 5= high mark). We have distilled the scores into letter grades for better understanding.

“Opportunities such as travel, Encounter, explorer, arts that were not available at other schools. Don’t get rid of Encounter, it was life changing!”

SURVEY PARTICIPANT

“The unique opportunities offered: Round Square trips, exchanges, full grade Japan trip, French class trip to France, Drama trip to NYC.”

SURVEY PARTICIPANT

“CW needs a better support system for students who may be facing difficulties from outside of school or inside.”

SURVEY PARTICIPANT

“There was very poor support for incidences of bullying and harassment, and not good support for mental health.”

SURVEY PARTICIPANT

“Small class size helped me excel.”

SURVEY PARTICIPANT

HIGHEST RATED ITEMS

A+

Class Size (4.65)

Class sizes continue to be a max of 23 students, with many senior school classes being smaller (minimum class size of 8 students).

A+

Size of the School (4.57)

The overall size of Collingwood has remained consistent over the years, with approximately 1,250 students across both campuses, allowing for 1-on-1 support and personalized approaches to learning.

A

International Opportunities, Trips, Tours, Exchanges, and Learning Projects (4.49)

Outside the academic program, we still offer the Exchange program as well as trips and tours that take place over school holidays (ex. Wentworth Quebec trip, Rugby tour and cultural tours).

LOWEST RATED ITEMS

In 2021, Collingwood School launched a 5-year strategic plan. With Passion and Purpose highlights Four Pillars. One of these pillars is Wellbeing, making the physical, social, and emotional wellness of our community a top priority and focal point in our growth going forward. The results from our alumni survey indicate that academic and mental health support, as well as a sense of safety, are two areas, encompassed by the Wellbeing pillar, which Collingwood stands to improve upon.

Our School values, Courage, Curiosity and Community are underpinned by a new community-wide Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Commitment. EDI was among the lowest rated items when alumni were asked about their experience at Collingwood. Though we have already begun taking steps to improve the culture, wellbeing, and equity, diversity and inclusion of our school community, your feedback helps us understand what additional steps can be integrated into our strategic priorities moving forward.

“More diversity and inclusivity initiatives. I felt like an outsider as a minority very often and the school could have had more initiatives and programs to bring more awareness but also to practice what they preach with practical programs that promote this.”

SURVEY PARTICIPANT

B+

Support from Heads of House/Counselling (3.87)

Alumni cited greater support for learning disabilities, mental health and wellbeing, and a more robust University Guidance department as a few areas where Collingwood could improve.

What’s being done to address these concerns?

- Morven has 6 Houses, each with a Head of House who oversees approx 100 students each (SEL) + 4 distinct UG counsellors and Wentworth has 2 dedicated counsellors
- Timetable designed to support improved balance of academic and co-curriculars
- Inclusive Education Department on both campuses that supports diverse student learning needs

B

Degree of Safety from Harm/Negative Influence from Peers (3.62)

Alumni cited bullying and harassment and a lack of support as areas where the School could improve.

What’s being done to address these concerns?

- Anonymous student and adult reporting tool launched spring 2023
- Respectful Community Agreement in place for all members of our community
- Ongoing Micro-Aggression Workshops for staff and faculty
- Two counsellors at Wentworth, who focus on well-being, belonging, and classroom behaviour

B-

Diversity and Inclusion (3.53)

Alumni noted a need for more EDI initiatives, awareness, and improved sense of belonging.

What’s being done to address these concerns?

- Across both campuses, Collingwood has dedicated faculty in leadership roles responsible for both managing current EDI initiatives as well as overseeing the successful implementation of others
- Student EDI Committees have been formed on each campus
- Connections and partnerships with First Nations communities
- Promotion of financial assistance and scholarship opportunities

How Well Did Collingwood Prepare You To...

The following questions asked alumni to rate individual aspects of their Collingwood experience on a 5-point scale (1= low mark, 5= high mark). We have distilled the scores into letter grades for better understanding.

“The emphasis put on public speaking transformed my life.”

SURVEY PARTICIPANT

“Due to my attending Collingwood, I strive for excellence and hold myself and others to certain standards.”

SURVEY PARTICIPANT

“Would like to see technology introduced sooner.”

SURVEY PARTICIPANT

“Encouraged to strive for excellence.”

SURVEY PARTICIPANT

HIGHEST RATED ITEMS

A

Communicate Orally (4.35)

School-wide public speaking events for all grade levels and public speaking and debate opportunities offered for students in Grades 4-12.

A

Pursue Excellence (4.26)

Students have exposure to rigorous academic classes, including AP and advanced math courses, and experiential education from JK-Grade 12. New programs like “Unbounded” for Grades 4-7 and Collingwood U for Grade 12s strengthens learning beyond the curriculum.

A-

Think and Solve Problems Logically and Analytically (4.19)

Students have access to one of the largest course offerings in the Lower Mainland, including classes that focus on design-thinking, ADST, STEM, and entrepreneurship. Students take a wide range of courses based on their passions and interests.

LOWEST RATED ITEMS

At Collingwood School, our Vision is “socially responsible students pursuing passions for a better world.” We are committed to contributing positively to our local and global communities, environmental stewardship, and supporting the well-being, and inclusion of all people. We value experiential learning, collaboration, character development, and problem solving across disciplines. Our graduates will join the global community as critical thinkers who are resilient, socially conscious and prepared to make the most of their opportunities.

When asked how well the School prepared students for life after Collingwood, use of technology, embracing change, and learning from others’ differences were the lowest rated out of all the options. These three points are main focal points of our Mission and Values, and therefore addressing our challenges in these areas is of the utmost importance.

“[Collingwood needs] more diverse learning opportunities, like woodworking, cooking, construction, architecture, programming, coding, technology based careers, software development, etc.”

SURVEY PARTICIPANT

B

Use Technology Effectively (3.70)

Alumni cited the need for more diverse learning opportunities beyond academics and hoped technology could be integrated into classes from early grade levels.

What’s being done to address these concerns?

- An Educational Technology Coordinator integrates technology into learning on both campuses
- Collingwood is continually growing and expanding on robotics and STEM instruction
- ADST programming (Applied Design, Skills, and Technology) now implemented from K-Grade 7
- Partnerships with Zen Makers Lab and Vancouver Film School expand on curriculum
- Inclusion of Grade 8-9 programming related to design and technology with a focus on entrepreneurship

B

Embrace Change (3.68)

Alumni noted a need to evolve curriculum and shift toward a future-focused educational practice.

What’s being done to address these concerns?

- Improve and expand facilities to reflect emerging teaching and learning practices
- Implementation of Universal Design Learning in lesson planning to create more personalized learning
- Focus on weaving land-based learning and EDI into daily lessons to embrace the changes we see in society
- New timetable provides students with courses that are taught and designed for three different types of learning environments (Morven)

B

Learn From Others’ Differences (3.68)

Alumni cited a need for more cultural awareness and a desire to learn about the experiences of others.

What’s being done to address these concerns?

- Parents’ Council Cultural Clubs share various cultural traditions, events, and histories with the school community (Chinese, French, and Persian Cultural Interest Groups)
- Special presentations for staff and students on a range of EDI topics
- Personalized Land Acknowledgements introduced to help our staff and students connect with the land that we are learning, working, teaching, and living on

Agree or Disagree

The following questions asked alumni to indicate their level of agreement with the following statements, based on a 5-point scale (1= strongly disagree, 3 = neither agree nor disagree, 5= strongly agree). We have distilled the scores into letter grades for better understanding.

Faculty were a positive influence in my life while attending the school. (4.35)

A



Administrators were a positive influence in my life while attending the school. (3.84)

B+



Overall, I received a well-rounded education at the school. (4.34)

A



In general, I was well prepared by the school for the academic challenge of my further education. (4.09)

A-

SURVEY RESPONSES

“I felt Collingwood **fully prepared** me to **achieve the success** I’ve had in my life.”

“I was **strongly prepared for post-secondary school** in terms of academics, although in hindsight I wish there had been some classes to provide students with **practical life skills.**”

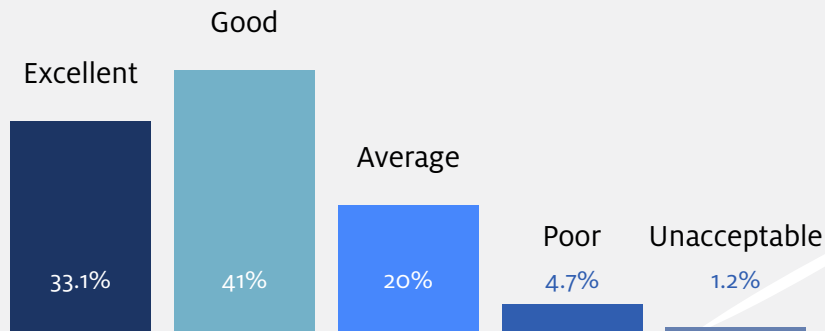
“The faculty were **amazing.** In many cases, their enthusiasm for their subject was **infectious.**”

“Success was defined in multiple ways which allowed students to be **proud of excellence in different areas.**”

Value of a Collingwood Education

The following question asked alumni to rate the overall value of the education they received at Collingwood School, based on their perceptions of the tuition and fees their family paid.

How would you rate the value of a Collingwood education?



60.8% of alumni are proud to have attended Collingwood.

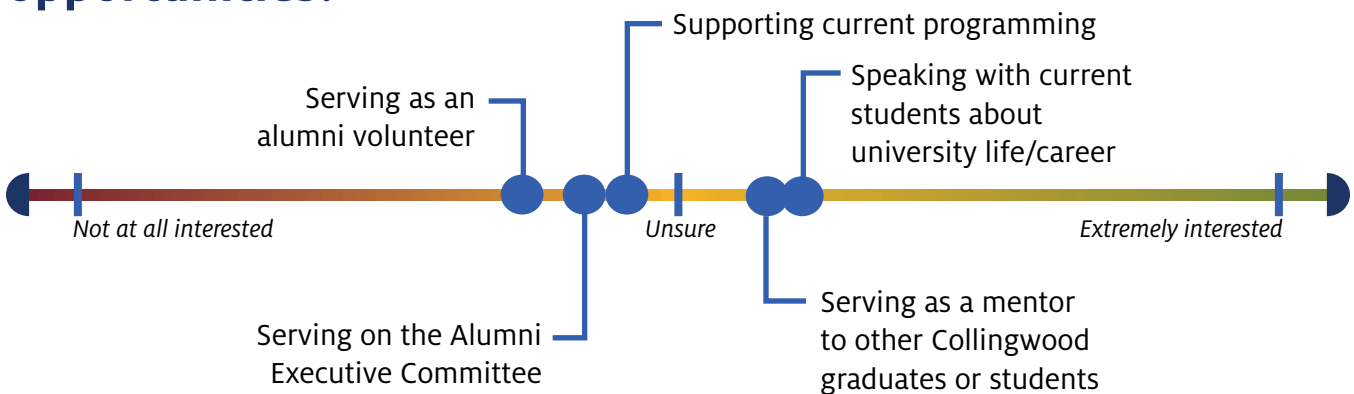
Alumni Relations

The following questions asked alumni to rate their level of satisfaction with areas involving the School's communications/relations with alumni, based on the following scale: 1 = not at all satisfied, 3 = somewhat satisfied, 5 = extremely satisfied.

RESULTS

B	Frequency of written communications (3.64)	B	Website (3.61)
B	Bridge Magazine (3.63)	B	Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn (3.60)
B	Content of the written communications from the School (3.61)	B-	Invitations to alumni events (3.58)
B-	Extent to which you are kept apprised of the accomplishments of fellow alumni (3.41)	C+	Support for networking (3.25)

How interested would you be in the following opportunities?



We currently have the following opportunities for our alumni to connect with our students and School:

Collingwood U • Work Experience II • guest judges/experts (classroom speakers) • Encounter program (alumni are encouraged to join us) • student engagement opportunities • spring interns • summer camps/Summer Institute

Interested in learning more? Please reach out to us at alumni@collingwood.org.

Which Collingwood events are you most likely to attend?

Our alumni survey asked “which Collingwood events are you most likely to attend?,” and an overwhelming response came from those living outside of Vancouver who wanted to connect with fellow alumni, as well as students, but couldn’t because of their location.

Alumni indicated a preference for in-person events outside of Vancouver, rather than webinars or online socials. This year, we will work towards creating more “chapter events” that will provide opportunities for alumni to connect closer to where they live. We are working with teachers who are travelling on school business to determine where and when they can help us with these events, and to give our alumni an opportunity to connect with them. We are also looking for alumni who live outside the Lower Mainland to help host events and get together. Are you interested? Please contact us at alumni@collingwood.org

For those still in Vancouver, we will continue to offer alumni-favourite events, such as CAVS Business Lunches, the Winter Party, Reunions, and Homecoming.

What type of events would you like to see that are not currently offered?

Events Outside of Vancouver
24%

Casual and Small Gatherings
24%

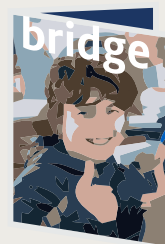
School Events (plays, dance/art shows, sports, etc.)
15%

Mentoring Students
10%

How would you like to connect and receive information?



Emails from the School **18.9%**



Bridge Magazine **3.1%**



Alumni Emails **65.4%**

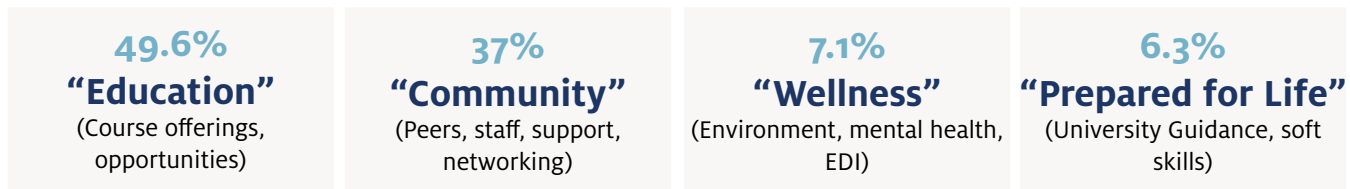


Social Media **9.9%**

Open-Ended Responses

The final section of the alumni survey featured three long-answer questions with opportunities to provide positive and negative feedback, as well as constructive criticism and suggestions for how to improve Collingwood School's student and alumni experience. Key themes were pulled from each of the questions, and are shared below, along with quotes and anecdotal evidence to expand on these themes.

What two or three things did you value most about your experience at Collingwood?



“Academic flexibility was good - accommodated areas where students excelled or needed extra help.”

“Being smart was cool.”

“I was able to continue with a rigorous post secondary program and I felt Collingwood fully prepared me to achieve my success.”

“[Collingwood] allowed us to be ourselves, without being judged. Was a place where we could show who we are, grow, and learn while figuring all that out through high school.”



What two or three things would have improved your experience at Collingwood?

42.8%

“Education”

(Guidance, better support, course offerings)

30.9%

“Community”

(Peers, staff, negative social experience)

26.3%

“Wellness”

(EDI, environment, facilities)

“Better **First Nations and Indigenous** education.”

“Social structure was challenging with **limited emphasis on developing healthy relationships** and interactions with peers.”

“Acknowledgement of **privilege**, the Collingwood bubble.”

“Better support for **individual academic needs**.”

Additional Comments

The last open-ended question offered no prompt, but simply asked for additional feedback regarding alumni’s experiences. There were 4 key themes pulled from the array of responses in this section.

40.2%

Of alumni were dissatisfied with their experience at Collingwood and opted to no longer maintain a connection to the school. It is our sincere hope that given Collingwood’s commitment to Community and to authentically creating belonging for everyone, that our alumni feel more connected to us moving forward.

35.3%

Reported an overall positive experience while studying at Collingwood, and expressed a desire to stay connect with the school as an alumnus.

21.5%

Expressed critical and constructive feedback specifically towards the alumni programming. The Advancement Team and Alumni Association have taken this criticism seriously, and are applying this feedback into our alumni programming, with the hopes of offering our alumni new and more engaging ways to connect with the school and community.

3%

Of these responses included information which the alumni deemed “No longer relevant” (i.e., had a negative experience, but acknowledged that they’ve seen changes and improvements).