

The **CAPITAL** Campaign

THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION
STARTS



KIDS DON'T FAIL SCHOOL: SCHOOL fails KIDS

**“MY NAME IS
WILLIAM.**

I am in Grade 9.
I am stressed all the time.

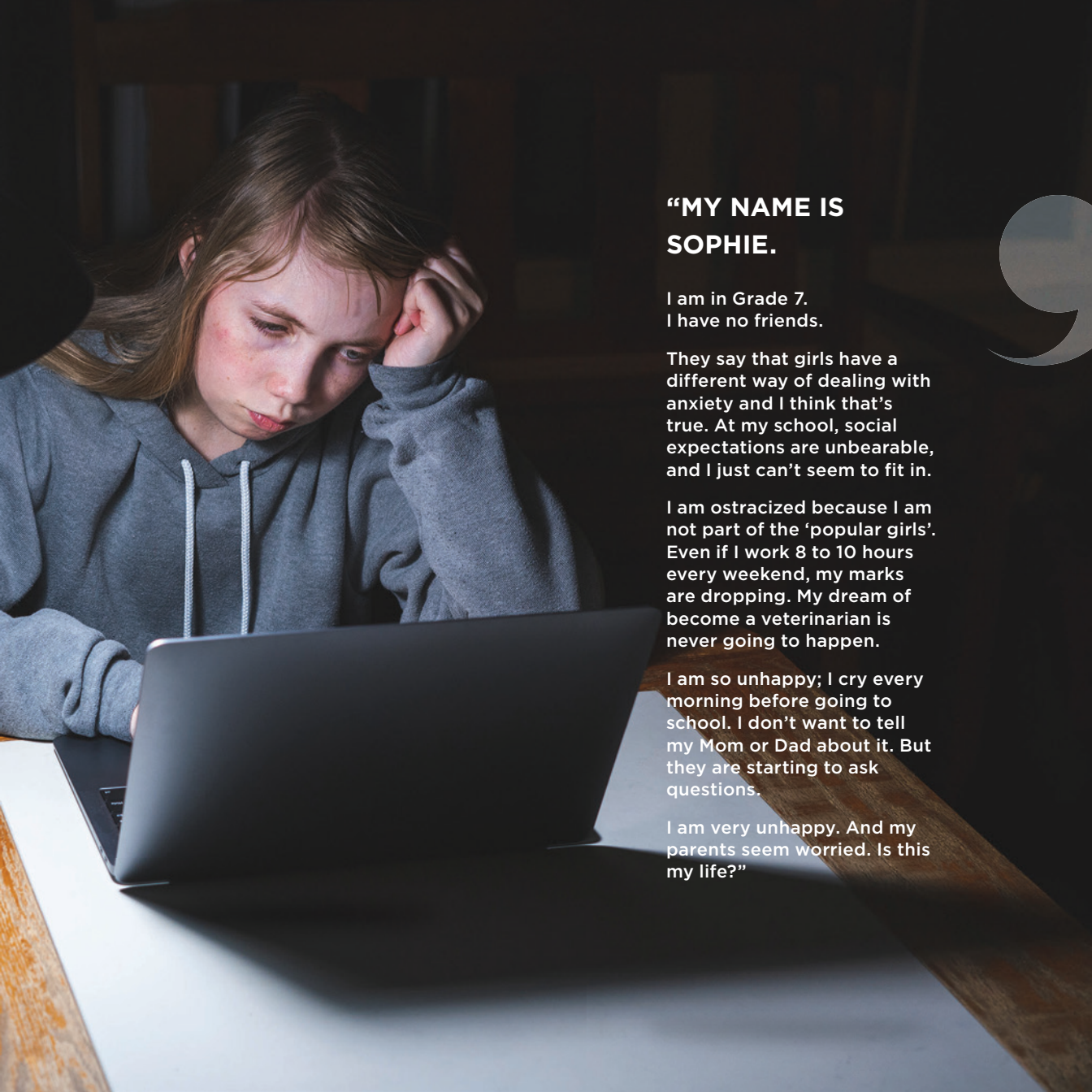
I have a hard time
focusing on schoolwork
and I can't keep my
grades up.

I'm always falling behind.
Every day is chaos and I
feel like I just don't fit in.

At home, my parents are
constantly yelling at me
to do my homework and
put away my phone. But
all I want to do is stay in
my room and play online
games.

I'm miserable. We're ALL
miserable. Is this my life?”





**“MY NAME IS
SOPHIE.**

I am in Grade 7.
I have no friends.

They say that girls have a different way of dealing with anxiety and I think that’s true. At my school, social expectations are unbearable, and I just can’t seem to fit in.

I am ostracized because I am not part of the ‘popular girls’. Even if I work 8 to 10 hours every weekend, my marks are dropping. My dream of become a veterinarian is never going to happen.

I am so unhappy; I cry every morning before going to school. I don’t want to tell my Mom or Dad about it. But they are starting to ask questions.

I am very unhappy. And my parents seem worried. Is this my life?”

You know **WILLIAM.**
You know **SOPHIE.**

He may be your son, your daughter, your niece or nephew, or the child of your friends. They are the kids who always struggle. They are bright, but unhappy and withdrawn.

You know their parents are at their wit’s end. They’ve told you they don’t know how to help their child succeed. They have lost all hope for their future.

Fortunately, there is a school where William and Sophie can thrive: where teachers and staff adapt to their needs in a positive environment designed for success.

It’s an **innovative approach** to education and the **way of the future.**

That school is Centennial Academy.

Because the future of education starts *here.*

Investing **IN THE FUTURE** **OF EDUCATION**

The future of education is at Centennial Academy. With your support, more students like William and Sophie and their families can count on getting the help they need to reintroduce HOPE into their lives.

how?

Centennial Academy helps students with learning challenges become autonomous and resilient learners through innovation and collaboration.

We achieve extraordinary results. Even in the face of overwhelming adversity.

When our building lease expired in 2017, we were forced to move several times before finally landing in our permanent home. Extensive renovations and the pandemic provided more set-backs, extra expense and uncertainty. It is a **10 million dollar project**, financed by savings and a hefty bank loan.



This is a
**5 MILLION
DOLLAR**
campaign

to retire our debt and lay the groundwork for the long-term future of education which strengthens your community, builds sustainable success and maximizes our permanent home.

The good news is, we've already raised \$1.3 million. But we need your help to raise \$3.7 million.

Delivering the future of education depends on paying down our debt to establish a solid foundation for sustainability.

Delivering the future of education depends on *you.*

We are known as pioneers in science-based teaching and the leader of inclusive education.

“Autonomy comes through coaching: learning steps for how you study, how you solve a problem, how you read a complicated text, how you write an essay. We break it down and then we coach students on those steps, over and over.”

Angela Burgos
Head of School

Developing **THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION**

The Centennial Academy story is about **adaptability, innovation, resilience and success.**



ADAPTABILITY

In 1969, teachers John Parker and Jim Logan expanded their tutoring business into a new type of high school. After continually adapting their methods to meet different challenges faced by their students, Parker and Logan concluded every student can succeed, with the right teaching.

Parker and Logan discovered the power of **predictable routines and consistent structures in a positive and caring learning environment.** Teaching methods are continually adapted to suit the evolving needs of students. These principles underpin Centennial Academy’s approach to teaching.



INNOVATION

By 1998, major Québec curriculum reforms shifted the focus from rote memorization to analysis, synthesis, problem solving and critical thinking. While this significantly raised the bar, it also led to rising stress and anxiety for high school students.

We responded by looking to neuroscience for answers: by working with the adolescent brain, to reduce unnecessary stresses, students can succeed by maximizing learning. Using this innovative approach, students with diagnosed learning disabilities, such as ADHD, autism spectrum disorder, dyslexia, and anxiety disorder, are able to master their learning challenges, follow the rigorous curriculum and graduate on time.



RESILIENCE

The Prud'homme Avenue building was our home for 41 years. When the lease expired in 2017, it was a struggle to find a suitable facility. We moved several times before finding our new centrally located home in the west wing of the historic Grand Séminaire de Montréal complex in downtown Montréal.

Originally a residence for seminarians, the building required extensive and expensive renovations to transform into a modern school. Savings and a bank loan facilitated the year-long transformation. Further delays were caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

After three years of instability, we officially opened the doors to our new home on September 30, 2020.



SUCCESS

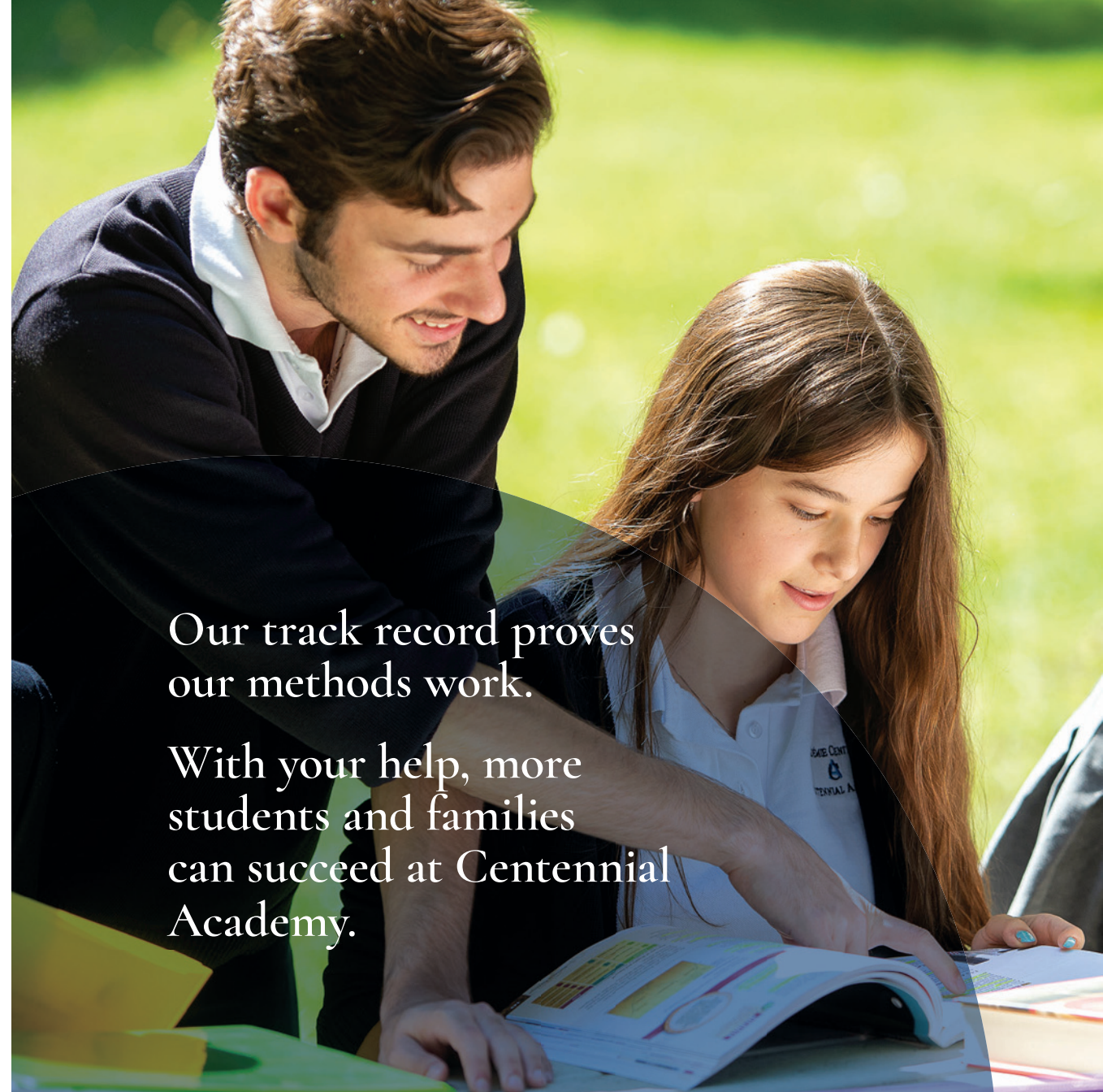
Despite setbacks and challenges, our enrolment has grown by 30% since 2016 to a target of 255 students by June 2021.

Answering high demand from the francophone population, **we introduced a French-language stream in 2016** with six Grade 7 students. In five years, the francophone program has grown to more than one-third of our total enrolment, across five grades. 2021 celebrates the first French graduating class.

No other high school in Quebec does what we do: teach students with learning challenges the tools they need to graduate with a Diploma of Secondary Studies within five years, without the help of parents or outside tutors.

Does our approach work? The results speak for themselves:

- ✓ **95%** of our students have a diagnosed learning disability.
- ✓ **90%** of our students graduate in five years and go on to college or university. This compares to the provincial graduation rate of 69% for public and private schools combined.



Our track record proves
our methods work.

With your help, more
students and families
can succeed at Centennial
Academy.

Delivering **THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION**

Centennial Academy's approach is based on creating confidence and competence in students. When William and Sophie succeed, the more they believe they can.

Based on Universal Design for Learning principles, William and Sophie and their classmates are treated with respect and supported by built-in accommodations which reduce stress, embed consistency and promote success.

- ✓ Students are valued for who they are and how they learn.
- ✓ Students are assigned seats in one classroom with a maximum of 20 students; teachers move from class to class.
- ✓ School runs on a predictable, consistent and comforting Monday-to-Friday schedule.
- ✓ Teaching is adapted to student needs, so students are fully engaged in the learning.
- ✓ Homework is posted in each classroom and online in a consistent platform for all staff and students.
- ✓ We collect data daily about learning behaviours to improve overall results.



“This gift of normalcy in a time that is anything but, is deeply appreciated. We have seen an **incredible transformation** in our son. He is clearly engaged at school. He's managing to stay on top of the work set, and most importantly every day he is happy to be going to school. These are all HUGE achievements. We have seen his self-confidence and pride soar. The stress levels in our house are so much lower as a result of his new-found equilibrium at school. It has made a huge difference to all of us. We are delighted.”

Parents of a Grade 7 Centennial Academy student

We build resilient learners by partnering with parents. Through routine, predictability, and healthy balanced lifestyles, students are calmer at home and at school and more able to learn.

Parents are asked to promote strong sleep habits in students and minimize overstimulation from technology devices:

- ✓ Maximum one hour per day on devices; two hours on weekends.
- ✓ No technology one hour before bedtime.
- ✓ Minimum four hours of physical activity per week.

here
our NEW home



Economics OF THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

The 21st century requires knowledge workers who think critically, problem solve, analyze and synthesize. There are fewer unskilled jobs in the marketplace.

Centennial Academy fills a void for students with learning challenges who are destined to drop out of public schools and add a cost burden to society. By keeping students in school and teaching them the tools they need to graduate, we reduce the cost to society for untrained high-school dropouts.

A study by the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montréal and Réseau réussite Montréal showed the enormous impact dropouts have on the economy. In 2019:

- ✔ One in every six Montreal youth dropped out of high school before graduating.
- ✔ Dropouts in Montreal earn an average of \$34,485, more than 31% less than the average high school graduate. **30% of dropouts do not join the workforce.**
- ✔ Two-thirds of social assistance program recipients are dropouts. That equates to **\$2 billion** in social assistance payments.
- ✔ 62% of people who pass through the prison system are dropouts.
- ✔ Dropouts are more likely to suffer from health problems and have a shorter life expectancy by seven years, compared to high school graduates.
- ✔ Dropouts cost the Quebec economy **\$593 million annually.**



Don't you want to give families living with the chronic stress of learning challenges the gift of HOPE?

"My experience was very positive at Centennial Academy. I came from many different schools before I found a place where I felt understood, cared for and accepted. At previous schools I was always getting into trouble, which made me think I wasn't a good student. Centennial turned my 'mistakes' into learning experiences. Centennial recognized my potential. Once I was looked at as a successful student with potential, I was motivated to become one. I believe where I am today is a direct result of that."

Amanda Smith
Alumni



Strengthening **YOUR COMMUNITY**

If your family lived in chaos, you would watch your children suffer and your family suffer. You would know first-hand the devastating impact on your community.

Chronic stress from learning challenges leads to an inability to focus, anxiety, depression, angry outbursts, social withdrawal and substance abuse. Dreams are shattered under the heavy burden.

Centennial Academy strengthens communities by giving students and families HOPE.



HOPE

HOPE for calmer, happier lives and homes.

HOPE for stability, self-confidence and a positive outlook based on success.

HOPE for better outcomes which lead to more productive citizens.

Building **SUSTAINABLE SUCCESS**

Servicing our debt focuses us on catching up rather than looking forward to helping more families and implementing our vision of creating a centre of excellence, sharing our methods across the province and around the world.

The first step: **retire our debt**. The burden of debt threatens our sustainability which limits the number of families who can get their children back.

If you help us get out from under the burden of constricted resources, we can deploy resources to expand our enrolment in both English and French streams to help more families. We can rent more space in our building and hire and train more staff to service the demand.

There is a clear pathway to increase our enrolment to 400 students, and eventually to double the number of students we serve in the coming years. **This means more help will be available to families who are desperate for a way out of their chaos.**

Then, we can develop a centre of excellence, training teacher teams to implement the Centennial model in other schools. This starts with retraining teachers to focus on positive, predictable and consistent methods in a defined organizational structure. The potential for expanding this approach worldwide is enormous.

here
we **SUCCEED**





Maximizing **OUR PERMANENT HOME**

Leasing, refurbishing and outfitting our new home was an expensive and time-consuming project. Despite the upheaval, our resilient learners and outstanding staff forged ahead and are now focusing all their attention on learning.

Our Board made the fiscally responsible decision to lease our new building rather than take on the added expense of building a new building. We've refurbished this beautiful historic building and completed many enhancements, including upgraded technology which means every student receives a laptop for learning.

But maximizing our facilities is dependent on completing outstanding upgrades, including:

- ✓ finishing the gymnasium with window cages and lights and erecting a separation wall from the rest of the building;
- ✓ purchasing SMART boards to outfit all classrooms;
- ✓ books and furniture for our new library;
- ✓ comfortable furniture for the student lounges and free spaces.

Our new home is financially viable and sustainable for the long term – once the purchase and refurbishment debt are retired.



“HELLO! MY NAME IS WILLIAM.

I am in Grade 9 at Centennial Academy. I am glad to meet you!

I love going to school now and I've learned how to keep my grades up. It feels good when I do well, and it makes me want to do well every day! I like my teachers and I feel comfortable around other students. We all care about each other.

At home, my parents aren't yelling at me anymore to do my homework. I actually enjoy my homework and what I'm learning. I spend way less time on my phone and way more time outside with my friends.

I'm happy. My whole family is happy! I'm so glad this my life!”



“HI! I AM SOPHIE'S MOM.

Our family life has changed for the better since Sophie started at Centennial Academy. Our usually withdrawn teenager is now laughing all the way to school in the mornings.

Sophie started talking about becoming a veterinarian again. She has made new friends. Her self-confidence is increasing every day. No more bullying.

Centennial is giving her HOPE for the future.

She is happy, we are happy. It's so good to have her back.

Sophie is thriving. And so is the whole family!”



You know WILLIAM. You know SOPHIE.

And you know how happy and relaxed their families are now that William and Sophie are on a different path. The path of HOPE.

Please help kids and families like William's and Sophie's find their own path of hope by ensuring the long-term sustainability of Centennial Academy.

Donate generously to retire our debt so that together, we can optimize the future of education with clear hearts full of hope.

“Nothing speaks louder than a sense of accomplishment. With a willingness to adapt programs to meet the individual needs of students, Centennial has a lasting impact on the lives and well-being of each young person lucky enough to attend. Centennial helps each individual build on strengths and develop the skills needed for accomplishment at school and in life.”

Andrew Molson
Donor

thank you

for making this campaign a success for
our students and the generations to come!

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centennial.qc.ca