

CITY SCHOOL BY MOHAWK TURNS 3!

Mariette's Journey to Education

Mariette left high school in 2002 when she became pregnant. "Not even high school, let alone college was in my thought process at the time" she says. But after being told a brain tumor would have an effect on her memory, she was even more motivated to go back to school. To prove them wrong. She earned her Ontario Secondary School Diploma through the school board and started asking her teachers questions about college.

"Never did I think I would go to college as a child. I grew up in poverty, my parents couldn't afford to keep the lights on." For Mariette, college seemed like a distant possibility. Until she came across a Facebook post about City School by Mohawk.

She was skeptical of a free college program, but after speaking with staff and learning about how the course could help get her foot in the door to college, she decided to give it a try.

"I was nervous to attend, but I put aside my anxiety and knew this was my opportunity to improve my education and go further."

Participating in a Human Services course at the Eva Rothwell Centre confirmed Mariette's interest in the social services field and inspired her to apply to the Social Service Worker diploma program at Fennell Campus.

"I'm on my way to graduating in Spring 2019. Without City School in my community I would not have had the opportunity to explore college or even thought about trying to apply."



Impacting Communities, Impacting Lives

By Dr. Alan Bourke & Sarah Harvie

This October, City School by Mohawk celebrates three years of community-based education. Created in response to the Hamilton Spectator's 2010 Code Red Report that highlighted the vast social and economic disparities among the city's neighbourhoods, City School has been working, with a focus in these areas, to break down barriers to education and employment.

City School programming is completely free of charge, is delivered by Mohawk faculty in neighbourhood-based settings, and allows residents to sample a postsecondary education without worrying about some of the barriers and challenges they may have faced in the past.

The first City School classroom opened in the Eva Rothwell Centre in 2015 before a second was added a few months later in Hamilton Public Library's Central branch. Last year, the College launched the City School Mobile Classroom, an impressive custom-built trailer that transforms into a 1,000-square-foot classroom that delivers courses focused on the skilled trades introduction to construction, welding, and others.

Over 50 courses have now been offered through City School, with 227 students earning course credits that can be applied to different programs of study at the College.

City School faculty, Hayley Hudson, believes that education facilitates change. Describing the effects of offering free courses to the community, she said, "Education is a way that people can gain knowledge and make informed decisions for their life, for their further education and employment."

City School has received support from the federal Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) for two research projects, with intent to better understand the community impact of the model. To date, 66 City School students have gone on to enrol at Mohawk.

From modest beginnings to accelerated growth within and around Hamilton, City School continues to power students and change lives by building pathways to higher education.

Dr. Alan Bourke is a Mohawk Faculty member and the Lead Researcher on the City School initiative research projects. Sarah Harvie is the Community Mobilizer for Mohawk College

Bringing the College to the Community

City School is based in the community at these locations and brings skilled trades training on the road.

EVA ROTHWELL
CENTRE
CLASSROOM + TRADES LAB

HAMILTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY
CIRCUIT 4.0 AT CENTRAL BRANCH

THE MOBILE
CLASSROOM
CURRENTLY AT THE
IMMIGRANTS WORKING CENTRE

POP-UP CLASSROOMS IN THE COMMUNITY

City School Pop-Ups work with partner organizations to bring college courses to their spaces and service users to create a hub of wraparound services to help students achieve success with their educational goals.

- Mission Services
- Youth Wellness Centre
- Hamilton Regional Indian Centre
- Haldimand County Public Library
- Burlington Public Library
- McMaster Children's Hospital
- Hamilton General Hospital
- Native Women's Centre

CONTACT US ABOUT HOSTING A CITY SCHOOL POP-UP!

City School works collaboratively with local organizations to meet the educational needs of our communities. Email us at cityschool@mohawkcollege.ca to work together.

City School Mobile Classroom

In Fall 2017, Mohawk launched the City School Mobile Classroom, a 53-foot transport trailer, custom built to deliver free introductory trades training in communities and neighborhoods with limited access. To date, over 50 students have completed courses in general construction and welding.

The Mobile Classroom has taken up residence at the Centre on Barton, served the community of Dunnville in Haldimand County, and is now located in the heart of the Beasley neighbourhood in Hamilton in partnership with the Immigrants Working Centre, where it will be located until March 2019.

Students currently participating in the Introduction to Construction course on the Mobile are vulnerable newcomers to Canada exploring skilled trades work in plumbing, carpentry, and electrical. Students learn the basics and fundamentals of safety, build confidence working with their hands, develop language skills related to the field, and begin to plan for their education and employment future in Ontario.

The Mobile Classroom is hosting an Open House on November 6 from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm at its current location at the Immigrants Working Centre, 182 Rebecca St.

Academic Year	Students Enrolled	Completed Courses	Completion Rate
2015 - 2016	49	26	53%
2016 - 2017	107	70	65%
2017 - 2018	238	163	68%
Total	394	259	66%



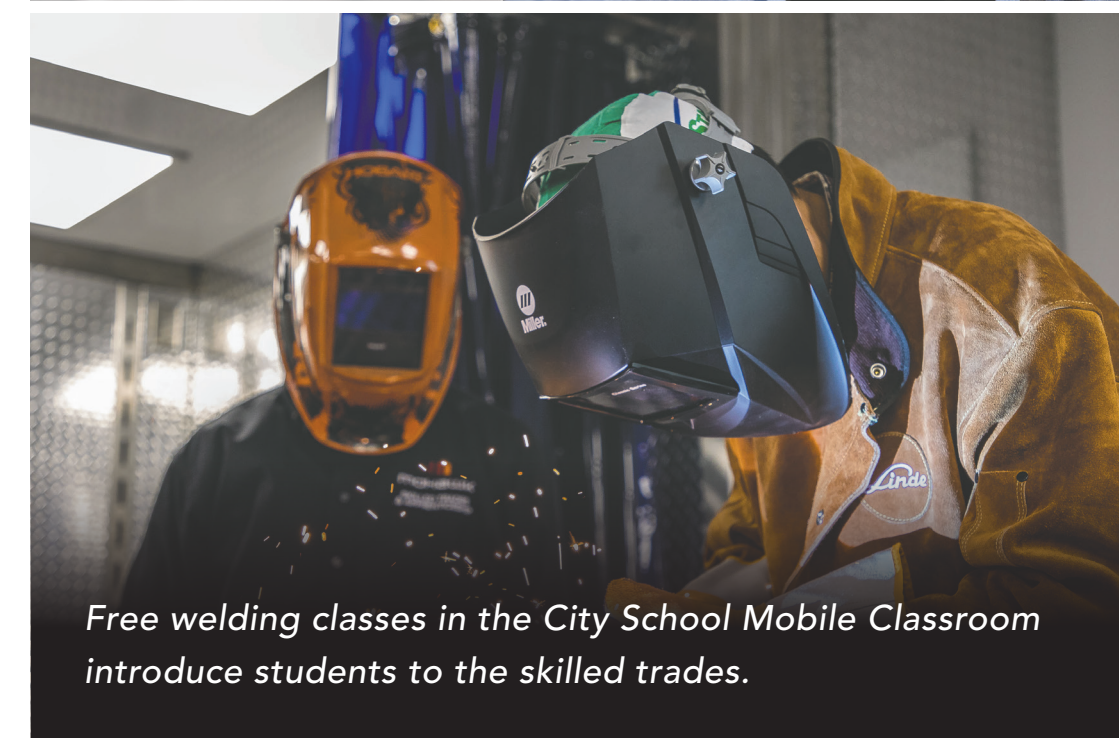
"I was intimidated by applying to Mohawk and actually backed out once. I enrolled in City School classes and I felt so welcomed. City School helped me not feel so anxious about applying again because I knew I had support if I needed it."

Ashley,
Current Mohawk College student



"I really enjoyed the hands-on field experience in the courses, and our instructors were very helpful and incredible resources with current insight into the industry. City School is helping me see choices for my future I would have otherwise not seen. This has been a great opportunity to meet others who are passionate about similar interests."

Ron,
Current City School student



Free welding classes in the City School Mobile Classroom introduce students to the skilled trades.

500+

Community
outreach activities

50

Courses offered
to date

227

Total unique
students who
completed a course

66

City School students
have been enrolled at
Mohawk College

Apply to our free courses
coming up this winter
mohawkcollege.ca/trycollegeforfree

Contact Us!

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