



# O'Donel High School - École Secondaire

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To the Selection Committee:

O'Donel High School is certainly looking forward to being a part of a Smart City. We are one of two central high schools within the city of Mount Pearl and have continually challenged ourselves to lead the way in technology and innovation. O'Donel was the first school in Mount Pearl to develop a high quality and high speed backbone to our school's network, moving to additional computer labs, design and fabrication spaces and a one of a kind, robotics lab. When wireless technology came to the marketplace we already had the capacity to manage a wireless infrastructure and "bring your own device" movements took hold and became a part of classroom pedagogy.

O'Donel's Robotics team is second to none in Newfoundland and even Canada. We have been to the international competitions in the United States, the last 6 of the 7 years and have taken home top awards each time we have gone. For many years our university underwater robotics team used our facility to develop their robots and collaborated with our staff. We in turn, have mentored other schools and students. Most notably our "rival school" across the street. We helped hone them into an internationally competitive team and two years ago we were team number one and team number two in the province. We then, worked together, for our city and province, to become lead teams at the international competition.

We have made a number of community partnerships and we have linked with other not-for-profit learning organizations like First Lego League and Learning Partnerships, Marine Institute and Genoe Designs to grow excitement and skills for our students in the community. We see the results in numerous students continuing in engineering, naval architecture and computer science. Many of our alumni were part of the team that won second place in the international hyperloop parabel train design this past winter.

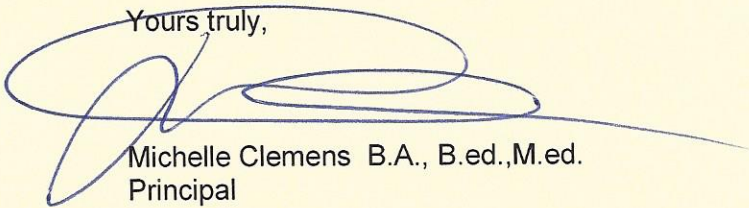
We are looking for more opportunities to partner with community business and to facilitate growth in the STEM sector for our graduates. O'Donel students have been on the ocean, tagging sharks with the Ocean Science Center, growing tomato seeds that have been in outer space, using communication technology in the classroom, designing, building and donating protective shelters for an endangered bat species and engaging in Skills Canada competitions to hone and demonstrate our skills. Our students have been winning math competitions both provincially and individually.

Technology is a major growth sector in Newfoundland. It has been a bit of a stereotype that we are all about primary resource harvesting; but nothing can be further from the truth. Economic challenge has made us innovative, climate challenges make us resilient and our passion for "home" drives us to take risks and have success, other entrepreneurs would ignore.

Mount Pearl is a planned city with a constantly evolving vision. I have been a school leader in 3 communities and I have not seen this level of commitment and action for youth. They have a true voice here. Their talents and experiences are valued and celebrated in Mount Pearl. They encourage the connection between community, school and business. Our business community supports its schools. This is the city to take action and to have a true implementation of a Smart City.

I shall make the commitment, on behalf of O'Donel, to grow the connection with our robotics and technology and the businesses in this city and to commitment to making connections with our local business through our Entrepreneurship courses. Networking and connectedness is a central principle of innovation and growth. The school, O'Donel High School, is a connection and stimulus point in this growth.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Clemens', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michelle Clemens B.A., B.ed.,M.ed.  
Principal