



For Immediate Release

Media Contact
Lee Krasilowez
Communications Coordinator MHPSD
403.977.9086

Medicine Hat, Alberta (September 17, 2018) – Students and staff at thirteen schools across the Medicine Hat Public School Division (MHPSD) will host JR LaRose for the inaugural First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Guest Speaker Series from Sept 17-21, 2018.

A 2011 Grey Cup champion, JR LaRose is a proud member of One Arrow First Nation and an ambassador for Aboriginal peoples. His pathway to success has been a long and hard fought journey that includes a start in low-income housing in Edmonton's inner city, a father of Nigerian heritage who was deported back to his native country before his birth and a family who struggled with drug addiction and the lingering effects of the residential school system. The combined power of sport and the support of a local family led him to a new life that now includes nine seasons with the Canadian Football League (CFL) and more than 400 public speaking engagements throughout North America. He is a gifted speaker whose story of redemption is universal, breaking down racial and generational walls to bring forth a sense of hope and humanity. "I'm excited to share my story as I feel it is relatable to what youth are being faced with on a daily basis," said JR LaRose.

"The FNMI Guest Speaker Series offers our students the opportunity to identify with a positive role model from a cultural perspective. The guest speakers help to break down negative stereotypes that may still exist regarding FNMI people. We are pleased to welcome JR LaRose, his life experience will serve as an inspiration to everyone," says Darrell Willier, FNMI Coordinator with the Medicine Hat Public School Division.

JR LaRose will give a 30-40 minute presentation, followed by a 15 minute Q&A session; afterwards guests will have an opportunity to sign autographs, take photos and take a peek at his Grey Cup Ring.

Tour Schedule:

Monday, September 17	8:35 a.m. Dr. Roy Wilson School 1:00 p.m. Medicine Hat High School
Tuesday, September 18	8:30 a.m. Webster Niblock School 10:30 a.m. Dr. Ken Sauer School 1:00 p.m. Crescent Heights High School
Wednesday, September 19	8:35 a.m. Southview School 10:35 a.m. Crestwood School 1:00 p.m. Elm Street School
Thursday, September 20	8:30 a.m. Vincent Massey School 1:00 p.m. Herald & River Heights School
Friday, September 21	8:45 a.m. George Davison School 1:00 p.m. Ecole Connaught School