

report

to the community



Hedges Middle Years School

2016-2017



"Opportunity for All"

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The Middle Years (Gr. 6 -8) provides a stimulating and supportive learning environment where high expectations, collaboration and continual learning are promoted. Early adolescents have unique emotional, social and developmental characteristics. Staffing, curricula and programming in middle schools are focused on meeting these needs. The programs in the Middle Years build on the programming in the Early Years.

Last Year's School Accomplishments (2015-16)

Hedges had a focus on literacy and numeracy and skill development in those areas.

- ✓ Daily routines involved concepts and numeracy practice. Daily practice of basic facts in game format increased student engagement.
- ✓ A school wide consistent approach was implemented in all sections of Math for daily mental math and Xtra Math.
- ✓ Reading clinician support, corrective reading, small group interaction and individuals requiring further support.
- ✓ Student assessment based on common rubrics in both ELA and Math.
- ✓ Variety of games and activities used to improve basic skills.
- ✓ Numeracy Coach for 6 weeks working with staff and students.

Hedges Middle School's staff and students will continue to demonstrate an increased understanding and awareness of Social Justice throughout the school and community.

- ✓ Increased indigenous awareness through our AAA liaison April Waters, sharing circle with Pamela Peristy and Red River Pow Wow
- ✓ Social Justice themes taught within subject areas
- ✓ Student involvement in Youth Forum, Student Leadership and WE Day, Safe Schools and composting daily in student and staff lunchrooms.
- ✓ Philanthropic activities such as Terry Fox, Halloween Harvest, Ornaments for Heritage Lodge, Hampers, Vow of Silence, WE Day, United Way, Siloam Mission.
- ✓ Teacher Advisory Groups met twice a month to discuss issues and increase students' connections within our school. Focus was on embracing diversity. MSIP action/research committee.

Our Vision Statement

Students at Hedges will develop good character, self-respect and pride in themselves and their work. They will be good citizens by respecting and getting along with others. They will have opportunities to develop their creative abilities and increase their desire for lifelong learning.

Our Mission Statement

Hedges School is committed to providing students with opportunities to develop personally, socially and academically in a safe environment and to become lifelong learners.

School Profile

Number of teachers: 25
Number of students: 360
Grade levels: 6-8

School Highlights

These include:

- Visual Arts
- Practical Arts and Human Ecology
- Choir and Dance
- Jazz Band and band
- AAA programming
- Class reviews
- Youth Action Center
- Hockey Program
- AFM teaching
- Student Led Portfolios
- WE Day
- Breakfast program
- Gr. 8 Jazz band camp
- Technology Integration
- Assemblies of Success
- Student Leadership

Hedges Middle School's staff and students will continue to develop and promote positive relationships within our school community.

- ✓ Hedges Middle School provided a grade 6 meet the teacher night so parents could meet staff and experience a day in the life of grade 6.
- ✓ Students presented their portfolios to their parents/guardians at our November and February Student-led Portfolio Conferences. We will continue with the portfolios this year.
- ✓ A Learning Showcase and BBQ were held in June which included the year end Band concert.
- ✓ Increased partnerships within our Family of Schools throughout the year.

A Quick Snapshot of the Classroom

English: Students in Language Arts did a technology project. They researched information about social media sites and apps. They put together a social media safety presentation and shared it with the grade 6's.

Arts: Our band, choir, and visual arts had several authentic opportunities throughout the year to showcase their talents. We hosted a winter and spring band concert. As well, students performed at the Family of Schools concert and Festival. Art students made outfits out of recycled material and those were displayed on the runway during our Learning Showcase in June.

Science: Grade 6 students had fieldtrip to the Western Canada Aviation Museum and the grade 7's attended Fort Whyte. As well, Destination Imagination was included in curriculum rather than taught in isolation.

French: The grade 6's went to Fort Whyte Centre. They did a predator vs prey activity. The grade 7's students got to experience the culture as well, during their trip to Festival Du Voyageur. The grade 8's went to the St. Boniface Museum and did a GPS adventure.

Mathematics: Math teachers worked on improving basic skills through daily mental math and Xtra math program on the students' ipads. The daily routine served to increase math skills. It also proved to increase student engagement. We had a numeracy coach for 6 weeks to support staff and students in basic skill improvement.

Social Studies: Social Studies continued to focus on citizenship, social justice as well as infusing technology into our research and presentations. Social justice themes explored throughout the year, such as Immigration, Citizenship Rights, and Children's rights led students to discover the need for and to practice student voice in our Global Community. Grade 8's focused on diverse cultures and school culture.

Planning & Goal Setting

School goals are created using the Divisional Strategic Plan as the guideline (www.sjsd.net/planning). The goal setting process begins in early spring and includes input from students, teachers, parents and the community. Goals are developed around the needs and direction of the various departments with student progress and achievement and our mission and vision statement as our focus.

Extra-curricular Activities

- Cross-country, volleyball, basketball, team handball, track and field, badminton, flag rugby
- Improve
- Marathon club
- Drama production
- Annual ski trip
- Fieldtrips
- Woods club
- Dance club
- Intramurals
- Phys-ed leaders
- Safe schools committee
- Roots of Empathy
- Yearbook committee
- Photography club

This Year's School Goals and Priorities (2016-2017)

1. Hedges staff will continue to focus on Numeracy skill development and problem solving in Math:

- Teachers will use an initial assessment to determine students' baseline in understanding basic skills.
- This baseline will gauge improvement, inform instruction and appropriate intervention.
- Resource support will be used as well as co-teaching as an intervention strategy.
- Daily mental math in school-wide consistent approach
- Common assessments and rubrics in the area of problem solving.
- Numeracy coach for 6 weeks for modelling and support of staff and students.

2. Hedges staff will continue to educate toward sustainability and social justice practices in our school and in our classrooms; in particular:

- Student leadership will provide opportunities in these two areas throughout the year to increase student awareness and involvement.
- Students and staff will be provided with opportunities to participate in activities such as Terry Fox run, Halloween Harvest, Food Fare Fridays, Christmas Food Drive for Harvest, WE day, United Way and Siloam Mission.
- Teachers will track and monitor student participation in school based activities.
- PD time will be used by staff in order to plan, discuss and assess progress.
- Teachers will meet regularly throughout the year to further plan, assess and evaluate opportunities for social justice involvement.
- Project 11 will begin this year with our grade 8's.

3. Hedges staff will continue to work on reading comprehension improvement for all students:

- Teachers will engage students in activating strategies (DI) to introduce and reinforce specific content vocabulary.
- Student reading inventories and pre-assessment data gathered in September to gauge interests, and reading habits.
- Fountas and Pinnell reading assessments on students grades 6-8
- RAD assessments will be completed during the school year.
- Teachers will use common criteria to assess, inform instruction, and monitor progress.
- Staff will continue with Corrective reading, reading clinician support and FAST programs.
- Use of data from provincial assessment and report cards to inform instruction and programming.
- We have a free lending library.
- Literacy coach for 6 weeks to support staff and students.