

report

to the community



Bruce Middle School

2017-2018



333 Booth Drive | Winnipeg, Manitoba | R3J 3M8

Ph: 888-1990 | Fax: 888-1379

Web: www.sjasd.ca/school/bruce Email: bruce@sjasd.ca

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 (2016-2017)

By June 2017, students will use the skills of good writing and reading comprehension strategies across multiple content areas to critically articulate thinking, deepen understanding and communicate ideas.

- ✓ Pre-assessment results were analyzed throughout the year (in October and May) and responsive instruction addressed student strengths and needs.
- ✓ Teachers worked collaboratively in small grade level partnerships to develop common criteria for 'meeting' expectations.
- ✓ Collaborative work between the resource teacher, classroom teachers, the Reading Clinician and Curriculum Coordinator throughout the year addressed instructional interventions for students who were well below grade level expectations.
- ✓ Student personal choice reading was increased with daily independent reading in most classrooms.
- ✓ Literacy Progressions (Fountas & Pinnell) were used to guide professional conversations and plan for the instructional needs of students.
- ✓ Daily literacy routines were developed with our Literacy coach in our English language arts classes.
- ✓ New resources and strategies that strengthened literacy instruction were developed and supported with the assistance of our literacy coaches.

By June 2017, students will improve performance and develop confidence in their ability as mathematical thinkers through problem solving, engaging mathematics tasks, and cross curricular connections through multiple content areas.

- ✓ Initiated the collaborative development of a school-wide numeracy belief statement.
- ✓ Dialogued during grade level meeting time with intention and purpose around literacy and numeracy plans on a regular basis.

Our Mission Statement

To provide a positive and safe learning environment that encourages continuous growth.

School Profile

Number of teachers: 21

Number of students: 283

Grade levels: 6-8

School Highlights

Professional staff is committed to providing a variety of meaningful and engaging instructional experiences for all learners. School highlights include:

- Multi-aged BLAST groupings for homerooms.
- BLAST events that promote school spirit and philanthropic work in the community.
- Quality Arts programming: Band, Jazz band, Vocal Jazz, Concert Choir, Bearcat Boys
- Practical Arts and Technology
- Infusion of Technology in the classroom using iPads
- Skills for Independent Living Program

Extra-curricular Activities

A variety of activities and opportunities for all students:

- Sports: Volleyball, Basketball, Cross Country, Track, Ultimate, Badminton, Rugby, Team Handball, Curling and more
- Drama Production
- Cycling Club
- Eco- Club
- Student-led Leadership

- ✓ Timetabling fostered co-teaching opportunities across one or more math classes to allow teachers to differentiate strategies and activities.
- ✓ Used ME mathematics resource documents to support programming, planning and assessment.
- ✓ Implemented timely, ongoing formative/diagnostic assessments to help inform next steps in planning.
- ✓ Worked with our Numeracy coach to develop daily numeracy routines to be implemented school wide.
- ✓ Worked with our Numeracy Coach to implement new resources and strategies that will strengthen numeracy instruction and support.
- ✓ Gave priority to the mathematical practices, including problem solving, and reasoning.
- ✓ Embedded purposeful, authentic numeracy related experiences in all content areas.
- ✓ Made connections between multiple content areas and the opportunities to think mathematically and to see the mathematics.
- ✓ Explored high quality print and online resources as recommended by the Numeracy Coach and Coordinator team.
- ✓ Selected learning tasks that provide multiple entry points.
- ✓ Planned and implemented activities that promoted positive dispositions towards the study of mathematics, including curiosity, self-confidence, flexibility, perseverance and the connections to multiple content areas.

By June 2017, students will participate in social justice or sustainability themed experiences.

- ✓ Students completed a teacher and student generated survey related to school attitudes and experiences related to school safety, themes of social justice and sustainability.
- ✓ Results informed staff and students of current status regarding school safety concerns and areas of strengths and interests.
- ✓ WE Day initiatives involved student-led groups tasked with selecting and leading one local and one global action and planning for involving whole-school participation.
- ✓ Initiatives supported classroom learning environment, involved technology and connected to meaningful reading and writing tasks. Topics are included in school assemblies and involve parents/families and the community.
- ✓ Learning experiences included real life connections to meaningful sustainable living and social justice issues and involved students in related actions when appropriate.
- ✓ Family / community initiatives were planned and implemented to improve relationships and increase community spirit for students and staff.
- ✓ School wide events such as Remembrance Day ceremony, Success Assemblies, ESD assemblies and events, and parent/ community events including student-led portfolio nights and other events incorporated a broad representation of student input and involvement.

A Quick Snapshot of the Classroom

Mathematics: Students are learning mathematics concepts through the use of hands-on manipulatives, games, guided instructional practice groups and real-life problem solving contexts.

English Language Arts: Students are engaged in literacy using a broad range of reading materials and meaningful writing experiences. With a focus on developing strength as readers in fiction and non-fiction texts, students gain

reading comprehension skills through opportunities to discuss thinking and ideas while reading and responding critically to text. To develop as writers, the language of the “6 Traits of Writing” is implemented to provide students with quality instruction and effective feedback to enhance written communication.

Science and Social Studies: Students are engaged in projects, experiments, field trips, the local community, and hands-on experiences to enhance their learning of the curricular concepts. Discussing current events, invited guest speakers in the classroom and frequent trips to the nearby Sturgeon Creek help students understand the real-life connections to the content studied. Students are encouraged to participate in the Science and Heritage Fair to enrich and facilitate further inquiry and research learning in these subject areas.

Arts: A range of musical, visual and dramatic arts engage a variety of students in Arts programming throughout the school day. Band and choir concerts, festivals and other community performances, themed concerts, spring drama production and visual arts events and displays celebrate and spotlight the hard work of these dedicated students. Including the Arts in school assemblies and Remembrance Day services provides students additional opportunities to contribute their talent and passion for the arts to enhance school experiences.

Planning & Goal Setting

School goals are created using the Divisional Strategic Plan as the guideline (www.sjasd.ca/Documents/stratplan_2016-21.pdf). 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.

This Year’s School Goals and Priorities (2017-2018)

1. 75% of grade 6-8 students will be meeting expectations in the area of student responds critically to a variety of texts by June 2018.

- Each grade level team will develop a set of rich texts with a variety of perspectives and themes such as picture books, photography and artwork to model read-alouds and think-alouds.
- Teams will share OLM format instructional strategies (mini lessons) on inferencing and metacognition on a monthly basis (PLC, staff, team meeting).
- Teams will develop and share formative assessments.

2. 80% of grade 6-8 students will be meeting expectations in the areas of understanding key ideas and messages and interpreting and making connections to a variety of texts.

- The grade level teams will collaborate to develop some shared fiction and non-fiction texts.
- Teams will collaborate on particular reading strategies (mini lessons) on an ongoing basis.
- Teams will share formative reading comprehension assessments.
- Teams will ensure 20 minutes of reading time on a daily basis.
- Teams will co-teach alongside literacy coaches.

3. 70% of grade 6-8 students will be meeting expectations in the areas of identifying key information and selecting appropriate strategies to determine a solution.

- The grade level teams will develop and use sample word problems on an ongoing basis and modify these as needed to reinforce and develop student skills, based on formative assessments.
- Teachers will share formative assessment instructional strategies and collaborate on adaptations for reading comprehension across subject area.
- Teams will co-teach alongside numeracy coaches.