

report

to the community



George Waters Middle School

2023-24



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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 Broad Areas of Focus (2022-2023)

Literacy

Students will demonstrate improvement in their proficiency in reading comprehension. Students will develop their identity as a reader.

Numeracy

Students will represent concepts concretely, pictorially and symbolically and be able to apply their deeper understanding of concepts while completing tasks that require a higher depth of knowledge.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Students will become mindful of their emotions, feel safe, welcomed and connected at school and feel empowered to make positive changes within themselves and in our school.

What Did the Evidence of Student Learning Tell Us?

Literacy

Throughout the year, specific reading and thinking strategies were taught and practiced by all students during daily school-wide literacy time. Book displays in the school library and classroom libraries exposed and encouraged students to explore different genres, authors, and formats of books to further develop and refine individual reading identities. Also, during literacy time, students were exposed to many diverse, high-interest texts through book talks, first-chapter samples, and book trailers, while physical copies of books were made available to students wanting to explore a text further.

Numeracy

Students were exposed to multiple representations of concepts throughout the year to support a deeper understanding of the content learned. An

Our Vision Statement

We aim to provide meaningful, inclusive, and caring educational environment so that students are prepared to be responsible citizens in a democratic society.

Our Mission Statement

George Waters Middle School is devoted to academic excellence, respect for individual rights and differences as well as to the development of individual strengths.

School Profile

Number of teachers: 25
Number of students: 322
Grade levels: 6-8

School Highlights

- Arts Education (Art, Band, Choral, Computer Art, Drama, Dance)
- C.A.R.E. (Celebrating and Recognizing Excellence) Assemblies held monthly
- Comprehensive Growth Portfolio completed by all students
- Full-service cafeteria and lunch program
- St. James Hockey Academy
- Winnipeg Jets True North Foundation Hockey Academy
- Laptops available for students
- Breakfast/Lunch Program
- Parent Advisory Group
- PDHS (Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students)
- Practical Arts (Home Economics, Woodworking)

emphasis on using manipulatives was used in classes to support student learning. During numeracy, students were provided opportunities to refine their mental math skills using multiple methods to solve expressions and equations. They were also tasked with low-floor/high-ceiling rich tasks promoting critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Students participated in a survey intended to measure if they feel that school is a safe and inclusive place for them. The survey was completed early in the year and data was collected to determine priority areas to focus on. Most of the follow-up data was anecdotal as we focused on specific students who indicated that they do not feel safe or included at school.

Anticipated Next Steps

Literacy

Teachers will continue using high-yield teaching practices with a focus on create authentic learning experiences with opportunities to connect with real audiences to enhance students' sense of purpose and engagement.

Numeracy

Teachers will continue to incorporate multiple representations of mathematical concepts in their teaching to promote a deeper understanding of concepts. These representations will include symbolic, contextual, physical, verbal, and visual to provide a holistic understanding of concepts learned.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Refine the survey for the coming year to better measure data that we would like to collect and repeat the new survey at the end of the year to see if there has been an improvement in the areas that we prioritize according to initial data.

2023-2024 Planning & Goal Setting Process

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 our focus on student progress and achievement and our mission and vision statement. We believe that our goals are a living document that can be seen in all of our classrooms and are belief statements that encompass our learning environment.

2023-2024 Identified Areas of Focus

Literacy

- Students will engage in daily independent reading focusing on choice, purpose, and authenticity
- Students will be exposed to read-alouds, independent reading, and a variety of texts (picture books, images, animated shorts, articles)
- Using a variety of texts, students will be exposed to evidence-based strategies and given opportunities to apply their learning in a variety of formats (literature circles, independent reading, novel studies, etc.)

Numeracy

- Students engage in multiple representations (Visual, Physical, Symbolic, Contextual & Verbal - Principles to Action NCTM) using a variety of ways to be flexible to show their learning and apply their understanding to deeper level questions through these experiences.
- Support student understanding of math concepts using many representations. (Be flexible to try other representations to show their thinking.)
- Students engage and persevere in activities, lessons, and assessments that explore all types of representations.
- Students are able to successfully demonstrate their understanding of concepts on Divisional Common Assessments, teacher observations and conversations and school-based tasks, requiring deeper level thinking.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

- Students are engaged and feel a strong sense of belonging when the environment is visually vibrant with colourful decor and active participation, including lively discussions and supportive teacher-student interactions.
- Students have a sense of emotional well-being and belonging. Overall, the ambiance is filled with positive energy, mutual respect, and a strong sense of school culture.
- Bring parents/caregivers into our school community more often than in the past. This will result in there being more positive interactions and students' sense of belonging within the school community.

Extra-Curricular Activities

A large variety of activities and opportunities:

- A wide range of extra-curricular Athletics (Volleyball, Basketball, Track and Field, Cross Country, Flag Rugby/Football, Ultimate, Badminton and more) for all grades

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Student Leadership Group
- Daily Intramurals at lunch
- Choir and Jazz Band
- Book Club
- Puzzles and Board Games Club
- Chess Club
- Dungeons and Dragons Club
- And more...