



REPORT

to the community



(Grades 6–8)



Hedges Middle School

VISION

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.

MISSION

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

About Middle Years

The Middle Years (Gr. 6–8) provides a stimulating and supportive learning environment where high expectations, collaboration and continual learning are provided. 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.

Profile



29

Teachers



14

Support Staff



407

Students



SUPPORTING & CELEBRATING STUDENTS

Hedges Middle School fosters a culture of success, where student progress is continuously evaluated and individual accomplishments are celebrated. Dedicated to academic excellence, emotional well-being, and social development, the school upholds the division's mission to shape responsible, successful global citizens. Achievements in academics, the arts, and athletics are

recognized through monthly success assemblies and school-wide events that showcase student excellence. Collaborative partnerships with parents and the broader community further extend this recognition, ensuring that student success is celebrated both within the school and beyond, promoting a culture of ongoing growth and shared achievement.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Hedges Middle School fosters strong community connections by promoting collaboration among the school, families, and the community. Involvement is encouraged through events like student-led portfolio conferences, volunteer opportunities, sports, arts and camps. These extracurricular activities unite families and local partners. The school works

closely with local businesses, organizations (WJHA, Sobeys's, Walmart, Food Fare), and social services to provide valuable resources, enrich learning experiences to support student growth. These partnerships are vital to creating a supportive, inclusive environment that empowers students to thrive academically and socially.



LAST YEAR'S BROAD AREAS OF FOCUS

What did the evidence of student learning tell us?

Our evidence of student learning highlights a strong focus on skill development across subjects which is still required. The writing program uses on-demand activities and the Optimal Learning Model (OLM) to enrich lessons, with Language Arts and Social Studies incorporating revision checklists. Language Arts places special emphasis on grammar and conventions. In math, rubrics guide students in simplifying problem-solving strategies. Daily Hawk Time supports students' mental health, connections and life skills. Community engagement initiatives include the Hedges Helps Harvest food collection, packing food hampers at the Cheer Board, pen pal exchanges and visits with personal care home residents at Oakview Place, and a Family of Schools BBQ. Student support includes connectedness surveys, daily smudging and a focus on student transitions in June.

What are the anticipated next steps?

We are refining rubrics to align with provincial standards, providing ongoing teacher training on the Optimal Learning Model and integrating student voice. Regular assessments of student performance will be conducted to inform instruction. Strengthening community partnerships for various initiatives will enhance engagement, while efforts will be made to promote student participation in extracurricular activities. Feedback will continue to be gathered from students and parents to ensure responsiveness to their needs. Additionally, mental health programs will be maintained to support well-being, and collaboration with the Indigenous Committee will be prioritized to enhance cultural inclusivity within the school community.



2024-2025 PLANNING

IDENTIFIED AREAS OF FOCUS

Hedges Middle School is centered around three foundational pillars: literacy, numeracy, and fostering a culture of belonging through community building.

Literacy: The school enhances reading, writing, and communication skills across all subjects through targeted strategies and data-driven approaches, empowering students to confidently express their ideas and engage with diverse texts.

Numeracy: Hedges emphasizes strong mathematical skills by focusing on problem-solving, critical thinking, and real-world applications. Teachers employ differentiated instruction and formative assessments to meet individual learning needs and improve overall competency.

Culture of Belonging and Community Building:

The school creates an inclusive environment where all students feel valued. By building strong relationships with students, families, and the community, celebrating diversity, and integrating Indigenous perspectives, Hedges fosters collaboration and personal growth.

Together, these pillars provide a comprehensive approach to education, ensuring holistic success for every student.



INDIGENOUS-INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

An Indigenous-inclusive education system is grounded in Indigenous histories, cultures, languages, traditional values, and knowledges. An equitable school community fosters a sense of belonging in all learners so that they feel they can succeed, take responsibility, and find their purpose in life. HEDGES is committed to:

- Promoting authentic Involvement of Elders, Knowledge-Keepers, and members of the community.
- Employing a holistic approach to supporting students by putting students at the center.
- Providing an Inclusive and Culturally Safe Learning Environment.
- Valuing and celebrating differences by demonstrating respect for world views, values, identities, and traditions.