

report

to the community



Hedges Middle School

2023-2024



"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 Broad Areas of Focus (2022-2023)

Literacy: Students will improve their proficiency in writing through key instructional practices.

Numeracy: Students will improve their ability to engage, persevere, and communicate their reasoning in problem solving.

Building Community: Students will explore the principles of collaboration, citizenship, and character to build a sense of community and ensure a culture of inclusion, equity and belonging.

What Did the Evidence of Student Learning Tell Us?

Literacy:

Demonstrated increase in writing engagement and more students willing to share written work through:

- Daily writing activities
- Diverse writing projects to reflect the needs of all students
- Student choice and voice with project creation
- Focused improvement in writing by using effective, research-based writing models and strategies
- Explicit and direct teaching of basic steps for writing
- Intentional focus on communication in math problem-solving
- Intentional focus on communication using the scientific method
- Writing conferences

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: 27

Number of students: 358

Grade levels: 6-8

School Highlights

Highlights include:

- Visual Arts
- Practical Arts and Human Ecology
- Jazz Band and Band
- Choral Program
- GSA student group
- WJHA/SJAHA Hockey Program
- Student Led Portfolios
- Tiered Athletic Programs
- Daily Intramural Programs
- Gr. 7 Camp
- Technology Integration
- Assemblies of Success
- Student Leadership
- Growth Mindset
- Bowling
- Canteen Operation Experience

Numeracy:

Demonstrated increase in students who were able to:

- *Use a variety of formulas and ratios independently*
- *Select appropriate problem-solving strategies*
- *Bridge knowledge and skills through spiraling curriculum*
- *Demonstrate visible thinking routines to compare strategies*
- *Demonstrate perseverance and improvement by having access to a variety of rephrasing language strategies*
- *Effectively select problem solving skills through coding in PA*
- *Utilize “Math Throwdowns” to discuss comparisons of math strategies*
- *Use graphing, in science, as a strategy to communicate findings*
- *Self-assess in problem-solving*
- *Participate in number talks and share thinking with peers*

Building Community:

Students explored the principles of collaboration, citizenship, and character to build a sense of community and ensure a culture of inclusion, equity and belonging by participating in a variety of extra-curricular clubs and school activities including:

- *Culture Club*
- *Hedges Helps Harvest*
- *Pantry*
- *Christmas Cheer Board*
- *GSA*
- *Reading Buddies with in-school daycare*
- *Monday Meetings*
- *POW WOW Club*
- *Sharing Circle*
- *Grade 7 Camp*
- *Toasty Tuesday’s*
- *Cultural Presentations from Red River students*
- *Guest speakers*
- *Nutrition breaks*
- *Great Canadian Mail Race*
- *Field Trips*
- *Noodles and Needles*
- *Isbister Park visit*
- *Community Clean-up*
- *Parent Volunteers*
- *Connected with Seniors in our community via pen-pals and visitation*

Anticipated Next Steps

Literacy: *Students will improve their proficiency in writing through equitable key instructional practices through: Daily skills practice in grade 6 (mechanics), continued daily practice and modelling through a variety of contexts and across all subject areas, making writing visible through writing books & publishing, expand on critical thinking and communication skills through writing, self assessment- based on shared success criteria, use of exemplars and learning goals.*

Extra-curricular Activities

Activities include:

- Cross-country
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Track and Field
- Badminton
- Improv
- Marathon Club
- Drama Production
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Fieldtrips
- Long Board Club
- Mani-Mondays
- Phys-Ed Leaders
- Yearbook Committee
- Tech/Photography club
- Student Leadership
- Crotchet Club
- Sewing Club
- Cooking Club
- Cribbage Club
- Craft Club
- Hedges Helps Harvest
- Yoga
- Culture Club
- Sharing Circle
- POW WOW Club

Numeracy: *Students will improve their ability to engage, persevere, and communicate their reasoning in problem solving. Continue to build the repertoire of strategies, continue to actively involve students in self-assessment practices, infuse the concept that science is the application and contextualization of math.*

Building Community: *Students will explore the principles of collaboration, citizenship and character to build a sense of community and ensure a culture of inclusion, equity and belonging including: Celebrate diversity in our community, conduct student interest inventory for program planning, promote culture of inclusion, equity and belonging, integrate Project 11, Mindful Mondays, Thoughtful Thursdays, Snow Angels, Family Participation for Indigenous Day, Encourage Family & Community partnerships during Indigenous Committee meetings, invite Elders & Knowledge Keepers to guide our TRC journey, Strengthen partnerships with our Family of Schools neighbors (Buchanan and JT Collegiate), Reading buddies at Buchanan & within grade levels, Build relationships with Unicity businesses, forge more grade 6-7-8 partnerships within the school setting.*

2023-2024 Planning & Goal Setting Process

School goals are created using the SJASD Strategic Plan as the guideline (<http://surl.li/ddsmj>). The goal setting process is a continuous improvement plan. In early spring, as our staff assess student progress and achievement through collected data, we begin to revise and formulate goals for the next school year. The needs of students, teachers, parents, and the community provide direction, with our mission and vision statement at the heart of the planning process.

2023-2024 Identified Areas of Focus

Literacy: Writing communication across all subjects 6-8: *Students will improve their proficiency in writing through equitable key instructional practices.*

Numeracy: Communication of numeracy problem-solving grades 6-8: *Students will improve their ability to engage, persevere, and communicate their reasoning in problem solving.*

Building Community: Foster a sense of belonging, connection, and well-being: *Students will explore the principles of collaboration, citizenship, and character to build a sense of community and ensure a culture of inclusion, equity and belonging.*