

School Handbook



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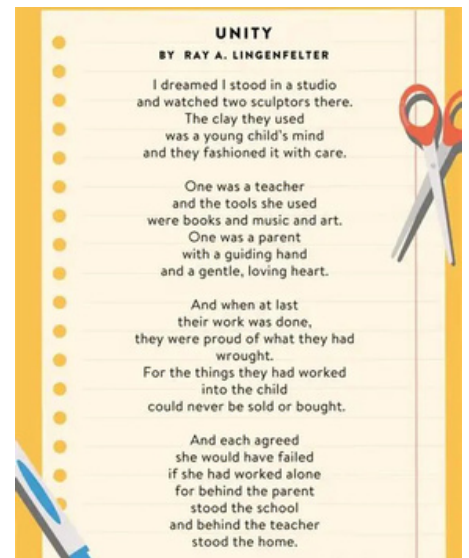
Welcome to Heritage School

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Heritage School! Our learning environment, which includes learning outdoors from and with the land, is built on inclusivity, creativity, and the joy of discovery, where play and imagination go hand in hand with academic growth. We encourage students to explore, take risks, and develop a lifelong love of learning while nurturing kindness, mutual respect, and an understanding of what it means to live in a good way.

We know that strong partnerships with parents, families, and our wider community are essential in supporting the success and well-being of every student. I sincerely look forward to getting to know everyone and to help every child find and enhance their strengths and gifts, in partnership with you.

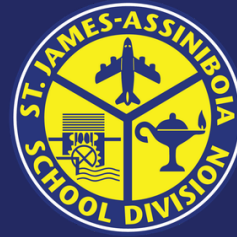
If at any time you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.



Warm regards,

Terri Warner
Principal, **Heritage School**

Land Acknowledgement



The community of St. James-Assiniboia has deep Indigenous roots. These lands and waters are the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, the Ininewak, and the Dakota Oyate peoples. It is the birthplace and national homeland of the Red River Métis. It is also home to members of the Denesuline, the Anisininewuk, and Inuit nations. Our community is bound by Treaty One.

Our water flows from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation in Treaty Three, and our buildings are powered by Northern Manitoba in Treaty Five. We are all tied together through the treaties that were signed across these lands. These treaties come with a responsibility to the land, the waters, the animals, and each other. We are committed to honour and learn about the true history of this place, and to do our parts to move our community forward in a true spirit of justice and reconciliation.

La communauté St. James- Assiniboia a de profondes racines autochtones. Ces terres et eaux sont les territoires traditionnels des peuples Anishinaabeg, Ininewak, et Dakota Oyate. Berceau et patrie nationale des Métis de la Rivière Rouge, elle accueille également les membres des peuples Denesuline, Anisininewuk, et Inuit. Notre communauté est tenue par le Traité 1.

Notre eau coule de la Première Nation Shoal Lake numéro 40 du Traité 3 et l'électricité de nos bâtiments est fournie par le Nord du Manitoba et le Traité 5. Nous sommes tous liés par les traités signés sur ces terres et avons une responsabilité envers la terre, envers les eaux, envers les animaux, et l'un envers l'autre. Nous nous consacrons à honorer et à apprendre la vraie histoire de cet endroit. Nous nous engageons dans l'avancement de cette communauté dans l'esprit de la justice et de la réconciliation.



Heritage School Vision/Mission Statement

VISION

We are a leading and innovative learning community that will enable all students to succeed in our ever-changing world.

MISSION

The mission of Heritage School is to create an environment that fosters positive self-esteem, optimal academic growth, and responsible social interactions. The success of this mission requires the commitment and cooperation of students, parents, teachers and the community.

School Information

Heritage School



**47 Heritage
Blvd.**



204-837-1394



204-832-6676



heritage@sjasd.ca



heritage_hawks



8:00 am-4:00 pm



BELL SCHEDULE FOR HERITAGE SCHOOL

8:20 – 8:35 A.M. BREAKFAST FOR ALL STUDENTS

8:35 – 8:40 ENTRANCE INTO SCHOOL

8:40 – 8:45 ROLL CALL, OPENING EXERCISES

8:45 – 9:20 PERIOD 1

9:22 – 9:57 PERIOD 2

10:00 – 10:15 RECESS BREAK

10:18 10:53 PERIOD 3

10:55 – 11:30 PERIOD 4

11:30 – 12:30 P.M. LUNCH BREAK

12:30 – 12:35 ENTRANCE/ ATTENDANCE

12:35 – 1:10 PERIOD 5

1:12 – 1:47 PERIOD 6

1:50 – 2:05 RECESS BREAK

2:07 – 2:42 PERIOD 7

2:42 – 3:20 PERIOD 8

3:20 P.M. DISMISSAL OF STUDENTS

****EARLY DISMISSAL FOR STAFF MEETING FIRST TUESDAY
OF EACH MONTH 2:50 P.M.**

****EARLY DISMISSAL FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MEETING THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH 2:50 P.M.**



SJASD is committed to educational programs in which children can develop their natural capabilities to their fullest extent, building upon personal strengths and the richness of our culturally diverse population.

School Hours & Drop-Off/Pick-Up Times

01 School Office Hours

8:00 am – 4:00 pm

02 Morning Drop-Off

8:35 am (The entry bell rings)

03 Afternoon Pick-Up

3:20 pm (2:50 pm on Early Dismissal days)

04 Pick-Up Authorization

Only listed guardians may pick up a child

Drop-Off Instructions

- Kindergarten students meet their teacher at the front of the school by the flag pole.
- Grade 1-5 students meet on the back hardtop in the morning in their assigned lines and then enter through the back doors.
- If a student is late, they are to come directly to the office to check in and for a welcome slip.

Pick-Up Instructions

- Kindergarten students are dismissed at the front of the school near the flag pole.
- All grade 1-5 students are dismissed to the back of the school or to daycare.
- Please contact the office if there are any changes to your child's pick up plan.



Communication Between School & Parents

Effective communication between home and school is essential to supporting student learning, well-being, and success. Throughout the year, families can expect to receive information through a variety of channels.

General School Updates

- **From the Office**
Monthly newsletters; messages on Fridays , summarizing school highlights and upcoming events.
- **Classroom Updates**
Classroom teachers will communicate via email, phone or on the SeeSaw platform.
- **Updates via school website and Instagram**
Parents receive photos, messages, and reports through our school website heritage@sjasd.ca and our Instagram account https://www.instagram.com/heritage_hawks/

Direct Communication

- **Parent-Teacher Meetings**
Available twice a year via Parent-Teacher Conferences or upon request.
- **Email & Phone Support**
Teachers and staff are available for inquiries during school hours.



Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are meant to celebrate the learning of each student and are scheduled twice a year to discuss:

- Student growth and achievement.
- Families will receive information about conference dates and appointment scheduling from the school.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to attend and work collaboratively with teachers to support student success.

Additional meetings can be scheduled if needed.

School Visitation Policy

Parents are welcome to visit the school, but for security reasons, the following practices apply:

- All visitors and volunteers must check in at the front office and wear a visitor's badge.
- No visitors may go to the classroom unless pre-arranged with the teacher.
- If a parent or volunteer is required, your child's classroom teacher will contact parents to determine availability and interest.

Our Commitment to a Respectful School Community

At our schools, we believe that students thrive when caregivers and staff work together in a spirit of mutual respect, trust, and collaboration. We are committed to maintaining a safe, caring, and respectful environment for everyone. We ask all members of our school community to communicate respectfully and working together to support student success.

Community Expectations

All members of our school community are expected to:

- Treat staff, students, volunteers, and visitors with dignity and respect.
- Communicate concerns in a calm, constructive, and respectful manner.
- Use appropriate language and maintain respectful behaviour during meetings, phone calls, emails, and all other forms of communication.
- Work collaboratively with school staff to support student learning, well-being, and success.
- Respect the professional roles and responsibilities of all school employees.



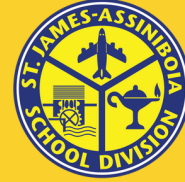
[Scan here to review SJASD Policy
GBAA - Respectful Workplace](#)



By working together respectfully, we help create a positive learning and working environment where everyone feels valued, safe, and supported. This expectation reflects the St. James-Assiniboia School Division's commitment to maintaining a respectful workplace and school community.



The safety, rights and well-being of the students we serve are at the core of our daily operations. We nurture supportive relationships with students while balancing and encouraging appropriate boundaries and healthy relationships.



Student Safety and Professional Boundaries

St. James-Assiniboia School Division is committed to providing safe, caring, and inclusive schools. Policy GBEB establishes expectations for appropriate interactions between students and adults working within the Division. Students who experience, witness, or become aware of conduct that may be inappropriate are encouraged to report concerns to a teacher, counsellor, principal, vice-principal, parent/caregiver, or another trusted adult. All concerns will be taken seriously and addressed appropriately.

Child Protection and Professional Boundaries

The Division maintains Policy GBEB: Code of Conduct for Child Protection to support safe, respectful, and professional relationships between students and adults who work or volunteer in our schools. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to review the full policy on the Division website and report any concerns regarding student safety or professional boundaries to their school principal or the Superintendent's Office.



[Scan here to review SJASD
Policy GBEB - Code of Conduct
for Child Protection](#)



Parents play an important role in our school community. We offer several ways to participate, volunteer, and support your child's education journey.



[Scan here to review SJASD Policy KMA - Parent Involvement in Schools](#)



Parent Organizations

An annual Establishment Meeting will occur each fall to determine the formation of one or more of the following parent organizations.

- **Parent Advisory Council (PAC)**
- **School Advisory Committee (SAC)**
- **Booster Committee**
- **Advisory Council for School Leadership**

This year's AEM will occur on:

September 22, 2026 at 6:00 pm



Classroom Involvement

- **Field Trip Chaperones**
Supervising a small group of students.
- **Classroom Assistance**
Helping teachers organize activities and assist during special classroom projects, and assist students practice reading.



School-Wide Volunteering

- **Nutrition Programs**
Help prep snacks for students.
- **Special Events and school celebrations**
Assisting with school-wide events.
- **Sports team coaches or assistants**
Supports student sports programs.

All parent volunteers must complete a volunteer package and provide several required documents before participating in school activities.



[Scan here to review SJASD Policy IJOC - Checks for Volunteers](#)

SJASD is committed to providing a full and efficient educational experience for all learners. Students who attend school regularly are more engaged in learning, have a greater opportunity to access school and community resources, have a greater sense of belonging, and are more likely to reach their full potential. Student presence and engagement is required for success. Below are our policies regarding attendance, absences, and tardiness.

Attendance Expectations

- All students are expected to attend school Monday through Friday during regular school hours.
- Parents must take all reasonable measures to ensure the child attends school regularly.
- If a child will be absent, parents must notify the school by using the Divisional absence reporting system, School Messenger (see Reporting Absences).

Late Arrivals

- The school day begins at **8:35 am** or **12:30 pm**. Any student arriving after these times is considered late.
- Parents must sign in late arrivals at the school office to receive a "welcome slip."
- If a child is expected to be late, caregivers are encouraged to notify the school by using the Divisional absence reporting system.

Reporting Absences

- Caregivers must use the Divisional school absence reporting system, School Messenger, by one of 3 ways:
 - Download the app from the Apple App Store or Android App on Google play or
 - via website [School Messenger](#) or
 - Call 1-844-434-8116
- If a child's absence is not reported, the automated notification system will try to contact you.

Planned Absences, Family Vacations & Early Dismissals

- We understand that families may have pre-planned trips, obligations, or appointments.
- Parents/guardians should notify the school at least two weeks in advance of any extended absence.
- Students leaving school early must be signed out at the office by a parent/guardian.
- Early dismissals and absences will be recorded by the office.
- Whenever possible, medical and dental appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours.
- Teachers are not required to provide students with the supplementary learning materials during planned absence.

Unexcused Absences & Attendance Review

An absence is considered unexcused if:

- The school is not notified in advance.
- The child misses school due to a non-emergency, non-medical reason without prior notice.
- The child is absent frequently without justification.

Chronic absenteeism (more than 10 percent of instructional days in K-8 in a reporting period) may result in a review of the child's attendance improvement plan (AIP).

[Scan here to review SJASD Policy JE - Student Presence and Engagement](#)



If a student accumulates **10 unexcused absences per semester**, the school will schedule a **parent-teacher** meeting to discuss the impact of attendance on the child's learning and development.

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SJASD prioritize student health and well-being. Our practices help create a safe, clean, and supportive environment for all children.



Illness

When to Keep Your Child at Home

As recommended by [Manitoba Public Health](#), children must stay home if they have:

- Fever of 38°C or higher (must be fever-free for 24 hours without medication to return).
- Vomiting or diarrhea in the past 24 hours.
- Unexplained rash, pink eye, or contagious illness.
- Persistent cough, difficulty breathing, or flu-like symptoms.

Parents/guardians are asked to notify the school of any illness-related absence. Where an illness results in an extended absence, the school may request medical documentation and will work with the family to support the student's returning to learning and access to missed work.

Lice and Bed bugs

Lice and bed bugs can occur: Regularly check your child's hair and clothing and treat as needed.

If your child has lice: Your child should stay home until their first full treatment with a recommended lice shampoo has been completed.

If lice or bedbugs are identified in your child's school: A notice will be sent home to inform families via the automated school messenger system.



[Scan here to review SJASD Policy JLCD – Administering Medicines to Students](#)

Prescription Medication

Prescription medications require a completed Authorization and Administration of Prescribed Medication Form.

All medication must be in its original packaging and labelled with student's name. It is to be handed directly to a staff member.

No medication (including over the counter medicine) should be left in a child's backpack.

Allergy, Scent & Food Safety Practices

SJASD is an allergy-aware division.

SJASD schools promote a scent-aware environment.

SJASD schools follows food safety practices.

At least two staff members within each school are trained in allergy response and emergency first-aid medical procedures.

The St. James-Assiniboia School Division recognizes that schools and families share a responsibility for promoting healthy lifestyles and supporting student well-being. We believe that good nutrition plays an important role in student growth, learning, health, and overall success.



School-Provided Meals & Snacks

- Our breakfast program is available starting at 8:20 am every morning in the gym.
- Fruit is available in classrooms throughout the week and we also have a variety of snacks available for any student who might need or to supplement snacks and lunches.

Lunch Program

Our lunch hour runs from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. The students eat in their classrooms from 11:30 am – 12:00 pm and then have a recess from 12:00pm – 12:30 pm. Lunch supervisors supervise students during both parts of the lunch hour, inside and out. Students bring their own lunches from home. Microwaves are not available .



[Scan here to review SJASD
Policy EFA – Nutrition](#)

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Home-Packed Lunch & Snack Practices

- Please send a home-packed meal with your child to school each day.
- **Allergy Aware:** please respect allergy-related requests communicated by the school and avoid sending foods that may trigger a severe allergic reaction in students.
- Lunch should be healthy and balanced, avoiding sugary snacks and sodas.

Foods to Avoid

- Chips, candy, chocolate, and soft drinks.
- Processed fast food or highly sugary items.



Allergy Awareness & Food Safety

- SJASD schools are Allergy Aware.
- Parents must inform the school of any food allergies during enrollment.
- EpiPens & Emergency Medication must be provided if the child has a severe food allergy.
- **If your child has a life-threatening allergy, caregivers must work with the school to create an Anaphylaxis Standard Health Care Plan (SHCP).**

At least two staff members within each school are trained in allergy response and emergency first-aid medical procedures.



SJASD is committed to supporting the academic, social, emotional, and behavioural success of every students. A variety of school-based and divisional supports are available to help students thrive throughout their education journey.



Resource

The Resource Teacher works collaboratively with classroom teachers, families, and support staff to support students who may require accommodations, interventions, or additional learning support. Services may be provided in the classroom, in small groups, or through individualized planning.



Guidance Counsellor

Guidance Counsellor services support students' social, emotional, and personal well-being. Students may receive assistance with problem solving, self-regulation, friendships, conflict resolution, transitions, and other challenges that may impact learning and school success.



Educational Support Services (ESS)

Our schools have access to the SJASD Educational Support Services team. Depending on student needs, supports may include psychologists, social workers, speech-language pathologist, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, reading clinicians, behaviour support staff, and other specialized professionals. These services are provided in consultation with families and school staff.



[Scan here to learn more SJASD Educational Support Services](#)

Questions About Support Services?

If you have questions or concerns about your child's learning, social-emotional well-being, communication, or development, please contact your child's teacher or the school administration team. We are committed to working in partnership with families to support student success.



Emergency School Closure

- Severe inclement weather or facility issues may result in a delayed opening, early dismissal, or school closure.
- School closures or schedule changes will be announced on CJOB 680 AM between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.
- Families are advised to check sjasd.ca, the Division's Instagram account and their school's Instagram account for the latest closure information.
- An automated message will also be sent to your email and/or contact number via School Messenger.
- If no announcement is made, parents/guardians may assume the school is open.
- Every effort will be made to notify parents/guardians of an early dismissal.
- If a parent/guardian cannot be reached, the designated emergency contact will be contacted.



Fire, Lockdown, Tornado Drill & Emergency Evacuation

- Throughout the school year, students and staff participate in fire, lockdown, and severe weather drills to practice emergency procedures.
- In the event of a fire or emergency evacuation, students and staff will follow established evacuation procedures and proceed to **Heritage Victoria Community Centre or Maranantha Church**
- Attendance will be verified before leaving the school and again upon arrival at the evacuation site.
- Students and staff will remain at the evacuation site until further instructions are provided.



[Scan here to review SJASD Policy EBCD
- Procedure for Storm Closures, Bus
Cancellations and Other Emergencies](#)

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We encourage children to wear comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing that allows for safe movement, active play, and independent self-care. Our dress code promotes practicality, safety, and school identity while allowing children to express themselves.

Dress Code Guidelines

Expectations

- Wear comfortable clothing that allows for movement, active play, and participation in learning activities.
- Dress appropriately for weather conditions, including outdoor recesses and learning activities.
- Wear suitable footwear that promotes safety for indoor and outdoor activities.
- Wear clothing appropriate for specialized programs such as Physical Education, field trips, and other school activities.

Safety

- Footwear should be secure and suitable for running, climbing, and active play.
- Clothing should not create safety concerns during learning activities.
- Additional safety requirements may apply in specific learning environments such as Physical Education, science, technology, or practical arts program.

We encourage families to label all personal belongings. All misplaced articles are placed in the school's Lost and Found, located by the office. All items that are not claimed are donated to a designated charity each term.



[Scan here to review SJASD Policy
JICA - Student Dress Code](#)

Respectful Learning Environment

Clothing, accessories, or personal items should not:

- Promote violence, illegal activities, or discrimination.
- Include language, images, or messages that are offensive, hateful, or disruptive to the learning environment.
- Interfere with student learning or the operation of the school.

Individual Expression

We value diversity and individuality. Students may express their identity, culture, beliefs, and personal style through their clothing choices, provided those choices are safe and appropriate for the school environment.

Personal Belongings

Items to Bring Daily

- **Backpack**
large enough for a lunchbox, extra clothes, and schoolwork
- **Reusable Water Bottle**
labeled with the child's name
- **Lunch & Snacks**
if staying at school for lunch

Items Not Allowed at School

- **Toys from home**
except for special sharing days
- **Electronic devices**
tablets, smartwatches, cellphones
- **Expensive, special interest, or sentimental items**
the school is not responsible for lost or damaged items



[Scan here to review SJASD Policy
ECAD - Responsibility for
Personal Property.](#)

By following this dress code and personal belongings policy, we ensure that all children feel safe, comfortable, and prepared for a fun and active day at school.

Outdoor Recess Expectations

- Students are expected to participate in outdoor recess and should dress appropriately for the weather.
- Recess is supervised by school staff.
- Requests to remain indoors during recess cannot be accommodated unless supported by a documented medical reason.
- A shortened, 10-minute recess will occur between temperatures of -25°C and -28°C .
- Indoor recess will be held during extreme weather, including wind chills of -28°C or colder.
- Students are expected to play safely, respectfully, and follow staff directions.
- Students who are unable to meet playground expectations may participate in an alternative recess plan.



[Scan here to review SJASD Policy – Cold Weather Policy](#)

Travelling to and from School

Walking, Biking and Wheeling to School

- Students are encouraged to walk, bike, scooter, or rollerblade to school.
- Helmets are required.
- Bikes and scooters must be stored and locked in the bike cage.
- Rollerblades may not be worn in the school.
- Skateboards may not be used on school property.
- The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items.

School Bus Transportation

- Students who qualify for transportation services will be notified of their bus stop location and pick-up/drop-off times by the Transportation Department.
- Students riding the bus are expected to follow SJASD bus safety and behaviour expectations.



[Scan here to review SJASD Policy EEAA – Student Eligibility for Transportation Services](#)

The St. James-Assiniboia School Division is committed to ensuring that all schools provide safe, caring, inclusive, and culturally responsive learning environments where every student experiences dignity, belonging, and support for their learning and well-being.



[Scan here to review SJASD Policy JIC - Code of Code](#)

Code of Conduct

Reflects a student-centered, strength-based approach that emphasizes:

- 1 Proactive, whole-school practices** that promote positive relationships and prevent harm.
- 2 Fair, consistent, and culturally** responsive interventions.
- 3 Respect for human dignity** in all responses to behaviour.
- 4 Professional judgment** in determining appropriate supports and consequences.
- 5 Shared responsibility** among students, families, staff, and the broader community.



We value collaborative conversations that focus on finding solutions and supporting student success. Open and respectful communication between home and school helps foster strong relationships and positive outcomes for students.

Lines of Communication

To ensure questions, feedback, or school-related matters are addressed effectively, we encourage families to follow this communication pathway:

- Step 1** Connect with the **Classroom Teacher**
The classroom teacher is often best positioned to address questions related to learning, classroom expectations, student progress, attendance, or daily school experiences.
- Step 2** Contact the **Principal**
If additional support is needed, the principal can help facilitate further discussion and work collaboratively with all parties to identify a positive path forward.
- Step 3** Contact the **Division Office**
Should further assistance be required, a Division Administrator or Superintendent may be contacted to provide guidance and support.
- Step 4** **School Board**
In rare cases where a matter remains unresolved, it may proceed through the School Board process in accordance with division policies.

Code of Conduct

Proud to be a **H.A.W.K**

Help and include others

Act safely in all areas of the school

Work hard and try your best

Keeep it kind in what you say and do



Heritage School

St. James–Assiniboia School Division

Great Schools for
Growing and Learning



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[Scan here to review the complete
SJASD Policy Manual](#)

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