

report

to the community



John Taylor Collegiate

2017-2018



"Raising All Students Towards Distinction"

470 Hamilton Avenue | Winnipeg, Manitoba | R2Y 0H4

Ph: (204) 888-8930 | Fax: (204) 889-9999

Web: www.sjasd.ca/school/johntaylor

Email: johnntaylor@sjsd.net

The Senior Years in the St. James- Assiniboia School Division provide a varied curriculum to meet the needs, interests, and abilities of students. The programs provide a sound basis for further education or immediate employment setting. Hands-on, active participation is encouraged in all subject areas and especially in courses such as Performing and Fine Arts, physical education, career exploration and independent studies.

Last Year's School Accomplishments (2016-2017)

- John Taylor staff focussed on increasing student levels in reading comprehension and written expression.**
 - ✓ Development of a school wide literacy belief
 - ✓ Library displays for reading promotion based on subject area
 - ✓ Opportunities to read & write non-fiction texts
 - ✓ Focus on the process for revision & content specific vocabulary
 - ✓ Classroom libraries of material for:
 - Course related
 - Ability level
 - High interest books
 - ✓ Classroom based literature circles across ability levels
 - ✓ All departments plan for **daily literacy** in every classroom through:
 - Language
 - Communication
 - Thinking
- John Taylor staff worked to increase student achievement in numeracy through developing and applying skills to meet a variety of outcomes.**
 - ✓ Creation of a positive environment around the language and value of math
 - ✓ Implemented strategies to help students learn how to read and solve problems (vocabulary, modelling, organizing information)
 - ✓ Use of a variety of non-fiction texts to ensure numeracy skills are developed in all subject areas
 - ✓ Direct teaching of skills required to read, interpret and analyze data using differentiated instruction, graphic organizers, article analysis templates

Our Vision Statement

We aim to develop citizens who will be well-rounded, involved, knowledgeable, supportive, respectful and responsible.

Our Mission Statement

In pursuing our aim we value:

- Justice that honours the individual
- A sense of community
- Service to others
- Compulsory learning
- Diverse people & learning experiences
- A safe and healthy environment

School Profile

Number of teachers: 36

Number of students: 482

Grade levels: 9-12

School Highlights

- Advanced Placement
- Special Needs/Work Experience
- Visual and Performing Arts
- Practical Arts and Human Ecology
- Competitive Athletics Program
- Work Placement Opportunities
- Graphic Technology
- Self-Directed Learning
- Apprenticeship
- Choirs, Bands & Rock Band
- Guitar
- Dance
- Robotics
- Cultural Exploration credit

Extra-curricular Activities

- Grade 9 Piper Mid-Nighter & Camp
- Piper Classics – VBall, BBall, Hockey
- Cross Country, Track, Soccer, Badminton, Rugby, Ultimate, Baseball
- Drama and Improv
- Spring Musical
- Student Advisory & Student Council
- AAA Programming: DreamCatchers

- 3. John Taylor students participated in a variety of integrated and complementary positive mental health activities that enhanced and increased protective factors while minimizing risk factors.**
 - ✓ Sources of Strength training for staff
 - ✓ Staff & student mental health teams
 - ✓ Grade 9 connecting activities such as Piper Midnigher, Grade 9 Camp
 - ✓ Direct teaching of positive coping strategies in the classroom
 - positive self-talk, breathing techniques
 - “mindfulness minutes”
 - ✓ School and Divisional ESS staffed student support groups
 - ✓ Staff PD mini sessions during staff meetings
 - ✓ Grade Level Meeting to address the role of stress and positive mental health coping strategies
 - ✓ Counselling groups have been formed to practice mindfulness skills
 - ✓ Staff and students participated in a Mental Health Forum to address the stigma of talking about MH
 - ✓ Whole School Activities promoted belonging / team building
 - ✓ Offering of a variety of clubs/extracurricular activities that appeal to different interests e.g. Science Club, Gaming Club
 - ✓ SafeTeen Programming continued
 - ✓ Lessons promoting health & well-being were implemented across curricula

- 4. John Taylor students became active learners able to demonstrate a high level of academic achievement and personal responsibility.**
 - ✓ Direct teaching of subject specific study/test taking skills as well as teaching of time management and organization
 - ✓ Use of self-assessment and self-monitoring to develop learning goals
 - ✓ Implementation of the cell phone policy throughout all classrooms
 - ✓ Frequent parent/guardian communication when classroom expectations are not met (quality of work, attendance, lack of supplies)
 - ✓ Direct teaching of Restitution in the classroom (your job/my job, needs, how to meet needs in a positive way without hurting self or others)
 - ✓ Work Experience / Career Life Program
 - ✓ Field trips and subject area experts allowed students to experience curricula with real life applications
 - ✓ A variety of enrichment activities were offered: U of W enrichment week, writing contests, Model UN, etc.

- 5. John Taylor Staff worked towards ensuring students demonstrate that they value the concept of social justice and recognize its importance for the betterment of an ever-changing world.**
 - ✓ Participated in an annual Community Clean-up
 - ✓ Continued growing vegetables in the courtyard garden
 - ✓ Continued to create safe environments for students to create and explore
 - ✓ Social Justice trip to Nicaragua (March 2016) to assist with building a school
 - ✓ Continued efforts of Youth in Philanthropy group, Student Council, GSA and Student Advisory.
 - ✓ Supported the division wide Safe Schools theme for 2015-16, “Free to Be”.
 - ✓ Cultural proficiency PD activities included the United Way simulation
 - ✓ Social justice and sustainability topics were integrated across curricula
 - ✓ Direct teaching and sharing of the organizations and fundraising efforts that are supported around the school throughout the school year
 - ✓ Increased opportunities to discuss and analyze current issues/topics that relate to subject content and sustainability
 - ✓ Increased opportunities for participation in relevant workshops, field trips and guest speakers to make connections to “the outside world”
 - ✓ Increased recognition of the variety of cultures represented within JT

A Quick Snapshot of the Classroom

Mathematics: The department is hoping to further the Robotics program with students learning to code, program, and build robots to perform tasks. At our grade nine level, staff continued to enhance student understanding through various differentiated instruction techniques and engaging activities. At our grade twelve level, students continue to invest in our AP calculus course and several have qualified to receive a university credit in calculus. The mathematics department continues to build capacity in numeracy in all subject areas as part of our strategic plan.

English: The department has focused on closing the gaps in students' abilities to read and write. Measures to accomplish this include an assessment tool for literacy given to all grade 9's in the fall and in the spring, some release time for work with our curriculum coordinators, and a Reading is Thinking course to teach skills needed to be successful in all subjects. Additionally, the English department will collaborate with other departments to discuss reading and writing strategies that can be applied to various content areas.

Science: The science department focused on numeracy skills across disciplines and at all grade levels, with an emphasis on collecting, analyzing and presenting data, as well as drawing, reading, and interpreting graphical forms of data. Students used case studies to recognize and communicate relationships between science technology and society. In the area of literacy, the science department worked to increase student ability to deconstruct text using annotation and note-taking skills.

Social Studies: The social studies area courses continue to build community and develop a culture of sustainability. The aspect of community is celebrated by encouraging all grade nine students to research an important Canadian and write a biography. Learning, using the Historical Thinking Concepts, is developing empathy in our students as they recognize the significant role of those that came before them through examining historical perspectives.

Arts: The arts department continues to allow students to develop their own perspective in the world by providing an expressive outlet for themselves, at the same time as exploring the work of other artists. John Taylor presented another successful Broadway show, "Annie", which included many students both in front and behind the scenes. JT talent continues to be showcased in our variety of bands, choir, graphic arts, dance, fine arts and instrumental programs.

Planning & Goal Setting

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 student progress and achievement and our mission and vision statement as our focus.

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

- 1. By the end of each English course, students will demonstrate an improvement of 3-4%, as measured by the ELA provincial exam, in the areas of identifying and explaining connections amongst writing variables (form, purpose, context, main idea, & audience) in various texts and in their own written compositions.**
- 2. By the end of each Math course, students' achievement in the area of problem solving skills will align (within five percent) with their higher achievement in knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts and mental math. The gap between these areas will be less.**
- 3. By April 2018, the rate of bullying will be reduced from 16% to 10% or less based on student feedback from the TTFM Survey.**
- 4. By April 2018, 85% or more of students will feel that their teachers/staff like and care about them based on student feedback from the University of Waterloo/Cancercare Mb. survey.**