

# report

## to the community



Lincoln Middle School

2019-2020



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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 School Accomplishments (2018-2019)

**By June 2019 Students will improve their ability to:**

- evaluate information & arguments
  - make connections & inferences about visual & written text
  - act on their ideas in the real world.
- ✓ Students used a variety of visible thinking routines to co-construct knowledge and to demonstrate their understanding in different ways.
  - ✓ Teachers in all subject areas collaboratively developed assessment strategies that measured students' understanding in different ways, and used the resulting data to analyze students' progress
  - ✓ All students participated in common reading and writing assessments throughout the year that served as data for collective teacher analysis and planning.
  - ✓ Data discussions based on classroom and individual student needs provided opportunities improve individual student intervention and support.

**By June 2019, students and staff at Lincoln will think like global citizens, considering global & local issues, diverse values & worldviews, to develop awareness of, and solutions for, social & environmental problems**

- ✓ Students and staff had a variety of opportunities to join groups in the school that support diverse students and groups in the school and local community in the area of mental health, gender diversity, community support, and environmental sustainability
- ✓ The Greenhouse/Garden Club expanded into the area of composting and sustainable gardening
- ✓ Sources of Strength peer leaders planned and lead activities for positive mental health promotion.

### Our Vision Statement

Our vision is to encourage all students to strive for personal success in an inclusive learning environment.

### Our Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide each student with the opportunity to become a responsible, creative, life-long learner.

### School Profile

Number of teachers: 27  
Number of students: 359  
Grade levels: 6-8

### School Highlights

These include:

- Practical Arts Programs including home-economics, woods and digital communications.
- Arts Education options that provide diverse experiences in areas such as elements of dance, theatre, intarsia, music, pottery, cinematography and performance technology.

### Extra-curricular Activities

Lincoln Middle School offers a large variety of activities, clubs, and opportunities throughout the year including:

- Knitting, Furry-Paws, Student Council, Sources of Strength, GSA, Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Ultimate Frisbee, Track & Field, Bowling, Drama/Musical, Student Voice, Dance, Rock Band, Improv, Student-Run Canteen, Art Club, Tech Club, Vocal Jazz, Choir

**By June 2019, students will improve their ability to analyze a task using a variety of mathematical lenses to select appropriate strategies to find a solution.**

- ✓ Students participated in a variety of hands-on and vertical learning spaces and rich task activities that allowed them to demonstrate greater understanding problems and strategies.
- ✓ Students' numeracy data was gathered through conversation, observation and products and analyzed by Professional Learning Teacher Teams to plan for continued student growth
- ✓ Data discussions based on classroom and individual student needs provided opportunities improve individual student intervention and support.

## **A Quick Snapshot of the Classroom**

**Integration of Content Areas:** Deep Learning Progression continuums will be used to measure students' deep understanding of both communication and critical thinking skills. Teachers will integrate and work collaboratively to support students' efforts to demonstrate connections and learning across different content areas. For example, students explore themes and real-world topics that connect for example their understanding in numeracy with building structures in Science or world news in Social Studies with power and agency in Language Arts.

**Mathematics:** Mathematics teachers collaborate to develop grade level strategies to enhance students' mental math strategies. Rich and open-ended tasks provide opportunities for students to apply mathematical concepts from the classroom to real-world situations. In addition, a focus on different ways to communicate information and understanding will provide teachers with different ways support student learning and measure what students learned.

**Language Arts:** Literacy skills taught in Language Arts are incorporated across all subject areas. Both communication and critical thinking are skills outcomes used across the curriculum. In Language Arts students have opportunities to integrate their learning through different cross-curricular themes, as well as different types of text such as videos, blogs, social media type text, as well as more traditional print text. Language Arts teachers collect writing samples, analyze the data with their grade level team and use the data to develop programming for student groups and individuals.

**Science and Social Studies:** Teachers integrate the use of technology, as well as local and global community connections so that students have a better understanding of how their classroom learning connects to everyday life. Students will have different opportunities to communicate their learning in different ways. A wide variety of choices is also offered to support students' interests when they delve more deeply into a topic that requires critical thinking. Achieving their personal best and mastering both concepts and skills such as problem solving and extending their learning are goals for all students.

**Arts:** Students are immersed in a wide variety of arts choices throughout the grades. Initially these come as exposure to different art forms, and then later change to include many opportunities for students to choose art forms that appeal to students. Every year, Art and Music teachers provide opportunities for students to extend classroom learning to real life situations that include band and choral festivals, the division art show, dance festivals, improv evenings in front of an audience, and musical/drama productions.

## **Planning & Goal Setting**

School goals are created using the Divisional Strategic Plan as the guideline ([www.sjasd.ca/Documents/stratplan\\_2016-21.pdf](http://www.sjasd.ca/Documents/stratplan_2016-21.pdf)). 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 (2019-2020)**

1. **Communication - Students will improve their ability to develop and communicate accurate and interesting information for audiences in different ways, in numeracy and literacy.**
  - Evaluate information and arguments and make connections and inferences about visual and written text
  - Address tasks/processes through different lenses, selecting strategies to find solutions
  - Communicate their understanding in a variety of different modes, styles and tools including digital
  - Use methods of communication designed for different audiences

2. **Critical Thinking - Students will improve their acquisition of skills needed to understand and develop the ability to analyze, evaluate, and create new information.**
- Evaluate information and arguments
  - Make connections and identify patterns
  - Effectively problem solve
  - Construct meaningful knowledge
  - Experiment, reflect, and take action on ideas in the real world