

report

to the community



Westwood Collegiate

2018-2019



WESTWOOD COLLEGIATE
POWER & RESPONSIBILITY

360 Rouge Road | Winnipeg, Manitoba | R3K 1K3

Ph: 888-7650 | Fax: 889-0802

Web: www.sjasd.ca/school/westwood

Email: westwood@sjasd.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 (2017-2018)

Westwood Collegiate's staff worked with students on the Continuous improvement of their literacy and numeracy skills.

In addition to SMART Goals (listed below) the school met broad outcome goals.

SMART GOAL: LITERACY

By June 2018, 60% or more of male students at Westwood will achieve a grade of 70-100% in their grade nine English Language Arts. By June 2018, all students will increase overall achievement in English Language arts by a minimum of 5% as compared to their initial assessment in September 2017.

-52 % (34 out of 65) of male students at Westwood achieved a grade of 70-100% in first time, grade nine English Language Arts, **an increase of 2% from historical data trend.** 80% (76 out of 95) of female students at Westwood achieved a grade of 70-100% in first time; grade nine English Language Arts, **an increase of 5% from historical data trends.**

-24% (39 out of 159) students at Westwood increased their overall achievement in English Language Arts by 1-4% and 16% (25 out of 159) students increased by 5 – 17%.

Westwood's professional staff continued to work with students on the development of resiliency, independence and critical thinking skills.

Our Vision Statement

At Westwood Collegiate, we aim to develop responsible citizens who will demonstrate confidence, curiosity, and creativity.

Our Mission Statement

Students will value the concept of social justice and recognize its importance for the betterment of an ever-changing world.

Students are active learners able to demonstrate a high level of academic, intellectual and social engagement.

Schools will nurture and promote a positive relationship with families and the local community

School Profile

Number of teachers: 44

Number of students: 636

Grade levels: 9-12

School Highlights

These include:

- International Baccalaureate
- Visual and Performing Arts
- Advanced Fitness Training
- Practical Arts & Human Ecology
- Aquatic Sciences
- Graphic Technology
- Youth in Philanthropy
- Full year Math & English in Grade 9

Extra-curricular Activities

- Intramural sports, Cross Country, Track and Field, Volleyball, Basketball, Curling, Indoor & Outdoor Soccer, Fastball, Badminton, Rugby, Hockey, Golf, Ultimate, Lacrosse
- Drama, Improv, Hip Hop Dance, Musicals, Show Choir
- Yearbook, Grad Committee
- Student Advisory/DRIVE, WSU, Sources of Strength, Culture Club, Smudging
- Envirothon
- Photography Club, Make Club

SMART GOAL NUMERACY

By June 2018, there will be a decrease in the number of grade 9 students receiving exactly 50% from 9% to 1% and from 17% to 10% for self-declared indigenous students. By June 2018, 95% of all Westwood students will pass their provincial math exams.

-4.4% (7 out of 158) of grade 9 students received exactly 50%, a **decrease of 3.6% from historical trends**. Of these students, 0.6% (1 out of 158) are self-declared indigenous.

-91 % (173 out of 190) of Westwood students scored a minimum of 50% on their provincial achievement test. This includes 40 Applied, 40 Essentials, and 40 Pre-Calculus. Specifically; in 40 Pre-Calculus students achieved a pass rate of 96.3%(54 out of 56), 40 Applied students achieved a pass rate of 95% (38 out of 40). Students wrote practice exams 2 weeks prior to the provincial exam to indicate to them what they need to work on and to be used as a mentor text.

All math teachers completed regular homework checks. Teachers will use the same method to record homework completion.

A Quick Snapshot of the Classroom

Mathematics: All Grade 9 students received double time mathematics instruction, seeing a math teacher for the entire year. Enrichment activities and lessons had been created for students who were achieving above grade level and needed to be challenged beyond the curriculum. In addition, Westwood participated in the annual Waterloo mathematics contests. Students in grades 9 through 12 developed and communicated a strong number sense by engaging in activities that require students to think logically about the development of number patterns. Students were encouraged to think visually about the patterns in numbers and to use manipulatives as needed to assist in mathematical solutions. In the higher levels of math, graphing calculators were used throughout lessons in order to provide visual support to algebraic solutions. Math teachers continued to utilize math programs to enhance the curriculum including Mathletics and various websites that provided alternative methods or processes to solutions. Mental math and logic problems were presented regularly in all levels of mathematics courses in order to increase student confidence in number sense. Communication and sharing of information with our feeder middle schools has led to the implementation of new instructional strategies that support students with their basic math skills. Teachers at all levels met regularly in order to achieve common math assessment timelines, common activities, and parallel programming in order to encourage and achieve common teaching practices for our students throughout their mathematics education.

English: The English department will focus on the implementation of a developing new curriculum and continuing to increase literacy across the grades. Over the past year, the English department focused on skills of analysis and improving student learning by implementing several techniques that encourage higher level thinking in all students. Teachers also focused on a variety of assessments dealing with non-fiction and fiction texts, as well as public speaking. This year's focus involves the department PLCs (Professional Learning Community) which includes individual teaching techniques and strategies that focus specifically on increasing literacy in both reading comprehension as well as writing for focus and efficiency. Emphasis will be on the necessary skills needed to be successful, with less emphasis on the novel, play, short story or poetry used to achieve these skills.

Teachers will place more emphasis on class participation from a global perspective and will be looking to assess students' responsibilities to ensure their own personal successes within this subject area.

We also continue to act collaboratively as a department and discuss better teaching practices. The English department has placed focus on students' reflecting on their work as well as making meaningful connections to their units of study in relation to their own lives. School data from the 2017-18 year has shown this area of focus has improved provincial results significantly and shows Westwood students exceeding both the provincial and division results.

Science: The Westwood science department regularly reviews and evaluates teaching and assessment strategies. The department is progressive and uses a mix of traditional and modern approaches to teaching and learning.

The shared philosophy of the department is that we adhere strongly to traditional curricula, while providing deeper learning opportunities both within and beyond the classroom walls. Students have many opportunities to pursue their interests in science and these take many forms. A 10-day science-based trip to Iceland last March included many ecological and geological learning experiences and was fully booked with Westwood science students and teachers. Our students have the opportunity to become SCUBA certified while in Westwood's unique aquatic science course. Annually, Westwood students compete in numerous competitions, such as the Envirothon where they regularly place amongst the top teams. This year three of our students placed in the top 20% nationally in the Michael Smith Science Challenge written by grade 10 students across Canada with Bentley Turner scoring top mark in Manitoba. A large group of students recently spent the weekend studying and experimenting with working chemists and ecologists at the National Experimental Lakes region in western Ontario. Providing opportunities to study alongside working scientists is an invaluable experience and something that the Westwood science department actively seeks out.

The IB program allows highly motivated science students to pursue an enriched track and enables them to obtain certain University level science credits while in high school. IB versions of each of the core science courses are offered at Westwood with our students consistently scoring well based on worldwide averages.

Students have the opportunity to get hands on experience with modern electronics and equipment such as 3D printing and CNC machining, as well as opportunities to learn to code in current topics in the sciences, computer science or the after-school MAKE club. We are working on building a solid maker space for students to pursue their interests in coding, robotics, rocketry, 3D manufacturing and other modern science pursuits.

A goal of the science department is to promote scientific thinking and science literacy. A lot of effort is put into generating thoughtful and well-trained science students. Class discussion, debate, and deep dives into the underlying philosophy behind science are keys to the Westwood approach. Westwood teachers take pride in the fact that many Westwood science students go onto careers in Science, Engineering, Medicine and Education. Many of these former students feel an affinity to the program and return as guest speakers to encourage current students to continue to pursue their scientific interests.

Students Services: Our team advocates for our students, ensuring there is a safe space for all students to feel welcomed and supported. We collaboratively work with students, staff and families to support students' academic and emotional needs ensuring that they feel safe and can be successful at school. Through individual meetings, group meetings and class/grade level presentations a range of services are provided. Resource teachers are available to assist with adapted, modified and individualized programming for students who meet certain criteria as well as assist students with general academic concerns such as study skills or time management. Guidance counsellors are available to talk about any questions/concerns that may arise throughout the school year whether it is personal counselling, academic or career counselling. Counselling is confidential and solution-focused; generally, short term or drop-in based with skills and strategies provided. Both resource teachers and guidance counsellors do general assessments with students, but also refer to our school clinicians and community resources for further specific academic or mental health assessments and supports. We work to ensure our students are healthy and thriving in an academic setting providing tools and strategies that will also manifest into thriving in future years.

Music Department: Students competed at the Optimist International Band Festival for the 19th year in a row and continued to win top honours, numerous awards and accolades along with invitations to represent Manitoba at the National Music competition in Ottawa, Ontario. In addition, the band program was named the recipient of the Don Green Award that is awarded to the top program in the province for their dedication to the festival and their superior performance on and off the stage.

The four Westwood Jazz Bands, along with two of Westwood's Vocal Jazz Ensembles attended the Brandon Jazz festival and truly enjoyed the three-day immersion in this fantastic event.

The Westwood Collegiate Music Department hosted the fifth annual Family of Schools concert here at Westwood. Participants included ensembles from Phoenix, Robert Browning, Sansome, Lincoln and Westwood.

With wide range of programming, including Chamber Choir, Vocal Jazz and Creative Music Production, Westwood Collegiate's Choral Program has something unique and exceptional for every student. Highlights of the Westwood Choral program for 2017-18 include: Annually hosting the MB Choral Association's Jazz Choralfest at Westwood in November; Triple Gold standing in the Winnipeg Music Festival for the Chamber Choir; A recommendation to the Nationals at MusicFest Canada in Ottawa for our Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Birdplane; Four Coffee Houses sponsored by San Vito Coffee throughout the year with our Creative Music Production class. As well, the new Westwood Recording Studio has been used for singing recordings, voice-overs, and podcast projects. We have an active social media presence, including westwoodchoral.blogspot.ca, Instagram @choralatwestwood, Twitter @westwoodchoral, a Westwood Choral Facebook page, and a YouTube Channel with almost 30,000 views.

Graphic Technology: Students expanded their creativity with digital arts using Adobe Creative Cloud software and digital output equipment to make various products such as printed t-shirts, mugs, hats, signs, buttons, and bags. Participants of the Advanced Photography course learned the creative and technical aspects of capturing memories and events using modern digital SLR cameras. The participants of the Studio Photography course learned the techniques and studio equipment use to create expressive portraits and product shots.

Dance: Students performed in the Dance Manitoba Members Showcase and the Emergent Expressions Choreography Show. Students took part in the Manitoba Provincial Dance Festival and attended several RWB performances. At the end of the school year, the dance staff and students hosted their DanceScapes (Year End Recital) at the Pantages Playhouse Theatre. This division wide recital highlights performances in ballet, jazz, hip-hop, lyrical, contemporary, and included dancers from Lincoln Middle School, Stevenson Britannia Elementary, and John Taylor Collegiate.

Visual Arts: Students were working hard to master a wide variety of two- and three-dimensional media. The Visual Arts went on a full day field trip to the Forks where they completed a series of landscape, architectural and figure studies. The advanced students completed a yearlong study of creating daily paintings in a variety of different media. The general and advanced students displayed their work in the annual "For the Love of the Arts" arts evening at Westwood Collegiate. This year "FLOTA" will be held on April 8, 2019 and we hope to see the community there to celebrate a year of arts accomplishments and triumphs with us!

Drama: The Drama department welcomes two new teachers: Mrs. Barb Voth teaching grade 9 and Mr. Cory Wojcik teaching grade 10 to 12 general and advanced Drama. Mr. Wojcik shares his time with the school as well as working with The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre on two upcoming productions in the new year. The Drama department is about to premiere their monthly Drama P.A.Ls (performances at lunch). They are also preparing for the annual Coffee House performance. A new class called The Creative Collective has begun on days 1, 3, 5 at lunch. This class will focus on creating a variety of original works in such styles as improv, sketch and film. The Drama program intends to present for our annual FLOTA program as well as a year-end production. Plans are also in the works to present a drama general program show featuring scenes or monologues at the end of May.

Physical Education: The Westwood Phys. Ed department continued to reflect on past policies and practices and collaborated to come up with strategies to improve for the future. Our goal was to expose every student to a wide range of health, fitness and sport activities so that they would be well suited to continue a healthy and active life beyond high school. Our Grade 9 and 10 focus was on physical literacy and fitness appreciation. We believe that students who have better basic physical skills will have more confidence, and thus be more willing to participate in physical activity. We also wanted students to have an appreciation for and understanding of their own personal fitness. Each year we scaffold on previous knowledge and skills so students can achieve their fitness goals on their own. In Grade 11 and 12 we continued to push for more "In Class" PE options. Our Elite Training and Female Fitness sections have increased in enrollment and our "School Based" model has doubled in size. Students who are taking the school-based model choose 7 of 9 activity blocks to participate in and are taught the "core" health component in class. We are excited about these changes and choices and believe the increased contact time will be beneficial for everyone. The "out of school" model for grade 11 and 12 phys. ed is also seeing some improvements with the core health component being offered in class. This will increase engagement, conferencing and quality discussion around curricular topics. Extracurricular and intramural programs continue to be

excellent social and physical outlets for many students. Our daily intramural league gives students a low stress outlet to socialize, exercise and compete during the school day. Our extensive extracurricular program continues to offer a wide range of quality programming for student athletes in many different sports. We are also excited about the resurgence of our boy's soccer program this year.

International Baccalaureate: The IB Diploma Programme is a challenging two-year pre-university curriculum, primarily aimed at students aged 16 to 19. It leads to a qualification (the IB diploma) that is widely recognized by the world's leading universities. The curriculum contains six subject groups together with the Diploma core: creativity, activity, service (CAS); the extended essay (EE); and theory of knowledge (TOK). This is illustrated by the Diploma Programme modeled below.



In the 2017 – 2018 school year, students at Westwood had the following IB course options:

Group 1 Language A Literature

Group 2 Language B Spanish or French

Group 3 Psychology or History

Group 4 Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Exercise Sports Physiology

Group 5 Mathematics

Group 6 Visual Arts, Theatre

In addition, those looking for the full diploma also needed to complete a 4000-word extended essay, a Community Service requirement and successful completion of a Theory of Knowledge course.

Last year Westwood had 45 total students who were registered as certificate candidates (those looking to complete just individual course requirements). As well, six students attempted and successfully completed the full IB Diploma (course requirements & extended essay & CAS & TOK). In 2018, Westwood Collegiate students averaged above World Average in most subject areas. Highest school averages were posted in Physics and English HL. Depending on final marks, many Westwood students chose to use their IB course marks to obtain equivalent transfer credits at various universities across Canada. Globally, statistics continue to show that International Baccalaureate students are more likely to enroll in and complete the most demanding post-secondary programs.

Planning & Goal Setting

School goals were created using the Divisional Strategic Plan as the guideline (www.sjasd.ca/Documents/stratplan_2016-21.pdf). The goal setting process began in early spring and included input from students, teachers, parents and the community. Goals were developed around the needs and direction of the various departments with student progress and achievement and our mission and vision statement as our focus. Full documents outlining our three main goals are available on our website.

A Snapshot of This Year's School Goals and Priorities (2018-2019)

Westwood students will demonstrate increased literacy skills across subject areas with a focus on developing the following skills, knowledge and dispositions:

- Subject specific, technical language such as justify/explain, vocabulary and terminology for understanding key concepts across subject areas.
- Research skills for locating key information and valid and reliable sources.
- Inference skills for reading between the lines and understanding at deeper levels.
- Literature reviews and paraphrasing skills.
- Writing for a variety of purposes such as reports, narrative, persuasive, problem solving, presentations, and visualizations.
- Enhanced communication both verbal and non-verbal e.g. oral presentations, visual representations.
- Reading comprehension skills for understanding content in a variety of subject areas.
- Following directions and procedures with accuracy.
- Analysis and critical thinking for problem solving and thinking at deeper levels.
- Annotation skills for picking out important information in a variety of texts.
- Writing conventions such as spelling, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure to enhance clarity.

Westwood students will demonstrate increased numeracy skills across subject areas with a focus on developing the following skills, knowledge and dispositions:

- Reasoning skills for determining the appropriate computational operations, including order of operations and algebra skills.
- Applying computer spreadsheet formulas in order to solve problems.
- Mental math skills and automaticity with basic facts.
- Computational fluency and accuracy.
- Data analysis e.g. interpreting tables and charts
- Estimation skills for reasonableness of answers.
- Conversions e.g. metric system
- Operations with fractions
- Exponential and scientific notation