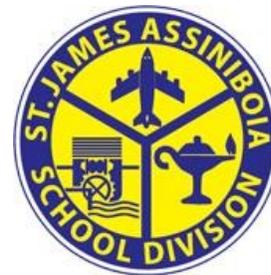


report

to the community



Westwood Collegiate

2022-2023



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.ca

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 (2021-2022)

Westwood Collegiate's staff worked with students on the continuous improvement of their literacy and numeracy skills, with a focus on critical thinking, character, collaboration, and overall mental wellness. In addition to the results listed below, the school met broad outcome goals to assist students with earning credits through responsive learning.

MATHEMATICS

Literacy

- Mathematics teachers continue to include word problems and specific mathematical terminology in all grades and levels of the mathematics curriculum.
- Some teachers also include journal writing and all teachers require students to explain or describe their thinking on various assessments in class.
- Students are expected to demonstrate their understanding in words, not just mathematical statements.

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: 37

Number of students: 630

Grade levels: 9-12

School Highlights

These include:

- Advanced Placement
- 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 Offered

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

- Students are also encouraged daily to use mathematical terminology when speaking in class and working with the peers. Students are expected to work productively in groups to achieve a deeper understanding of higher-level problems. Students are encouraged to share their understanding with the peers

Numeracy

- Numeracy is developed naturally in all grades and levels of mathematics. Students are continually encouraged to understand the processes and not just memorize rules to achieve answers.
- During all classroom activities students are encouraged to use mathematics in several different situations and be able to solve the same problem using multiple strategies.
- Numeracy in the classroom involves recognizing and understanding the role of mathematics in the world and having the capacity to apply the knowledge acquired in class to a wide range of real-life situations.
- Classroom assessments involve mental math, problem solving, logic and basic knowledge and content applications.

Mental Health and Well being

- Final assessments and midterms were written in both semesters to chunk the assessments into smaller amounts to alleviate stress while incorporating a final assessment.
- Some teachers incorporated the use of smaller assessments and alternative assessments to give students the opportunity to demonstrate understanding multiple ways.
- There were no exams written in either semester of the 2021-22 school year. However, our mathematics department continued to prepare quality assessments for their classes to ensure preparation of students for exams in the future.
- Teachers monitor student homework completion with the understanding that students are expected to learn to monitor their own good work habits.

The Arts

Literacy

- As a department, we focused on creating confident communicators, in both written and verbal forms.
- Whether this was through reflective writing, research papers, oral presentations, or daily classroom conversation and discussion, we sought to give students the toolbox they needed to get their ideas across clearly and succinctly.

Numeracy

- Integrating numeracy practices in cross curricular lessons, students could apply their prior knowledge from other areas to the multitude of disciplines found in The Arts.
- Not only did this strengthen their skill set in their studio work, but also showed them a real-life application of concepts they learned in other subjects, such as math.

Wellness (mental health, character, critical thinking)

- Utilizing trauma informed teaching practices, The Arts endeavored to re-establish group norms and self-regulation for students.
- This was accomplished by building confidence through a studio / lab setting of hands-on skill building.
- Students found success by uncovering passions and interest in a variety of subject areas in a welcoming, caring, mutually respectful and safe environment.

2022-2023 goals in the areas of:

Literacy – Student voice

- As a department we would like to shift from a “pedagogy of compliance to a pedagogy of voice” which would allow our learners to deeply connect to the theories, methods and works studied, as they would have a personal connection to them.
- This would empower them to take ownership for their learning and allow us as Arts educators to fully utilize our summative and performance-based data (which is inherent to studio / lab-based work).

Numeracy – Shift from grade-based data to summative feedback

- Shifting from a focus on grades, attendance and test scores, we will endeavor to look at the whole student and integrate an indigenous perspective similar to the Circle of Courage – Belonging, Mastery, Independence and Generosity (Brokenleg, 2007) where a student’s needs are the driving influence in the assessments they are given.
- Instead of their grade data being the focus for the student and parent, the meaningful feedback will be the focus. Marks will become a current snapshot of their progress.

Mental Health and Well Being – Positive growth mindset

- We will use a positive growth mindset to close opportunity gaps for all our learners, especially indigenous and other marginalized groups.
- Instead of asking what areas a student is lacking in, we will ask what gifts they bring and how we can foster them.
- This culturally responsive educational framework will allow us to reframe our lessons to work collaboratively with our diverse population of cultural learners.

ENGLISH

Literacy

- The English department will continue to act and discuss collaboratively for better teaching practices.
- Our department has always placed an emphasis on student engagement and using texts that allow for more choice and daily reading opportunities for the grade 9 and 10 students most specifically.
- Teachers are encouraged to have a classroom library to allow students choice of reading materials and encourage literacy.
- All four levels of students are being challenged and regardless of grade or course, teachers are continuing to work on the speaking and presentation skills of all their students.
- This can come in a variety of forms, whether they be formal or informal presentations, but the intent is to increase the confidence of all students and increase resiliency.

- Other forms of expression may be explored this year as well.

Numeracy/Literacy

- English teachers are using content collecting strategies such as charts, research material etc. to better prepare students prior to collecting written responses in class.
- Utilizing fact gathering strategies and organizational tools will give students the necessary tools for success.
- Literacy is our main objective with all students and continuing to challenge them with tasks, skills, and opportunities to explore their literal side as well as their creative side. Grade 10s may be part of a pilot provincial testing program like last year's PISA.
- This is brand new to students and to teachers, so we will be navigating this as more information becomes available.

Health, Wellness

- The English department's focus this year will be on inclusion in the classroom and assessments that engage students in a variety of ways.
- Teachers are now focusing on the day-to-day routines of students back attending full time in the classroom but using the Teams option to keep students informed of current and upcoming work and assignments where relevant.
- Theme-based topics are used in the classroom that bring light and focus to many areas of students' self-awareness and wellness in a high school setting.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

2021-22 Accomplishments

Literacy

- Students continued to become comfortable using a variety of online meeting platforms.
- With a return to in person learning planning and instruction was designed around the main concepts of physical literacy rather than a sport centered approach.

Numeracy

- The use of Polar Heart Rate Monitors and other biofeedback wearables was a focus in all classes. RHR, MHR and THR were metrics that were discussed as important activity and training indicators.

Character, Critical Thinking, Well Being

- Mental and physical wellness was a main teaching point throughout the year. Activities like yoga, meditation and community walks were regular.
- Mindfulness was introduced as a topic in all PE classes.
- Community service activities such as clearing driveways and picking up litter in the community will continue.

2022-22 Goal Area Statements

Literacy (Public Speaking, Student Voice, Differentiated Assessment)

- A peer teaching and or oral presentation assessment will be introduced in grade 9 and 10 health units and all fitness-based classes.

Mental Health and Well Being

- Through Project 11's pilot high school curriculum, mental, physical, social, and emotional wellness will be a main focus in all PE classes.
- Our teachers will access the SJASD divisional resources to introduce fun and cooperative indigenous games and activities in our programming.

SCIENCE

- The Westwood science department was thrilled to have all students back for in person learning. With disrupted schedules during the Covid-19 pandemic, students were able to, once again, take part in the laboratory components of the science curriculum.
- Gathering and processing data obtained from performing an experiment is a vital component for scientific literacy which was missed during the remote learning period. In order address these gaps, students will engage with case studies and current events to use current and meaningful terminology to analyze studies around the world.
- We were fortunate to work alongside the St James Assiniboia School Division's Indigenous team to incorporate Indigenous Perspectives into the science curriculum. Students learned about the Medicine Wheel, Sacred Medicines, and the holistic approach to wellness through the traditional knowledge systems of Indigenous peoples.
- We look forward to continuing working with the team to incorporate lessons in chemistry and physics classes.
- Deeper learning is an important part of the philosophy of the science department at Westwood Collegiate.
- Opportunities for students to pursue their individual interests in science are paired with an adherence to traditional curricula. We are very excited to, once again, offer a 10-day science-based trip to Belize in March 2023. This trip was originally planned for 2020 but was unfortunately cancelled. Students will be provided with activities which include many ecological and geological learning experiences.
- Westwood offers an aquatic science course in which students can become SCUBA certified.
- Annually, Westwood students compete in numerous competitions, such as the Envirothon where they regularly place amongst the top teams. Students were able to take part in Discovery Days offered by the University of Manitoba where they were paired with many researchers and doctors to learn about the day-to-day activities in the medical and science field.
- Field trips to local wetlands, museums, and experimental lakes have been a major part of the science programming at Westwood over the years.
- Providing opportunities to study alongside working scientists fits into the department's pursuit of deeper learning and varied student experience and is just one example of many of the science department's pursuit of excellence.
- We are excited to have members of the science department trained in the AP program. Biology

will be the first course offered at Westwood Collegiate and we look forward to more courses being added in the future.

- Our IB students continue to excel in the program placing above the world average in each of the science courses offered.

Student Services

- We continue to support students on a case-by-case basis, increasing their comfort and skill in numeracy, literacy & general academics.
- We partner with their teachers, families, and/or clinical support team to ensure students' specific needs are met in the classroom so that education is equitable despite individual challenges.
- We continue to create a safe space for students struggling with their mental health.
- We teach preventative strategies, coping strategies, and provide a quiet/private space for students to self-regulate or work on their studies outside of the classroom while in a heightened state.
- Proactively, we teach and advertise wellness strategies to combat stress and/or negative emotions as well as life skills such as effective communication, problem solving and strengthening executive functioning skills.
- In moments of crisis, we are here to support students, helping them regulate and navigate next steps.
- As a department, we continue to learn about Indigenous perspectives and how best to incorporate them in our daily work with students.

IB

- 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 DP core: creativity, activity, service (CAS); the extended essay (EE); and theory of knowledge (TOK). This is illustrated by the below Diploma Programme model.



- In the 2021 – 2022 school year, students at Westwood had the following IB course options:

Group 1 → English A Literature
Group 2 → Language B Spanish or French
Group 3 → Psychology or History
Group 4 → Biology, Physics and Chemistry
Group 5 → Mathematics Analysis and Approaches

- 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.
- In 2022 Westwood had 30 total students who were registered as certificate candidates (those looking to complete just individual course requirements). As well as 2 students that attempted the full IB Diploma (course requirements & extended essay & CAS & TOK). Depending on a students' final mark many Westwood students chose to use their IB course marks to obtain certain University equivalent transfer credits at various Universities across Canada.
- Westwood Students averaged above the World Average in six of the nine subject areas. Both students that attempted the full diploma were successful with one earning an exemplary score of 42 out of a possible 45 points. In total there were approximately 20 students that used there IB courses for University Transfer Credits for the following year.
- Advanced Placement courses will be available next year, subject to Divisional class size policies. We have our first course in Advanced Placement offered in the 22-23 school year: Biology 42. More information on IB/AP can be found on the school website under Programs and Services.