

report

to the community



Jameswood Alternative School

2016-2017

JAMESWOOD

A L T E R N A T I V E S C H O O L

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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: Technology, Fine Arts, physical education, career exploration and independent studies.

Jameswood Alternative School (JAS) is a very small public high school which services students in the St. James-Assiniboia School Division. Students come to our school for a variety of reasons and with a much storied academic and personal history.

Last Year's School Accomplishments (2015-2016)

Throughout the 2015-2016 school year students will have exposure to healthy lifestyles learning opportunities and a variety of cultural experiences.

- ✓ Over 30 students earned credits in Grade 9 -12 PE courses.
- ✓ The JAS student kitchen continued to offer healthy snacks for all students (yogurt, milk, bread, fruit, vegetables)
- ✓ Tuesday's Table – donated foods used to create healthy lunches for students
- ✓ Ties between Divisional aboriginal liaisons strengthened – JAS participation student activities: divisional meetings, Indigenous Leadership Dev. Institute
- ✓ AAA programming tailored to identified student needs.
- ✓ ADSE-I - Key goals: make early screening and detection of mental health and substance abuse concerns regular component of supporting student success.
- ✓ WE DAY – local and global goals achieved - \$500 raised through student work (Humane Society)

Our Mission Statement

JAS students will grow to be citizens who demonstrate respect, personal responsibility, and the knowledge and skills to contribute to a democratic and environmentally responsible society.

Culture for Learning: JAS students are partners in a “family culture” of collaboration, active involvement, with the belief that everyone matters.

JAS values: acceptance, achievement, opportunity and safety.

School Profile

Number of teachers: 6
Number of students: 100
Grade levels: 10-12

School Highlights

- High school programming that is self-directed, self-paced in an intimate learning environment,
- Limited daycare availability, breakfast program available.

Unique Activities

JAS offers an alternative for students who have a desire to attend school but cannot attend a regular school setting. JAS offers classes with small student-teacher ratios and courses that are offered in a self directed, self-paced manner.

- ✓ Participation in National “Tell Them From Me” safe schools survey (Nov and April)
- ✓ Student Voice Committee (SVC): JAS school activities including Spirit Weeks, theme days, Robb Nash school concert, PI Day, holiday meals
- ✓ Regularly scheduled cultural focus groups – TRC, smudges, seven teachings, medicine wheel
- ✓ Maker’s Group – community building group for sewing, weaving and other creative endeavors
- ✓ Song-writing and video production – school theme song entitled – *Until We Meet Again*

By June 2016, the importance of literacy and numeracy will be highlighted in student learning and finished project work.

- ✓ Writing baseline collaboratively established and supported in each subject area
- ✓ Student reading levels measured and supported through the school year
- ✓ Classroom libraries enhanced with varied text at varied levels – high interest titles considered with student input
- ✓ Responsive and tailored programming in numeracy and literacy to support students where they are at
- ✓ Focus on physical literacy – students and staff took part in Fitbit project with divisional Phys. Ed coordinator
- ✓ Sharing work publicly – JAS blog, Twitter and Instagram feeds as well as articles written to promote and celebrate JAS programming throughout the school year
- ✓ School song and video on Youtube
- ✓ Common signage throughout the school with expectations
- ✓ Wellness activities including journals for all staff and students
- ✓

By June 2016, updated and tailored programming will be in place that focuses students on the seamless transition from school to work

- ✓ Graduating students meet 1-on1 with guidance to work through accessing their Career Cruising profile (http://www.manitobacareerdevelopment.ca/CDi/career_cruising.html)
- ✓ MB Education apprenticeship programming for students (HSAP)
- ✓ Partnered with SJASD work placement coordinator to find placements for JAS students
- ✓ Life-Work credits achieved by students
- ✓ Student field trips to Rotary Career Fair as well as the Technology Field Fair
- ✓ Career projects including budgets, finance, resumes, cover letters and interview skills
- ✓ Partnership with Gateway within our facility to support current and former students with job skills and resources
- ✓ Graduate interview assessments

By June 2016, students will utilize BYOD to illustrate learning outcomes in specific SAMR designed course modules and the JAS digital portfolio.

- ✓ JAS digital portfolio templates designed for students to list accomplishments and personal growth throughout the school year
- ✓ Digital citizenship opportunities and discussion
- ✓ SAMR model-based course modules in each subject area
- ✓ Professional development for staff to create competency and consistency in each subject area
- ✓ Divisional coordinator involvement in tailoring programming for students
- ✓ Baseline digital portfolios for each student

School Priorities 2016-2017

1. Maintain a program that has a clear registration process, demonstrates credibility and has legitimacy.
2. Increase attendance rates and credit retrieval per student
3. Focus on developing numeracy, literacy and technology baselines.
4. Positive and safe education environment.
5. Develop programming to assist school to Life/work transitions

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 (2016-2017)

1. By June 2017, each learner will actively demonstrate academic growth in literacy and numeracy, as well as emotional and social growth.
2. By June 2017, each learner will continue to engage in healthy lifestyle choices and cultural learning opportunities throughout the school year.
3. By June 2017, each learner will engage in responsive and tailored programming to facilitate a seamless transition from school to work.

High School Programming

Students work on courses in a self-directed manner in either the morning or afternoon schedule. Implementing a non-traditional schedule could mean that some students may finish a course earlier than a traditional semester and some students may take a little longer. Once a student completes the required work in a course they will be awarded credit whether it takes 12 weeks or 20 weeks. Students who achieve credit at a more rapid rate could have several options available to them including: more time to work on other courses, recovering past credits, or enrolling in a new course. All students create an education plan with guidance from teachers and administration. The plan indicates which courses are needed to achieve the courses required for graduation. These plans are reviewed and adapted throughout the school year.

Student progress is reviewed by teachers on a daily basis at JAS. At the beginning of each course each student is given a performance indicator guide which details the course requirements. To ensure individual student's needs are being met an education plan is developed and updated as needed. Formal progress reports are completed every six weeks with mini "check in" meetings held every three weeks. These are developed collaboratively between student, teacher and administrator.

Students are assessed daily on the work they complete. Daily work is recorded by the students and this is reviewed by the teacher to determine what was accomplished at the end of the student's day.

All courses are developed to meet the needs of individual learners. Students complete courses in paper-based and electronic module formats as well as through the use of online courses.

Staff Collaboration - Staff meet on a regular basis to discuss student progress. All decisions are made on a collaborative basis. Administration, teachers, and educational assistants work closely on a daily basis. Because of the small teacher-student ratio teachers and students work closely together. JAS staff work hard to ensure students have a strong and positive connection to the school.

Student Involvement - Students are involved in the creation and implementation of their educational plan. Students meet with their teachers and administration on a regular basis to monitor achievement, review education plans and determine future goals. It is expected that ALL students become active participants in the program. Students are expected to attend daily, participate in field trips, and "JAS family" events.

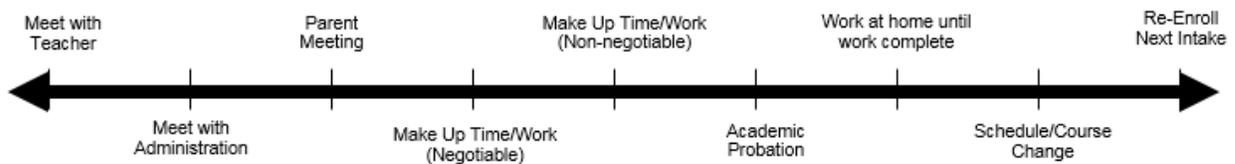
Care and Support - JAS Staff use a variety of teaching strategies. Each student is treated as an individual. **All students are treated fairly but fair does not mean equal.** Some of the preventative strategies JAS staff use are listed below.

- ✓ "Every Kid - Every Day", staff check in daily with all students
- ✓ Students are connected with ONE teacher

- ✓ Teachers review work and provide immediate feedback
- ✓ Courses are tailored to suit the needs of individual students
- ✓ Staff are committed to student success and well-being
- ✓ Students are set up for success (appropriate referrals and registration)
- ✓ Education Plans created for all students
- ✓ Courses are self-paced and individualized
- ✓ Flexible programming with strong structure
- ✓ The differentiated integration of multiple intelligences into course curriculum and assessment
- ✓ Clear communication of success and commitment expectations

Coursework Expectation - Students work at their own pace, however ALL students MUST complete a MINIMUM of ONE course per quarter to maintain their placement in the program (I.E. Students enrolling in September would be expected to complete a minimum of 4 credits in the year, students enrolling in April would be expected to complete a minimum of 1 credit for the year). Students are expected to follow the schedule and plan that they have developed. Students who do not maintain their commitment to the program may be required to re-enroll in JAS at a later date (space permitting).

RANGE OF CONSEQUENCES



JAS Attendance Policy

PHILOSOPHY

Each student will be held accountable for regular attendance with the view that good attendance:

- ✓ Enhances learning, achievement, and self-esteem
- ✓ Improves opportunities for future choices.
- ✓ Improves opportunities for employment.

RESPONSIBILITY

- ✓ Student: It is the responsibility of the student to maintain regular and punctual attendance.
- ✓ Parents/Guardians: It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to contact the student's advisor by telephone prior to each absence.
- ✓ School: It is the responsibility of the school to monitor attendance, to record attendance and to notify parents and students of unacceptable attendance patterns.

Students are expected to maintain **regular attendance** based on their school schedule. Students who cannot maintain regular attendance may be required to re-enroll when they are able to do so. Students/parents are required to contact the child's teacher directly prior to the absence occurring. Appointments and personal obligations should be scheduled outside of the student's regularly scheduled hours.

Career Cruising

All students at Jameswood Alternative School start to develop a comprehensive plan for graduation and employment. The plan represents a collection of students' best work or best efforts, student-selected samples of work and or social experiences related to JAS goal, values, and essential learning outcomes.

Student plans are created to show growth, to showcase current abilities, and to evaluate cumulative achievement. Progress is measured by students' abilities in essential learning outcomes that are shared across all curricula. Essential learning outcomes are broad-based descriptions of the enduring purpose of educating the whole person. They support provincial curricula and give deep purpose to instruction and assessment in our learning environment.

		What this really means...	What you can include...
	<p>UNIQUE INTELLECT (ACADEMIC)</p> <p>The knowledgeable, Critical and Creative Thinker, Problem Solver, Communicator, Decision Maker, Global Democratic Citizen</p>	<p>Demonstrate that students are intelligent through examples of their best work from the coursework completed <i>and that students are achieving credits.</i></p> <p>Show that you are aware of/can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem solve • The world beyond JAS • Communicate • Be creative • Be critical • Be a good citizen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing • Tests • Presentations • Posters • Sketchbook samples • Completed assignments from any course that you are taking
	<p>RELATIONSHIPS AND VALUES (SOCIAL)</p> <p>Caring respectful collaborator, relationship builder, responsible citizen working for the betterment of society</p>	<p>Show what you want to do and how you plan on getting there.</p> <p>Give examples of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goals • Careers • Post-secondary information • Scholarship information • Self assessments • Peer reviews of your work • Personal growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career Projects • Resume • <u>Zine</u> • Autobiography • Cover letter • Progress reports • Transcripts • University fair information • Career Fair information
	<p>ASPIRATIONS (PERSONAL)</p> <p>Engaged, Transformed learner, Self-Assessing, Setting and Pursuing Learning and Contribution Goals</p>	<p>Show us you get along with others and demonstrate that you are working to improve your life and the lives of others around you.</p> <p>give examples of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You working with family • Working with people with teachers • Working by yourself • Working with seniors • Working with youngsters • Working with peers • Making school a priority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer information • family study practicum reflections • Field trip reflections • Work experience information • Conflict resolution • Student council

What is Career Cruising? (www.careercruising.com)

Career Cruising is industry-leading online career guidance and planning system used by the Student Services counseling team in Career Planning and E-Portfolio sessions. JAS students use Career Cruising to find the right career, explore education and training options, and build their own portfolio, over their time at the school. Students will be given time during the school year to build their online portfolio.