

2015-16 Community Report

Highland Park Junior High

Provincial Assessments		
	School (%) 2015-16	Board (%) 2015-16
<u>Literacy Assessments</u>		
Grade 8 Provincial		
Reading	78%	76%
Writing - Ideas	92%	91%
Writing - Organization	82%	80%
Writing - Language Use	79%	82%
Writing - Conventions	62%	70%
<u>Math Assessments</u>		
Grade 8 Provincial		
Mathematics	54%	63%

Staff at Highland Park Junior High are working diligently to ensure that we are providing culturally relevant learning activities for our students. We have high expectations for all of our students and want their learning to be meaningful and relevant. We are teaching in a cross curricular manner that is inclusive and hands-on. Focusing on and promoting positive interactions enhanced the learning environment for everyone and has enabled students to take more ownership of their learning.

Along with weekly Professional Learning Communities, teachers have grade level meetings where they discuss every student's strengths and challenges. Teachers work together to put strategies in place to support students who struggle to understand key concepts. Teachers also provide enrichment for students who require a greater academic challenge.

At Highland Park Junior High, we are well on our way to 21st century learning, which is incorporating the use of technology into classrooms to enhance student learning and engagement. Our teachers have participated in professional development focusing on the integration of technology and GoogleApps for Education into classroom instruction. This professional development gave teachers the opportunity to discuss and learn how to incorporate more technology into their daily practice. Student success is at the center of everything that we do at Highland Park, and we are thrilled that this year we won a Makerspace for our school. Only three schools in Canada received a Mindshare grant worth \$10,000 of technological equipment to help students reach new heights with their visions and plans in Technology Education. Our award will provide more learning opportunities for our students and it will increase student engagement in the classroom, as well as, keeping in line with the Ministerial Action Plan for Education.

This year we have started year one of our student success planning. We have identified two specific goals: one in Language Arts and one in Math. Our Language Arts goal is: Students will demonstrate improvement in reading comprehension as well as in responding personally and critically to a range of texts. Our Math goal is: Students will demonstrate improvement in number operations with a focus on problem solving and communication.

Below you will find an explanation of our Provincial and Board Assessments.

Literacy Assessment Data:

The 2015-2016 Grade 8 Reading Assessment data indicates our reading scores are strong and are higher than school board results. In writing, our results are higher than the school board results in the areas of 'Writing Ideas' and 'Writing Organization'; however, improvement in the areas of 'Language Use' and 'Writing Conventions' (e.g. punctuation, spelling, use of visual cues) will continue to be a focus in our classrooms. We will also continue to teach and emphasize these as part of our School Improvement Plan. We recognize that reading comprehension currently is and will continue to be an area of focus for instruction.

Math Assessment Data:

The above data table represents the percentage of students who met the expectation of the Grade 8 provincial assessment. Our Assessment results indicate that mathematics must continue to be a focus in our school. Our school scored below the Board results and we recognize that improving these results must be a high priority. Teachers are analyzing results in their Professional Learning Communities to determine specific areas of concern and to discuss what instructional strategies will be the most effective in increasing students' achievement in mathematics. These areas will be the focus of professional development and future classroom instruction.

Grade 8 students write the provincial mathematics assessment in the spring of that school year. Improving student learning in Math and Literacy will continue to be a priority for us. We will continue to monitor both external and internal student achievement results in these areas and will use this data to guide our practice.