

Student Handbook

2025-2026

St. John's High School Grade 7 - 8



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A MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

Welcome to St. John's High School! We are thrilled to have you join our vibrant school community. As you begin your journey with us, we want you to know that we are proud of our dedicated staff, our diverse and talented student body, and the wide range of programs we offer. From our rigorous academic courses to our exciting sports teams, as well as our visual and performing arts programs, we are committed to providing you with the tools and opportunities for success.

In the spirit of reflection and growth, we encourage you to reflect on four important questions shared by the late Honourable Murray Sinclair. These questions help guide personal and academic growth, enabling you to better understand yourself and your journey:

1. **Who am I?**
This question encourages you to reflect on your own identity your values, strengths, and sense of self. Understanding who you are helps you make decisions aligned with your true self.
2. **Where do I come from?**
This question invites you to explore your background, heritage, and experiences. Understanding where you come from can give you insight into your story and shape the way you engage with the world around you.
3. **Why am I here?**
This question challenges you to reflect on your purpose. Why are you at St. John's? What do you hope to achieve? Understanding your purpose helps you stay focused on your goals and gives meaning to your journey.
4. **Where am I going?**
This question encourages you to look ahead and think about your future. Where do you see yourself in the years to come? Knowing where you're going helps you set goals and take the necessary steps to reach them.

These questions are meant to guide you through your time at St. John's High School, encouraging self-reflection, growth, and a deeper connection to your community. As you read through this handbook, we invite you to keep these questions in mind as they will help guide you in shaping your path forward.

This handbook contains important information to help you navigate the year ahead. We encourage you to read it carefully, and if you have any questions, the administration team is always here to help. Let's make this a year to remember!

Sincerely,

Mr. B. Davidson
Principal

Our Mission Statement Embodies our Belief and Teaching Methodology

Embracing our diversity, St. John's High School dedicates itself to educating all students to their fullest potential in a culture of hope through optimism, place, pride

A MESSAGE FROM PARENT COUNCIL

The Council is comprised of parents/guardians, grandparents, caregivers of St. John's High School as well as community members and organizations of the St. John's area that support and are invested in the success of our students.

We meet in the cafeteria the last Thursday of every month, between 4:45-6:00 p.m., including a dinner.

Our children knowing that we are involved in their education and the community of their school, is the most powerful influence of their success.

Together, we work with and strive to compliment the efforts of St. John's High School administration and it's initiatives for student success.

"May the footprints we leave, tell the stories of our success."

Code of Conduct

Students Will:

- Be polite, respectful and cooperative to all, regardless of race, religion, gender, age, or sexual orientation. Abusive language and aggressive behaviour are unacceptable at all times.
- Attend school regularly. As well, be on time, bring all required supplies and completed homework.
- When finished for the day, leave the school grounds promptly.
- Dress appropriately for classes and school activities.
- Respect school property and the property of others.
- Follow this code of conduct.
- Make the most of the time in school; strive for academic excellence through classroom participation.
- Solve conflicts peacefully through discussion or by seeking help. Bullying or abusing another person verbally, physical, sexually or psychologically will not be tolerated.
- Be aware that gang involvement will not be tolerated on school sites.
- Follow school and Division policies respecting appropriate use of electronic mail and the internet, including the prohibition of material that the school has determined to be objectionable.
- Be aware that trafficking, using, possessing or being under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

**BE THE MASTER OF
YOUR OWN DESTINY**

RE-

STORATIVE PRACTICES PHILOSOPHY

We believe that teaching and learning occurs best in a positive school climate where students behave appropriately. It is our belief that students can learn to manage their own behaviour. All of us make mistakes and mistakes are opportunities to learn. We are all learners. Restitution, as part of discipline, creates balance that allows for learning within the classroom.



**GETTING
INVOLVED!**

Code of Conduct

Parents/Guardians Will:

The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to promote a healthy school culture where high levels of achievement occur within a positive school environment. St. John's believes that everyone has the right to be treated with dignity and respect.

"It's okay to make mistakes, it is what actions you take next that is your destiny".

- Show common courtesy and respect to all, regardless of race, religion, gender, age, or sexual orientation. Abusive language and aggressive behaviour are unacceptable at all times.
- Advocate that their children attend class regularly, arrive at school on time and do their homework.
- Attend school events, support the school and stay in contact with school staff.
- Help their children develop positive attitudes towards school and respect for the staff and school property.
- Encourage the peaceful resolution of conflict. Discourage violent or aggressive behaviour to solve a problem.
- Communicate regularly with the school and advocate for their child's success.
- Try to solve any concerns with the child's teacher.

Staff Will:

- Show common courtesy and respect to all, regardless of race, religion, gender, age, or sexual orientation. Abusive language and aggressive behaviour are unacceptable at all times.
- Establish a positive learning environment.
- Evaluate students' achievement, and explain to the students and parents/guardians the assessment procedures being used. Follow "Outcome Based Education" (OBE).
- Keep students, parents/guardians and administrators informed about student progress, attendance and behaviour.
- Treat all students and other staff members fairly and consistently.
- Respect confidential information about students and staff.
- Dress appropriately for the working environment.
- Assist students in resolving conflicts peacefully through restorative practices and use the *Code of Conduct* to encourage appropriate behaviour.

Support and implement proactive and reactive intervention strategies through a continuum of supports and services such as:

**Guidance,
Behaviour Support Teacher
Clinical Support Services
Administration**

School Info

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

The School Messenger System calls home daily (am/pm) when a student is Late/Absent and we have not heard from a parent/guardian. If the absence is not verified sometime during the day, our automated system will also call in the evening.

After 5 minutes a student will be marked Late and after 20 minutes a student will be marked Absent regardless if the student is in class after the 20 minutes.

When a student has 3 absences, the homeroom teacher will call home. If no one is available they will send a letter home.

When a student reaches 6-8 absences a letter will be sent home and we will start sending the truant officer. The truant officer will be involved until the student returns.

After 10-12 absences, the office will send out a letter informing the parent/guardian of the attendance issue and request a meeting.

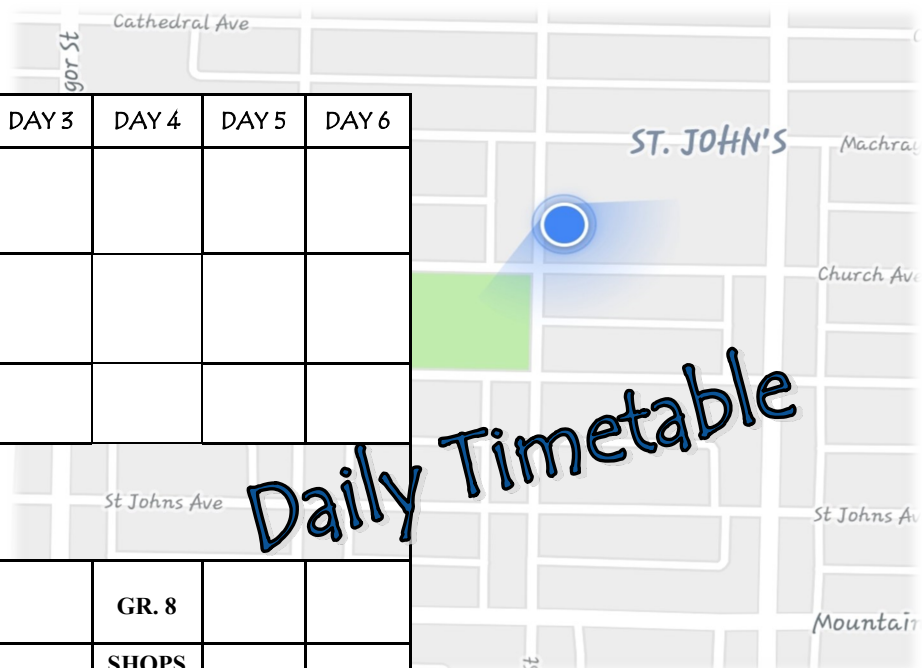
Students with a pattern of 20 consecutive absences will be removed from the St. John's High School's classroom list and placed into an alternate homeroom, to report to the guidance counsellor. Notification of Agencies will occur if applicable. Students who miss 20 consecutive days, parents/guardians will receive a letter on notification of student being withdrawn.

Please use one of these 3 convenient ways to report you child absence:

Please use one of these 3 convenient ways to report your child's absence: :

Website	https://go.schoolmessenger.ca .	Sign up, select attendance, then report an absence
Mobile App	Download the School Messenger app from the Play Store or from the links at https://go.schoolmessenger.ca).	Sign up, select attendance, then report an absence
Phone St John's Phone Number	1-855-278-4513 204-589-4374	Call the toll-free number to report an absence

PER	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6
1 9:00 – 10:03						
2 10:06 – 11:09						
3 11:12 – 12:15						
LUNCH HOUR 12:15 – 1:15						
4 1:15 – 2:21		GR. 7		GR. 8		
5 2:24 – 3:30		SHOPS DAY		SHOPS DAY		



Academics

GENERAL PROGRAM

All core subject areas are offered and follow the curricular outcomes as outlined by *Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth*. Students in middle school take core subjects: English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Phys. Ed..

MATH

The K to Grade 12 provincial mathematics curriculum is organized by grade and the four strands: Patterns and Relations, Statistics and Probability, Shape and Space, and Number. Hands-on learning activities, problem-solving, visualization, communication, connections to everyday life, technology, estimation, mental math and strategic instruction are a means to helping students develop mathematical skills and understanding.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Language proficiency generates confidence and competence in communicating, and allows students to excel in other disciplines. The provincial curriculum stresses the integrated nature of the six language arts: listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and representing, through short stories, novels, poetry, and media.

SCIENCE

Through scientific inquiry, design process, and knowledge and understanding students become lifelong learners and scientifically literate individuals. When students can interpret information, solve problems, make informed decisions, accommodate change and create new knowledge, the more prepared they will be to interact with the world around them. Visit the Manitoba Education website for more details regarding the provincial science curriculum.

In Grade 7 Students will learn about the following topics: Interactions in Ecosystems, Forces and Structures, Earth's Crust, Particle Theory of Matter.

In Grade 8 In addition to conducting their own self-directed, Science Fair Project, students will study the following units in science: Cells and Systems, Optics, Fluids, and Water Systems.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social studies helps students acquire the skills, knowledge and values necessary to become active, democratic citizens and contributing members of their communities, locally, nationally and globally.

The provincial curriculum includes citizenship, the core concept that focuses social studies learning at all grades and provides opportunities for students to explore the complexities of citizenship in four areas: Active Democratic Citizenship in Canada, Canadian Citizenship for the Future, Citizenship in the Global Context & Environmental Citizenship.

In Gr. 7 students will learn about human and physical geography, factors that affect quality of life, and the ways of life and impact of human activities in Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe and the Americas. In Grade 8 students will learn about worldview through studying ancient civilizations.



Academics

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The aim of the St. John's Physical and Health Education program is to provide students with planned and balanced programming to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes for physically active and healthy lifestyles. The general learning outcomes that we focus on include: Movement, Fitness Management, Safety, Personal and Social Management & Healthy Lifestyle Practices

We use a variety of activities, sports and games to encourage students to have fun, form connections with peers and embrace a healthy and active lifestyle. We have various intramural activities and extra-curricular sports teams that we encourage all students to participate in.

PRACTICAL ARTS

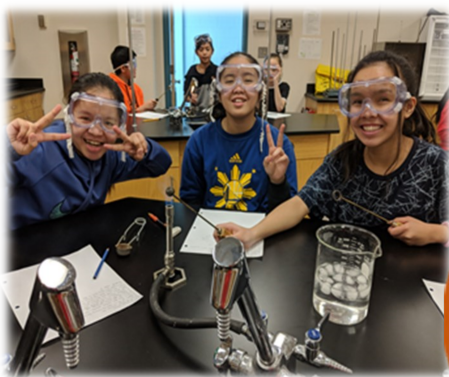
Practical Arts is an exploratory course that allows students an opportunity to experience many different practical and hands on learning that build life skills. Students will rotate through the following:

- * **Foods** - basic cooking skills such as kitchen safety, recipe preparation, measuring, and collaborative skills.
- * **Sewing** - fundamental sewing skills such as hand sewing and basic machine sewing skills.
- * **Electronics** - basic concepts of electricity, component identification, and problem solving skills will be covered through hands-on activities such as: interactive posters, snooping devices, and laser pens.
- * **Woods** - basic woodworking skills covering various tools and machinery, measuring and project design.
- * **Graphics** - how to develop a deeper understanding for all things digital as you explore Graphic art found in everything from advertising to animation to photography and beyond.

Gr. 7 students take shops for two hours on school day 2, and Gr. 8 students on school day 4.

All classrooms emphasizes the development of the 7C's for 21st century skills - Creativity and Innovation, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Communication, Character, Cultural and Ethical Citizenship and Computer & Digital Technologies by incorporating the following topics, tasks and tools:

- Problem Solving
- Writing Process and Writing Traits
- STEM Design Challenges, Experiments, Thinking Classrooms, and Minecraft Education.
- Inquiry Projects and Science Fair
Computational Thinking



Option Courses

EXPLORING
INTERESTS!

ART

An introduction class to beginner art skills, and art tools. Students will be introduced to basic art vocabulary, and encouraged to acquire new skills through this activity-based studio art class. Experience intro to drawing, painting, clay, collage, design and more!

DANCE

A performance based course that explores various units such as fitness, creative movement, choreography preparation and composition. Whether you are a beginner, intermediate or an advanced dancer, all students will gain valuable experiences in this class. Students will train primarily in the Hip Hop dance genre. The class will have an opportunity to perform in both the semester concert and an in class student choreography show. Upon completion of the class, students will have a foundational knowledge and technical skill base. The goal of this course is to develop committed, confident and creative performers.

DRAMA

A hands on course focused on the essential learning areas of drama: drama language and performance skills, creative expression in drama, understanding drama in context and valuing the drama experience. Students will explore a variety of forms of theatre. Performance opportunities exist but are not mandatory.

BAND

Grade 7 Band: In this course students will have the opportunity to explore music fundamentals in a group setting. Students will develop core music literacy and performance skills on various instruments and be encouraged to explore creativity and expression across a variety of musical mediums. Students will begin developing their critical listening and thinking skills through analyzing and reflecting on their own learning and the performances of others. Additionally, students will explore different genres of music across culture and history and consider how music impacts and contributes to culture and society.

Grade 8 Band: In this course students will continue to develop their music literacy, performance, creativity, communication and expressive skills and will be encouraged to select a specific wind/brass or percussion instrument to be their focus for the course. Students will continue to be challenged in developing critical listening and thinking skills, reflecting on their own learning, other's performances and the use/impact of music across culture and society. Students should expect to participate in at least one major ensemble performance during this course.

INDIGENOUS STUDIES

Students will learn about Indigenous people and cultures in Manitoba and Canada. Students will explore culture through film, research projects, art and crafts to gain deeper understanding and appreciation for the Indigenous peoples of Manitoba, and Canada.

Coding in Minecraft

* Offered every second year. Next offered (2026-2027)

Welcome to **Coding in Minecraft**, Where creativity and technology come together! In this course, you will learn the basics of **Computer programming** using **Minecraft: Education Edition**. Through fun, hands-on activities, you will explore **block coding** and **Python** to build, automate, and solve challenges in the Minecraft world.

You will develop important **problem-solving skills**, learn how to **think like a programmer**, and work on exciting projects such as:

- Writing code to build amazing structures instantly
- Creating interactive mini-games
- Using AI-powered agents to complete tasks
- Automating farms, bridge, and buildings with commands

INCLUSION SUPPORT & RESOURCE PROGRAMS

The Inclusion Support Department offers a wide variety of programs individualized to meet physical, social, emotional, academic, and vocational training needs. When students in the regular programs experience academic difficulties, the resource teacher and educational assistants work together with the subject teachers to meet specific student needs.

HOCKEY HEROS

The Hockey Heros Program provides an opportunity for students in grade 7 and 8 to participate in a hockey program that will occur one afternoon per cycle (Day 2 from 12:30 - 3:30). The program will be active for 65% of the year. The academy will be broken down into two core components: on ice skills development & dry land fitness.



COUNSELLING SERVICES

Counsellors are available to meet with students and/or parents to provide assistance of general or personal nature. Services are provided in a wide variety of areas such as career development, course selection, planning of post-secondary education, study habits, personal relationships and much more.

Counsellors also function in a consultative and coordinating capacity for students, parents and teachers. When additional services are required, referrals are made to outside agencies.

CLINICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Clinicians from the following disciplines are available for consultation, individual assessment and planning: reading, hearing, speech, social work and psychology. If you wish further information please contact one of the counsellors.

TEEN CLINIC

Located next to the Guidance office, the Teen Clinic is open every Wednesday from 12:15 - 4:00 p.m. A doctor and nurse from Mt. Carmel Clinic offer confidential services to all students. Medical care, counselling support and health information is available. Services are voluntary, confidential, non-judgmental and accessible.

INDIGENOUS GRADUATION COACH

The purpose of the Indigenous Graduation Teacher is to increase Indigenous graduation rates. It is the role of the Indigenous Support Teacher to build support teams and create plans to help Indigenous students graduate.

- ***The Indigenous Graduation Teacher focuses on:*** Relationships and Mentoring - building nurturing, supportive, positive relationships with students
- **Transitions** - establishing supportive transitions to decrease the dropout rate between Junior High and High School, and supporting the transition from graduation to post-secondary or work
- **Culture** - through cultural activities (smudging available at any time, Sweat Lodge ceremonies, Ribbon Skirt making, hand drumming, beading, and moccasin making are available throughout the school year) create a sense of belonging and identity
- **Academics** - supporting students with tutoring options, course planning, peer mentoring and role modeling
- **Family Engagement** - building the Graduation Team by including parents/ guardians, school staff and the student



HUDDLE - Located in the guidance office during the hours 10-2 p.m. on Tuesday & Thursday

Huddle offers...

Supports

LODGE ROOM

Lodge Room - St John's has a lodge room that hosts various teachings by Elders, Knowledge Keepers and programs for all students, including smudging and drumming.

INTERCULTURAL SUPPORT WORKER

The role of our intercultural support worker is to provide academic, social and cultural support for students. Some of the specific supports offered include: liaising between the school and the newcomer/immigrant student families - introducing parents to school division programs, organizing parent/teacher meetings, and helping to foster understanding of the school culture to the newcomer parents and also the newcomer culture to the school/teachers. Our intercultural support worker is also an interpreter for three languages: Nepali, Hindi & Urdu which are widely spoken in Nepal, India & Pakistan, respectively.

ST. JOHN'S PARENT & COMMUNITY COUNCIL

This is an active and interested group of people, who have assisted the school in its efforts to deliver an excellent educational program. The council meets on a monthly basis. Parents are invited to take an active role in the process. Further information may be obtained by contacting the school directly or by calling the chairperson at the school number.

GRANDMA GROUP

The grandma group meets the First Thursday of each month. The role of this group is to build a network of support and friendship for grandmas who have the rewarding but challenging task of raising their grand children.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH WORKERS

Sponsored by the Walter and Maria Schroeder Foundation; the vision and mission provided by our Community outreach Workers, centers around a holistic facilitative approach to support identified students and families in overcoming barriers such as food, insecurity, access to preventative healthcare, effects of various sources of trauma and attendance. Working closely with the school Administration, our Community Outreach Workers establish unparalleled home-school connections building a pathway of success for many of our students at St John's High School. Together we are better!



NEW COMER SERVICES INTERCULTURAL SUPPORT WORKERS

Newcomer Services supports the academic success, psychosocial well-being, and settlement needs of newcomer students and their families. It helps newcomer students and families transition into new schools and communities. Newcomer Services is guided by values of support, inclusion, equity, advocacy, and collaboration. It provides support in three main areas:

Advocates for educational and psychosocial resources for students and caregivers. Partners with community organizations and settlement services to WSD. Equips school staff with resources to create inclusive and equitable learning environments.

Wrap-around support

- Assistance with school registration and intake process
- School orientation in a students language
- Supports for assessments and parent-teacher conferences
- Interpretation and translation services
- Mediation and advocacy for students and caregivers
- Cultural workshops or programs for students and families
- WSD staff training on newcome-related topics, including cultural awareness
- Employment services workshops, including job search and resume building
- Access to transportation (bus tickets when available) for school and settlement-related appointments
- Collaborate with community agencies who provide more resources and programming



ROSE KIMANI

Student Amenities

CAFETERIA

Sponsored by the Walter and Maria Schroeder foundation; our “state of the art” cafeteria, unlike any other school cafeteria in Manitoba, offers “free breakfast” and “lunch” to many students who have presented a need for assistance. The most anyone pays for lunch is \$2.50. Menus include specials, such as stuffed pork, mashed potatoes and vegetables, or Shepherd's pie and salad or tacos in a bag, etc. Great value, great food!



STUDENT COUNCIL

An active Student Council, both at the Senior High and Middle Years level, plans a full calendar of events for students. Regular pep rallies, dances and Spirit Week are hosted at the school. Our students are increasingly involved in decision making in the school. Students who participate have the opportunity to develop leadership, communication, and organization skills.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Each year, several extra curricular opportunities are offered for Middle Years students. Some of the activities available are: volleyball, basketball, badminton, soccer and drama club



Tiger Pride

TIGER PRIDE DAY

Every Friday is #TigerPride Day!
Wear your St. John's gear/swag or black and orange.



SCHOOL STORE - "TIGER SQUARE"

Our school store provides goods/services to the students and staff at St. John's High School. The three departments in the store are: St. John's clothing, school supplies and confectionery. The store also provides a focus for school events, such as advertising, and our large front window display. Tiger Square provides a work experience setting for students in the high school employability skills classes.

It is open daily from 12:15 - 12:45 p.m.



Sweet Swag



Bursaries

Each term the grade 7 and 8 students with the highest marks in their grade are awarded bursaries, donated by the Walter & Maria Schroeder Foundation.

Thank you to the Walter and Maria Schroeder Foundation
and numerous individual donors and Post-Secondary Scholarships
(University of Winnipeg, University of Manitoba and Red River College Polytechnic).



Once middle years students reach Senior High, they are eligible to apply for many bursaries and scholarships offered through external organizations and donors,



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