



January 15, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In late January, Alberta Education will be sending selected parents a satisfaction survey. The results of the Alberta Education Survey, along with the Schollie Survey you will receive in March from the school are used to help guide programs in the school, address school needs and celebrate the great things we have accomplished. To help you better answer the survey questions, we have put together some highlights of the amazing work our staff, students and parents continue to do. From our annual school's report card, we have identified the following areas of Success and Growth.

Area of Success	Area of Growth
Preparing Students for the Workplace – <b>83.6%</b> School is Safe for Students – <b>90.2%</b> Education Quality – <b>87.0%</b>	Program of Studies – <b>77.1%</b> Parental Involvement – <b>78.7%</b>

As you work through the survey questions, we did have some parent comments from last year that surrounded questions that parents were unsure or didn't know how to respond. In those instances, parents chose "Don't Know". The result of "Don't Know" equates to "Dissatisfied/Very Dissatisfied" which parents shared with us wasn't their desired default for this answer. Our recommendation for parents moving forward if there is a question you are unsure how to answer, please involve your child to gain insight, place a more positive response or as the survey recommends, leave your response blank. (Picture below illustrates this)

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you that ...	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dis-satisfied	Very Dis-satisfied	Don't Know
23. High school students demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for learning throughout their lifetime? .....	O <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>2</sub>	O <sub>3</sub>	O <sub>4</sub>	O <sub>5</sub>

There are two areas of focus that we continue to work toward improving. These areas would include Program of Studies and Parental Involvement. Here is a brief summary of what we are working on in each area.

### Parental Involvement

Schools are at their best when parents and the school have a shared vision for education. As we begin year 2 of operation, getting parent feedback is crucial to our continued success. Last year, we received parent feedback in two crucial areas summarized below.

1. Being involved in my child's education: Parents shared that just because their child was in high school, they still wanted to be part of their education. Having heard this, we have asked our teachers to reach out to invite parents to interviews, administration is keeping parents up to date of interactions with their child and we are actively using our Power Announce system to keep parents updated on important Grad and Post-Secondary information.
2. Teacher Advisory Group (TAG): Many parents shared that they were unsure what TAG was and why it was beneficial for students. Much work has been completed this year to share with students why TAG is important at St. Joseph High School and the importance for each student to be connected to a caring adult while they are in high school. We also use the TAG structure to inform students of daily happenings in the school, helping students with getting set up for Post-Secondary, assisting with course registration as well creating an opportunity for students to come together and pray as a Catholic community. We believe the TAG structure creates a family feeling here at St. Joseph and one that helps students be connected with one another.

## Program of Studies

Based on our overall Report Card, students at St. Joseph High School enjoy a high quality education. We do want to improve the programming offered to our students. From listening to teachers, students and parents, two areas of focus have emerged for this school year: Literacy and Numeracy.

Curriculum Area	Improvement Plan
<b>Numeracy (Math)</b>	An identified area of concern is the number of students who repeat Math 10C and Math 30-1. In the Spring of 2018, Math teachers and administration came together to identify strategies to help students be successful in math classes. Math teachers and administration developed two strategies to support students in Math. The first is targeted Math RTI (Response to Intervention). This intervention targets Math students who struggle in their classes. The RTI teacher collaborates with the classroom teacher and personally invites students to attend targeted flex sessions. The RTI teacher is responsible for informing parents of the support being offered. The second intervention is a Math Learning Strategies class that is taught by our Grade 12 Math teachers. The course is designed to target students who struggle in Math, providing them with a tutorial class while they take Math 30-1. The intended outcome of the Math Learning Strategies is a reduction in the number of students who repeat Math 30-1 and an increased confidence level of our Math students.
<b>Literacy (English)</b>	One area of focus during the 2018-2019 academic year is developing common language and common best practices within our humanities classrooms. Providing support and guidance to our teachers will help students develop a stronger foundational skill set in literacy. The support for teachers will ensure vertical alignment and a deeper understanding and confidence of curriculum. Our Literacy Coach has worked within the English Department co-planning effective lessons, co-assessing student understanding, providing "we-do support," and is in the process of developing a common language framework. A positive mentorship environment is being created where teachers feel supported while being challenged to improve literacy practices. The end result is a much more focused implementation of curriculum and one that allows for students to build upon prior learning. For students, what they learn in English 10 will help them be a better English 20 student as curriculum components and language used will be similar resulting in better understanding and performance.

As well as a focus on these two major curriculum areas, we continue to offer a wide range of programming. This range includes courses in Welding, Cosmetology, Electrical Robotic principles, Art, Drama, Fitness and Computer Studies to name a few. New additions this year include Band, Creative Writing and a Ball Academy. We are proud of our program offerings and feel that students have access to a myriad of courses.

The data in these surveys is crucial for our school. It is used to ensure that we continue to grow and offer excellent programming. St. Joseph High School continues to trend upward. Thank you for taking the time to respond to each survey in a fair and meaningful manner to help us grow.

God Bless,

Graeme Daniel/Teresa Borchers/Ian Stang  
St. Joseph High School Administration Team