

2022-23

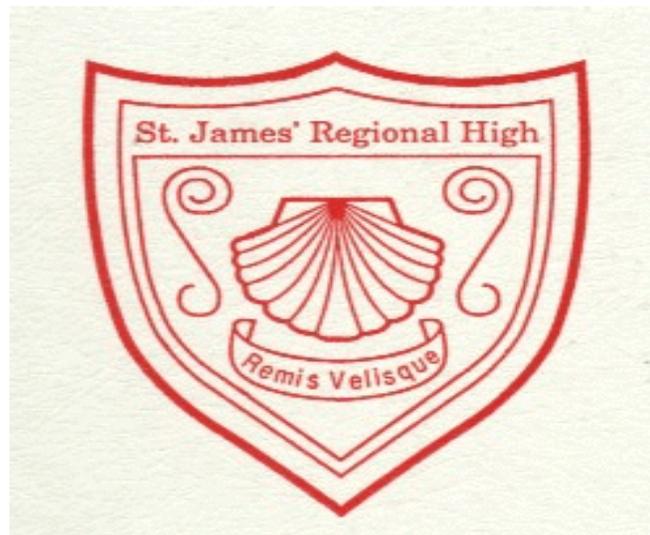
Annual School Development Report

St. James Regional High School

200-099

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Strategic Issue/Goal: To improve student achievement across all areas of the curriculum in an inclusive school environment.

Objective:

Increase student achievement

How did you know this was a Strategic Issue/Objective? What evidence did you have?

Through conversations with staff, students and parents we identified student achievement as an area of growth. Student engagement with learning was noted as a concern across all grade levels and curriculum areas. There were students indicating they were not concerned about their courses and how they were performing academically. Staff also identified student achievement as a major area of concern. Although many of our students are high achievers we do have a large

population of students who struggle and academics are a concern.

The following are four specific goals that we set to try and enhance this objective:

1. Increase students' knowledge, interpretation and application of Numeracy skills.
2. Increase students' knowledge, interpretation, and application of Literacy skills.
3. Improve students' ability to complete constructed responses across the curriculum.
4. Increase narrative style teaching and embrace the relevance to real world via connections

Year-end Summary of Progress. What evidence do you have to support this progress?

We attempted and completed many things to improve the overall achievement of students at St. James Regional High. The covid 19 virus was a real challenge. Pivoting to virtual learning, at Christmas and then returning to the building shortly after caused some major disruptions. Considering all of this, our students' achievement was high. Due to the circumstances of teaching and learning our academic expectations were not the same as a normal school year. We really focused on student SEL and making connections while still engaging students in the education process.

Next Steps...

Achievement in the next school year will be a major area of growth, as our school finds the correct mixture of traditional learning/assessments and deep learning. Our staff will also need to receive PD in deep learning and be willing to try new assessment and teaching tools within the classroom.

Strategic Issue/ Goal: To improve student achievement across all areas of the curriculum in an inclusive school environment.

Objective:

Increase the diversity of educational opportunities and teaching practices to ensure ALL students are motivated and actively engaged in their learning.

How did you know this was a Strategic Issue/Objective? What evidence did you have?

Discussions with students and staff indicated a desire to change from the traditional teaching and learning style where students would simply be receiving information and then giving the same information back. The lack of student engagement and motivation to learn was a strong indicator that our school needed to look for teaching strategies which would increase student involvement with their learning. Teachers indicated a need to move from paper and pen activities to activities which would require students to actively engage in the learning process. We decided that instructional practices and assessment tools were issues that we wished to prioritize, due to results from PMF data and teacher observations. The PMF data indicated a need for improvement with respect to student engagement. Teacher observations identified concerns of students having no desire to complete learning activities unless there was an end result grade, as well as lack of classroom student engagement. While many of our students are doing well with traditional assessments, there has been evidence and discussion surrounding their engagement and evidence of authentic learning. As new pedagogy and professional learning opportunities guide us to developing

more authentic learning environments, it is crucial that we improve upon our instructional practices.

The following are four specific goals that we set to try and enhance this objective:

1. Continued and increased implementation of differentiated instruction and differentiated assessment.
2. Highlight the need for students to receive appropriate courses for their program of studies.
3. Increase opportunities for students to participate in co-curricular and extracurricular activities.
4. Increase opportunities to use real world applications connected to curriculum outcomes. (Deep Learning)
5. Increase awareness of UDL for staff.

Year-end Summary of Progress. What evidence do you have to support this progress?

As a school we started to explore and implement deep learning throughout the school. The covid 19 virus hindered some deep learning opportunities. We formed a deep learning committee and had this group present to staff. We reviewed the following with staff: Four elements of learning, Six global competencies and the roles of the teacher. We established a school DL team where both administration and staff participated in professional learning opportunities provided by the district. During staff meetings and PLC's, administration shared new materials and the district provided academia with respect to DL with staff members. As staff members who were both participating in the DL team, other PL and their own learned experiences, began to grow their understanding of deep learning, they contributed to the learning that was taking place during staff meetings/PLC's as well.

As we began to learn and gain a better understanding of Michael Fullen's 6 C's and Deep Learning, staff began to gain confidence as they realized that many of the lessons and projects that they had already been working on with their students fell well under the classification of DL. Teachers began to take the approach of entering through one or two of the six global competencies to guide their planning and approach in the classes. Entering the planning process through this route, provided teachers with more confidence and more creativity which in turn increased the Deep learning opportunities being provided to students. From the strides taken in the last number of years we are currently trying to find the correct balance between deep learning and our traditional assessment methods.

Next Steps:

We will have a major move towards deep learning in the next year. The dedication to learning about improving our instructional practices with a focus on Deep Learning slowly began to emerge in our classrooms at SJRH. It is also important to note that the cancellation of provincial assessments provided reprieve for teachers from often rigid traditional instructional practices that focused on specific curriculum outcomes. The cancellation of examinations, provided teachers with the breathing room to do more activities and lessons that they often wish they had time for and provided them relief to try out new instructional approaches in their classrooms. Deep Learning was starting to emerge more often in our day to day lessons and units at SJRH. Hopefully SJRH will improve on this trend in the next year, while trying to find the correct balance between deep learning and traditional assessment methods.

Strategic Issue/ Goal: To promote wellness, healthy relations and responsibility for learning with all members of the school community in a safe and caring environment.

Objective:

Increase the mental and physical health and well-being of students and staff.

How did you know this was a Strategic Issue/Objective? What evidence did you have?

As we strive towards improving social and emotional learning, through the leadership of our Safe and Caring Schools Committee, we decided to prioritize the strategic issue of Wellness and Positive Relationships. Our current PMF data also indicated a need for students to feel connected to our school, as well as improving the students' sense of

belonging. While as a staff we felt that we had been achieving this goal in the past, the current global pandemic has brought forth many challenges to students' social and emotional learning environment, requiring a reassessment of this strategic issue, and a need to improve upon our action plans. We slowly implemented our outside learning area, and some alternate seating, which provided a positive reception, therefore it is important for us to continue to build upon these positive changes.

The following are four specific goals that we set to try and enhance this objective:

1. Reward all students who demonstrate positive behaviors.
2. Maintain high levels and diversity of extra-curricular groups and events.
3. Continue to educate students on Digital Citizenship.
4. Promote and support teacher and student wellness.
5. Reintroduce the house system for school wide activities (students divided into 10 teams; collect points)

Year-end Summary of Progress. What evidence do you have to support this progress?

We attempted and completed many things to improve the overall health of staff and students. The covid 19 virus was a real challenge. Evidence to support this progress includes a school-wide shift to online classrooms through GSuite. This shift online created an optimal learning environment for both students and teachers during the Winter 2021 covid circuit breaker. Here teachers and students could communicate as both teachers and students focused on SEL, while still delivering the curriculum. Teachers were well prepared due to ongoing preparations that took place during the earlier part of the school year. Students were also prepared in that teachers were familiarizing students with GSuite while students were in school in preparation for a sudden need to shift to an online learning space. The provincial contribution of chromebooks for grades 7-12 students also aided in the technological shift that optimized our virtual learning spaces. Physical and mental health well-being will continue to be a priority at SJRH.

Next Steps:

Continue to enhance positive relationships and wellness at SJRH. This will be done through providing students with various opportunities within and outside of the classroom. Deep learning opportunities for students should promote well being while in the classroom. These opportunities will also enhance the connection between student and teacher. Outside of the classroom we are looking to add more diverse learning opportunities and extra curricular activities. We will also be fully engaged in our Comprehensive school health project. We will be creating a student space that will promote positive mental and physical health, while providing an environment that is comfortable to all students

Strategic Issue/ Goal: To promote wellness, healthy relationships and responsibility for learning with all members of the school community in a safe and caring environment.

Objective:

Improve the relationship between the parents/guardians and the school.

How did you know this was a Strategic Issue/Objective? What evidence did you have?

A significant challenge that has been noted at SJRH has been parent/guardian involvement. Through lack of engagement at PTI and curriculum night, teachers and administration have become increasingly concerned with parent involvement. It has also been noted that parent apathy is a major issue. Oftentimes parents would never voice concerns over their children's academic performance and would be ignorant to the fact that their child was not meeting grade level. Only with teacher or administration communication would they become aware. A lack of parent knowledge about how to log into powerschool was also noted by the secretary.

The following are four specific goals that we set to try and enhance this objective:

1. Ensure that the code of conduct is being adhered to by students and staff.

2. Offer and promote school tutoring and extra help.
3. Regularly communicate attendance concerns to parents.
4. Communicate information regarding resources available for parents/guardians to support student learning (Put links to resources on school website and facebook page).
5. Implement / communicate the school policies

Year-end Summary of Progress. What evidence do you have to support this progress?

Develop a policy for submitting work and providing extension-we have moved from a 5 day extension to three days. There is also regular communication between teachers, administration and parents. There has been significant effort put into increased communication with the entire school community. This increased effort has caused parents/guardians to become more involved with their children's schooling

Next Steps:

Implement the new policy (3 day extension) in the upcoming year. Our new cell phone policy will also come into effect and is currently working very well. The increased methods of communication will continue to be implemented. We will continue to provide support to any and all students that we believe will benefit from these supports. Parents will be communicated to by all teachers in regards to all assignments and test, this is part of our new policy coming in the new school year.