

# Brookside Junior High



WWW.BJH.EDNET.NS.CA

## School and Community Context

Brookside Junior High School (BJHS) has served the rural community from East Dover to Goodwood since 1972. We offer programming to 391 students from grades six to nine. Information presented at Imagine our Schools indicates that the enrollment will continue to decline over the next decade. We have been fortunate to have class sizes in the mid-twenties over the past few years. Since students spend four years in our school they are able to develop relationships with each other that can be carried over to their high school years at Halifax West High School.

We are proud to offer a late French Immersion program from grades seven to nine. The students also have the opportunity to take instrumental band during their Grade 6 to nine years.

We continue to provide our students with opportunities and expo-

sure to a variety of cultural experiences throughout their junior high school years. We encourage awareness and acceptance of our uniqueness and differences. We offer over fifteen clubs, teams and activities for students of all grade levels in athletics, the arts and other extracurricular interests.



## Contents

School & Community Context . . . . .	1
Family & Community Involvement . . . . .	1
Safe & Orderly Environment . . . . .	1
Assessment Results . . . . .	2
Student Engagement . . . . .	3
Professional Development . . . . .	3
Time to Learn . . . . .	3
Additional School Supports . . . . .	3
Planning for Improvement . . . . .	4

## Family and Community Involvement

Parent/guardian survey results indicate that 79% of parents feel appreciated when assisting with school activities and events. The response rate from the parent survey was low, but results state that 85% of our parents feel welcome at our school. We continue to look for ways to have parent involvement. During this school year we have been fortunate to have support with coaching, fundraising and the Home and School Association. To this end, we continue to invite family and community involvement.

## Safe and Orderly Environment

Our 2008-2009 survey results indicate that over 90% of our students feel safe at school. This is our third year implementing the Positive Effective Behavioural Supports (PEBS) program and rewarding positive behavior. The survey indicates that 74% of our students follow our school's PEBS guidelines.

We have expanded our intramural lunch program, noon hour clubs and the availability of our library to

our students. This has provided our students with a variety of structured activities available during the noon hour which has proven to have a positive impact on student behavior during the school day.

Our teachers continue to be involved in professional development around the topic of adolescent behavior.

## Provincial and Board Assessment Results

Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) students participated in provincial and board-wide assessments. The information gained through these assessments will help us determine our next steps in improving student achievement in literacy and mathematics. Please note that the percentages used throughout this report are rounded to the nearest whole number.

\* French Immersion students completed the assessment in French.

Literacy Assessments	School Results: Percentage of students meeting expectations	Board Results: Percentage of students meeting expectations
Grade 6 Provincial	Reading: 94% Writing: 97%	Reading: 88% Writing: 94%
Grade 8 Board	Reading: 83%	Reading: 81%
Grade 9 Provincial	Reading: 92% Writing: 97%	Reading: 84% Writing: 96%
Math Assessments	School Results: Percentage of students meeting expectations	Board Results: Percentage of students meeting expectations
Grade 8 Board	Mathematics Concepts: 63%	Mathematics Concepts: 72%

Brookside Junior High students participated in provincial and board-wide assessments. The information gained through these assessments will help us determine our next steps in improving student achievement in literacy and mathematics. At Brookside Junior High we are pleased to report that our students have performed well in the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) and Department of Education (DOE) literacy assessments in reading and writing. This data tells us our school-wide focus on literacy, through our Planning for Improvement (PFI) goal, has been beneficial for our students. We will continue to keep literacy as an important part of our school plan. We also recognize that our results were not as strong in the area of mathematics and, as well, our plan includes a math focus. We will continue to work toward improving student knowledge and skills in mathematics and look forward to seeing improved results in the future.

## Classroom Assessment

### Focus on Writing

Teachers worked in professional learning communities (PLCs) to review student writing samples in October and May. Strengths and areas requiring additional instruction with respect to the conventions of writing were identified. The October results revealed that 82% of our students were competent with the conventions of writing. The May results showed significant improvement with 92% of our students meeting the criteria in writing.

### Focus on Mathematics

Our focus in math was on operations with fractions. Samples of work were collected in October and May. The October results revealed that 71% of the students were meeting the criteria. The May results showed improvement with 86% meeting the criteria.

In addition to our school-based fall and spring assessments, our teachers have collected data throughout the school year on an ongoing basis focusing on operations with fractions. This data collection has allowed our teachers and PLC teams to monitor student achievement throughout the school year which resulted in teachers and teams being able to focus more closely on the areas requiring attention.



## Student Engagement

We have had a successful year in keeping our students engaged in both academics and extracurricular activities. We have a variety of clubs and teams in which 50% of our students participate. Survey results show that 31% of our students are involved with clubs in our school. We appreciate any support from parents/guardians in encouraging your children to become involved in school life at Brookside. Survey results show that 71% of our students feel their language arts work is at the 'just right' level whereas 61% of our students felt this way about math. Students stated in the survey that physical education and family studies are the two subjects they enjoyed the most.

## Time to Learn

All schools in the Halifax Regional School Board follow the Time to Learn requirements set by the Department of Education. This means that each subject has a required or recommended number of minutes. We are fortunate to offer our students instrumental band, family studies, art and technology education during their junior high years. Our survey indicated that student learning is interrupted by announcements. As a result of this feedback we have a plan in place to reduce the number of interruptions made throughout the school day. We will review the results from next year's survey and look forward to improvement in this area.

## Professional Development

When teachers learn, students learn. Teachers at Brookside Junior High are actively involved in professional development on an ongoing basis. We have a literacy and a math coach who support teachers with current instructional practices for students on a regular basis. This year our school-based professional development focused on our three PFI goals. Some examples of topics addressed include assessment and evaluation, effective classroom management and technology. Teachers have experienced professional development (PD) in a variety of settings ranging from professional learning communities (PLCs), site-based learning sessions, to specific teacher conferences.

## Additional School Supports

At Brookside Junior High we have a number of additional school supports provided to improve student achievement.

- English as a Second Language teacher.
- speech language Pathologist/ School psychologist
- student support teacher
- educational program assistant(s)
- guidance counsellor
- math and literacy coach
- library support specialist
- consultation with outside agencies
- teen health nurse assigned to brookside
- behavior support team
- literacy support teacher
- severe learning disability circuit teacher
- RCMP liaison officer
- home and school volunteers – breakfast program
- resource teacher(s)
- learning center teacher



# Planning for Improvement

The school community of Brookside Junior High takes great pride in our students' success. There is much to celebrate here at our school. However, we also know that we can do even better. We are very dedicated to demonstrating our continued improvement. The Halifax Regional School Board's Planning for Improvement process helps us to identify what our students are doing well and what areas need further attention and improvement.

Our school staff has chosen goals in the areas of literacy, mathematics, and student success and confidence building. We have discovered from looking at student achievement data that our students could benefit from a focus on the conventions of writing. We would like our students to be able to communicate through their writing

using proper sentence and paragraph structure as well as punctuation. This is a skill which will become very important for all students in many areas of their lives. In mathematics, we are focusing our school improvement efforts on improving our students' ability to perform operations with fractions. Again, this is a skill that will benefit them no matter what their future holds.

We proudly present Brookside Junior High's school improvement plan for your information. You will find details about what teachers will be focusing on with their students in class and also what teachers will be learning themselves (professional development) in order to make achievement of our school goals a reality for the students of BJHS.

## School Goals

### Literacy Goal

We will increase the number of students who use the expected writing conventions for their grade level.

#### Strategies:

- teacher instruction on specific lessons focusing on sentence structure, grammar and paragraph development
- teacher modeling which involves having teachers model proper conventions
- use of literacy coach. We are fortunate to have a literacy coach available to support teachers and provide them with ideas and resources to help students become more successful
- teachers are using Write Traits and other Writers in Actions resources to further support the concepts involved in conventions of writing
- students will create writing samples twice a year that will be used by teachers to identify strengths and areas requiring more instruction.

### Mathematics Goal

Students will increase their competency in the area of operations with fractions.

#### Strategies:

- teachers will use our school math coach to support their instruction for all students as well as those experiencing difficulty
- math manipulatives have been made available for teachers to use to help support student learning in the classroom
- teacher modeling of operations with fractions
- specific lessons in the classroom focusing on operations with fractions will occur throughout the school year
- student/teacher conferencing to assess student knowledge and ability to relate concepts and understanding
- teachers will collect samples of student work throughout the year to assess student achievement and areas which may need more attention
- students will complete two school-based assessments in

the fall and spring to be used by teachers to assess student success.

### Student Success Goal

We will decrease the number of behavioral disruptions to learning through the implementation of PEBS by reinforcing and rewarding positive behavior.

#### Strategies:

- all of staff members have received PEBS (Positive Effective Behavior Support) training
- students in our school receive gotchas (coupons) for exhibiting positive behavior and making good choices. Students are then able to redeem their Gotchas for prizes from our PEBS store
- we have regular grade level assemblies to celebrate positive behavior and issue students who have had no referrals, Gotchas for that month
- teachers are attempting to make more calls home to communicate positive student behavior.



**Every Student Can Learn. Every School Will Improve.**

Contact Information: 2239 Prospect Road, Hatched Lake, B3T 1R8

Tel: 902-852-2062 Email: [bjhs@hrsb.ns.ca](mailto:bjhs@hrsb.ns.ca) Principal: Joanne Kirkpatrick