

# J. T. Foster School



## 2019-2020 Annual Plan

### **Mission and Vision Statement**

To continue to thrive as a community in an increasingly technology-driven globalizing world, we must look ahead; we must understand the trends and forces that shape our lives to prepare for what comes tomorrow.

### **Our Mission**

- To create lifelong engaged learners.
- To inspire excellence in leadership, academics, athletics, and fine arts.
- To develop critical thinkers, problem solvers, and ethically responsible citizens.

### **Our Vision**

Our vision serves as the framework and guides every aspect of our school by describing what we need to accomplish in order to continually improve.

- People: Be a great place to learn, be inspired, and self-discovery.
- Planet: Be a responsible and ethical citizens in a local and global world.
- Community: To create a dynamic engaged community that includes the arts, athletics, and respects the agricultural roots and traditions of our community in order to nurture creativity and lifelong learning.
- Attributes: A safe, caring, and respectful learning community.

## Alberta Education - Provincial Outcomes

*Outcome 1: Alberta's students are successful.*

*Outcome 2: First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students in Alberta are successful.*

*Outcome 3: Alberta has excellent teachers, school leaders, and school authority leaders.*

*Outcome 4: Alberta's K-12 education system is well-governed and managed*

## JT Foster Wildly Important Goal 1: Leadership

***Every student and staff member recognizes that their contributions help make their school a better place.***

### School Performance Measures

- Our School Survey.
- Accountability Pillar (APORI).
- Increasing enrollment especially from outside normal feeder schools or catchment areas.
- Growth of Hockey Academy, especially girls.

### School Strategies

- Hand out welcome packages to all new students.
- Student-made artifacts inside and outside of classrooms, and on social media Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.
- Students model the characteristics of active citizenship and Leadership based on 7 Habits of Highly Effective people.
- More purposeful “ intentional ” use of parent-teacher interviews.
- Student-Directed Learning for both Junior and Senior High classes.
- Student-Led Activities -student-organized activities from student leadership groups.
- Enhance student leadership opportunities through student-directed learning opportunities and provincial and national leadership opportunities.

## Commentary:

JT Foster had been part of the 7 habits program for schools titled LEAD. Building from our learnings in this area we are focused on enhancing student's voice and student-led initiatives. Moving forward with High School Design informs our practice in the area of leadership in the following:

- Personalization
- Flexible Learning Environments
- Meaningful Relationships

## JT Foster Wildly Important Goal 2: Culture

*All staff and students recognize that they are responsible for positive change*

### School Performance Measures

- Learning Bar Our School Survey.
- Accountability Pillar.

### School Strategies

- Collaborative Learning Support strategies.
- Student-Directed Learning (SDL).
- Access to interventions and engaging cross-curricular learning (Junior high Project).
- School/Student Celebrations, community involvement.
- Additional assigned support time for Math 10c and extra minutes of instruction for all Diploma exam courses (Culture of learning).
- Create a teacher-directed PLCs for literacy and numeracy (culture of learning).
- Teachers effectively engage students and instructional practices reflect the teaching quality standard.
- Opportunities for students and staff to show appreciation (Tireless award).
- Joint Welcome back BBQ, Basketball Tournament, take your grade 9 kid to work day, campus visits (even overnight visits), the mentorship program, literacy junior high with grade 1-2s.

#### Commentary:

We have worked to create a culture of academics geared toward Mastery Learning. New initiatives such as the enhanced learning model on campus and Dual credit opportunities both on and off-campus create a learning anytime any place culture within our school community. Other aspects of High school redesign include:

- Rigorous and Relevant Curriculum.
- Flexible Learning Environments.
- Educator Roles and Professional Development.

## JT Foster Wildly Important Goal 3: Academics

*We, the JT Foster community, empower students to lead their own learning.*

### School Performance Measures

- MIPI (Trends)
- PAT/DIPS
- High School Completion APORI
- Transition to Post Secondary APORI
- Teacher, parent, and student satisfaction with the overall quality of basic education, school improvement and decision making. APORI

### School Strategies

- Career practitioner support
- ABD/JTF CTF collaboration -
  - Shop
  - Band
  - Other:
    - Sewing
    - Foods
    - Student Votes
  - ABD Joint Trips and events
  - Remembrance day
  - Cemetery visit with Nanton Legion
  - Home Basketball Tournament
- Learning Strategies Grade 10-11
- Embedded Study Hall Grade 7-9
- Embedded time for teacher advisor (Grade 11 and Grade 12)
- PLC
  - Numeracy
    - Focus on beliefs of students about math (the more positive outlook of mathematics) Change the culture of “math is hard”
    - Math evening with parents co-planned with Kathy Charchun
    - Tip of the bi-week to aid parents in supporting their student in math
    - More effective streaming into various math streaming
    - Use of K and E as a prequel to students looking at math 10-3
    - Utilize Kathy Charchun to improve in pedagogy related to teaching and learning math,
  - Literacy

- Increase a positive culture of critical literacy throughout the school community
  - Reading
    - Staff “Reading Recommendation” board (bulletin board and TV)
    - School-wide reading challenge (later in the year)
    - “Caught Reading” campaign
    - Staff PD book club - one on literacy (writing - maybe “Write like This”?) and one on numeracy
    - Google Docs to share reflections as we go, not mandatory but recommended books for staff, celebration at the end of the year!
    - Recommendations: Book Love - Penny Kittle
    - Engage struggling readers with assistance in book selection
  - Writing
    - “Caught Writing” campaign
    - Creative Writing SDL
    - Children’s books
    - Persuasive Writing - “Convince Us” Essay Contest → school changes
    - Staff short story contest - publish in Semester 2?
    - Recommendations: Readicide - Kelly Gallagher; Write Like This - Kelly Gallagher; The Book Whisperer - Donalyn Miller
  - Speaking/Viewing/Listening/Representing
    - Debate SDL
    - Visual responses to art from Jeff’s class (concept representation)
    - Slam poetry SDL (presentations/video)
    - Student reviews of school events on TV
    - Rube Goldberg machines SDL
    - Student film festival
    - School Instagram account
    - Student short film viewings - themed (i.e. for Orange Shirt Day or Citizenship Week)
- Generate strategies based on each strand of literacy that can be used throughout every subject
  - Reading
    - Word Wall
    - Current events - nonfiction articles for different subjects

- Record & listen to self-reading (textbooks, assignments, essays, etc.) (Seesaw)
- Writing
- Reflective Journals
- Scripts (can be used to teach concepts/processes/etc)
- Goal setting and personal challenge
- Write out processes (science, options, etc. - “how to use gouache” for art, for example)
- Speaking
  - Reflective Journals (SeeSaw)
  - Record podcasts
  - Student-led instruction
  - Write “how-to” manuals (step-by-step guides) (partnered with Listening “How-to” manuals)
  - Create an audiobook
  - Presentations (no text allowed on Powerpoint - ties-in with Viewing, Representing & Listening)
  - Create a quiz for their peers to complete
- Listening
  - Podcast study
  - Follow “how-to” instructions (partnered with Speaking ‘How-to” manuals)
  - Self-assessment of Individual presentation. (Present and Record, then reflect)
  - Viewing
  - Film studies
  - Viewing comprehension strategies
  - Peer assessments (presentations/skill-based performance, etc.)
- Representing
  - Skits
  - Interpretive Dance
  - Posters
  - Title pages
  - Demonstration

#### Commentary:

Academics are an integral part of our school. We have transitioned as part of the High School redesign initiative to create a progressive structure of school in order for more students to find success. As part of the High School redesign process, we are focused on the following:

- personalizing learning.
- developing meaningful relationships.
- creating rigorous and relevant learning opportunities, and supporting mastery learning.