



# St. John Brebeuf School

## Strategic Plan

2017-2020



**Living, Learning, & Serving in Christ**



# St. John Brebeuf School

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# St. John Brebeuf School

## Message from the Principal



St. John Brebeuf is truly a special community that encompasses all the positive connotations of the word: strength, acceptance, support, friendship, love. It is an educational community that I whole heartedly believe in, and I am grateful and proud to be part of this community.

Our students learn to value many things during their time at St. John Brebeuf School. They learn to value themselves, their education, their call to serve others, and ultimately they value their precious status as unique children of God.

In teaching our students to value themselves, we want our students to feel loved and supported, especially when they make mistakes. The time of childhood should be the most idyllic in their lives, where they are free to make these mistakes and assisted in learning from them, thus improving themselves. We want to build students up and raise their expectations for themselves. When students leave our doors after grade eight, we want them to be confident and articulate, capable of advocating for both themselves and for those who are unable. Above all, we want them to be proud of who they are and excited for their future.

Right from the start, we instill a sense of value in and accountability for their education, a privilege that is denied to too many children. A big part of the education we offer is, of course, a spiritual education grounded in the teachings of the Catholic church. Our students do not just learn the faith, we want them to live the faith. We value homework because it helps our students build study skills and endurance, preparing them for the rigours of high school, university, and the workplace beyond. Our children are challenged academically, and they are empowered academically.

At St. John Brebeuf we have an incredibly strong social outreach program based on the tenets of Catholic social teaching. Our students learn to value being of service to others, heeding the call to protect those less fortunate, and working to alleviate hunger and poverty. None of this would be possible without our amazing and dedicated team of professionals, who work tirelessly for our children each and every day. We also count on the support of our parents, without whose partnership and trust we would not be able to achieve as much as we do with our students.

Ms. Cara Campbell  
Principal



# St. John Brebeuf School

## School Profile

### Mission Statement

Our mission is to co-operate with parish families to help children become creative Christians in the world. Drawing on the resources of the Catholic Church, the professional competency of the staff, and the strength and love of the family, we educate children in spirit, mind and body.

### Our Patron Saint

Jean de Brébeuf was ordained at thirty-three. He was the first Jesuit Missionary in Huronia (1626), and a master of the Wendat language. He worked throughout all the district, founded Mission out-posts and converted thousands to the faith. He inspired many Jesuits to volunteer for the Missions of New France.

Massive in body, strong, yet gentle in character, his visions of the cross and of his future martyrdom were fulfilled when he was captured March 16, 1649, and was tortured for hours. He was martyred at St. Ignace, six miles from Ste. Marie at the age of fifty-six. Brebeuf is said to have had the heart of a giant. He was known as the *Apostle of the Hurons* who called him *Echon*.

### School Culture

St. John Brebeuf is a K-8 parochial school in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg which exists to provide quality education to Catholic youth. We also welcome students of other faiths who are open to our educational mission.

We recognize the partnership that needs to exist between home, school and parish if students are to benefit fully from their Catholic education.

We believe and encourage open communication between parents and teachers so that we may form a partnership that assists each student to realize their personal potential: academically, socially, emotionally, spiritually and physically.

We believe that it is in community that we reach our full potential, and therefore, in the spirit of the gospel we are encouraged to share our gifts with others. We, the staff, are dedicated to empowering students to develop the strategies and skills necessary to become happy, productive, lifelong learners.



# St. John Brebeuf School

## School Board

The St. John Brebeuf School Board is responsible for proper governance and mission fulfillment of St. John Brebeuf School. Members of the School Board are called forth according to the gifts needed in the school community. Working as members of the Board proper, and Board committees, they are responsible for school staffing, marketing and communications, policy making, building and maintenance, and finance decisions.

An important part of the overall parish community, St. John Brebeuf School provides access to a Catholic education for young parishioners, and has a major influence on the 'social' life of the parish through school concerts, barbeques, fundraisers and other community building events. The school also brings 'spiritual' life to the parish through school masses and other liturgical celebrations, and helps to renew the parish by attracting young families with children who wish to become parishioners.

## School Population

St. John Brebeuf School is served by a dedicated and enthusiastic team of two administrators, twelve classroom teachers, six specialists and support staff members, seven educational assistants, and two office staff members.

The team serves a student population of 270 students as of the 2017/2018 school year.





# St. John Brebeuf School

## Community Report 2016-2017

### Previous Years' Successes

#### Priority 1:

##### Results:

#### To improve student literacy and comprehension in grades K-8

St. John Brebeuf staff explored research-based writing programs as an alternative to the *Excellence in Writing* program. Teachers engaged in early and middle years team meetings to discuss literacy and comprehension outcomes, small group instruction management, assessment, and record keeping. Teachers attended professional development sessions related to literacy programs. Reading recovery was implemented through collaboration between resource and classroom teacher. A subscription to Fountas & Pinnell was investigated, but was found it to be unnecessary for the resources we required. A new Fountas & Pinnell reading continuum was obtained and is now used as a consistent school-wide correlation tool, in regards to our guided reading and student progress throughout the year. We were not able to implement the artist in the school writing program due to a lack of access. The early years team initiated a professional learning community (PLC) on literacy theory and word study.



#### Priority 2:

##### Results:

#### To investigate math programs available to improve numeracy

St. John Brebeuf teachers attended multiple math professional development sessions throughout the year. Several team meetings were used to discuss a variety of programs, strategies and successes. Upon review of online math tools, it was decided that the best program for our students was *Mathletics*, and the switch to this program from the previously used IXL was made. Training was held for all teachers regarding successful implementation of the *Mathletics* program.



# St. John Brebeuf School

**Priority 3: To improve students' understanding of and responsiveness to Educational Sustainable Development (ESD)**

**Results:** St. John Brebeuf School continues to implement the Second Step program. We developed school-wide compost and waste reduction programs. Both staff and students participated in educational workshops led by the Green Action Center. Grade one students attended the Manitoba Children's Museum program on sustainability and recycling where they learned about how to take care of our world and participated in a design project with recycled materials. Staff participated in a retreat based on compost, sustainability and waste reduction. We developed a student compost team. They maintain and collect the classrooms' compost and the communal compost bins purchased for the school.



**Priority 4: To improve students' understanding of and responsiveness to Catholic Social Teachings**

**Results:** St. John Brebeuf School organized Games Night events for family and community bonding and collected donations for *Development and Peace* and *HumanKind Academy*. A fundraising campaign for *Christmas Gifts that Makes a Difference* ran by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions was completed during the month of December. Students attended the Archdiocese of Winnipeg Spirit Day and class retreats, donated books and toys to the N.E.E.D.S. Center, collected socks for *Chez Nous*, and collected food and gifts for *Winnipeg Harvest Hampers*. The grade 6 students participated in the empty bowls project and attended a spirit day put on by the WE Day organization, and the grade 8 students attended WE Day. The Virtues project has been practiced in our school for the past 15 years and continues to be implemented. The grade 7 students have continued with their visitations to Tuxedo Villa, and Grade 4 students once again participated in the Roots of Empathy program.



# St. John Brebeuf School

## Strategic Plan 2017-2020

### Strategic Priorities

- Priority 1** To further inspire and instill students' understanding of and responsiveness to Catholic Social Teachings
- Priority 2** To provide a comprehensive learning environment that fosters student success
- Priority 3** To develop school community understanding of Educational Sustainable Development





# St. John Brebeuf School

## **Priority 1**

To further inspire and instill students' understanding of and responsiveness to Catholic Social Teachings

### **Strategies**

Truth and Reconciliation  
Empathy game  
Growth mindset development (staff & students)  
Community building initiatives (e.g. games nights)  
Investigation of additional resources  
Virtues based upon Prayer of St. Francis  
Continued implementation of: Tuxedo Villa partnership  
Roots of Empathy program  
Fundraising efforts  
Spiritual retreats (staff & students)

### **Indicators**

Students will be able to articulate issues and respond in an empathetic manner using varied representations  
Staff will utilize the school initiatives/programs in order to engage students in the Catholic Social Teachings





# St. John Brebeuf School

## **Priority 2**

To provide a comprehensive learning environment that fosters student success

### **Strategies**

Training for staff on 21<sup>st</sup> century learning  
Implementing a 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning environment  
Staff training on deeper learning through the six C's of competency  
Student programming focused on: Inquiry & design-based learning  
Project-based learning  
Game-based learning  
Problem solving  
Effective integration of technology

### **Indicators**

Teaching staff will implement 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching techniques  
Adoption of the six deep learning competencies  
Students will participate in 21<sup>st</sup> century learning opportunities and design more student-led projects





# St. John Brebeuf School

## **Priority 3**

To develop school community understanding of Educational Sustainable Development

### **Strategies**

Teaching on the principles of Educational Sustainable Development (ESD)  
Well-being & mental health awareness (staff & students)  
Surveys for staff and students regarding possible ESD initiatives for the school  
Surveys for staff regarding professional development opportunities on well-being & mental health  
Continued implementation of current ESD initiatives  
Development and continued growth of ESD plan

### **Indicators**

Staff and student participation will increase in areas of community-building, projects, and sustainable awareness

