

# 2014-15 Community Report for Highland Park Junior High School

<b>Provincial and Board Assessments</b>		
	<b>School (%) 2014-15</b>	<b>Board (%) 2014-15</b>
<b><u>Literacy Assessments</u></b>		
<b>Grade 8 Provincial</b>		
Reading	71%	76%
<b><u>Math Assessments</u></b>		
<b>Grade 8 Provincial</b>		
Mathematics	64%	58%

Staff at Highland Park Junior High have spent a lot of time working on building relationships by connecting with students to determine their interests and to hear their stories. These strong relationships between home and school make coming to school a more welcoming place for students. We are working hard to ensure that our lessons and activities are culturally relevant for all of our students and are teaching in a cross curricular manner that is inclusive, hands on and meaningful. Focusing on and promoting positive interactions enhances the learning environment and allows students to take more ownership of their learning.

Along with weekly Professional Learning Communities, teachers have weekly grade level meetings where they discuss every student's strengths and challenges. Teachers work together to come up with strategies to support students who struggle to understand key concepts and to provide enrichment for students who need more of a challenge. Teachers provide extra help, make referrals for additional support, set up plans to help students get caught up, and make sure that individual program plans and adaptations are in place for students who need them.

At Highland Park Junior High, we are well on our way to 21st century learning, which is incorporating the use of technology into classrooms to enhance student learning and engagement. We have had several teachers participate in School Board professional development focusing on the integration of technology and Apps into classroom instruction. This professional Development gave teachers the opportunity to discuss and learn how to incorporate more technology into their daily practice. Our teachers are using Mimio Boards, Google Apps for Education, Netbooks, iPads and Point to View cameras in their classrooms on a daily basis. This provides more learning opportunities for our students and increases student engagement in the classroom.

All of these technology updates have greatly enhanced the ability of our students to learn how to be responsible digital citizens. We are very pleased with how the integration of technology has impacted student engagement at HPJH. We look to continue our growth in the area of technology integration in the classroom and are excited at the opportunities it will provide for our teachers and students.

During the 2014-2015 school year a continued focus enabled teachers to develop instructional and assessment practices that not only led to improvement in student achievement, but has led to positive and significant change in teacher practice. Below you will find an explanation of our Provincial and Board Assessments.

**Math Assessment Data:**

The above data table represents the percentage of students who met the expectation of the Grade 8 provincial assessment. The expectation is defined as what students should know and be able to do on their own at the end of grade 8. The data indicates 64% of Grade 8 students at Highland Park Junior High were at or above the provincial expectation as compared to the Halifax Regional School Board average of 58%. Given 36% of our students did not meet the expectation of the provincial assessment, we will be analyzing and reflecting upon the assessment results in more depth to continue to meet the needs of all students.

**Literacy Assessment Data:**

The 2014-2015 Grade 8 Reading Assessment data indicates that students at Highland Park Junior High are doing well in reading. The data from the assessment indicates that 71% percent of students were at or above provincial expectations, which although is an acceptable level, is lower than the HRSB average of 76%, and certainly indicates that reading comprehension needs to be an area of focus for instruction.