

V I N C E N T J . M A L O N E Y  
C A T H O L I C J U N I O R H I G H

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W E L C O M E

VJM looks forward to your arrival

*Soon you will be part of the VJM community*



**We are so excited for you to join us!**

We are busy planning many events to help you make a smooth and informed transition to VJM where our students are, "Simply the Best FOR the World."

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## How is Junior High Different?

### Lunchtime



Students have the freedom to eat almost anywhere in the school. They can eat with their friends from other classes in the cafeteria, the hallways

or in open classrooms. During nicer days, students may also eat outside and if they have parent/guardian permission, they may go to one of the stores up the hill for an occasional treat. There is no food or drink allowed in the gym however.

### Switching Classes



Students will see different teachers for different classes and will need to move to different classrooms throughout the day. There are NO BELLS between classes and music is played first thing in the morning, after Nutrition Break and lunch to signal students to head to class. Students are given three minutes between classes to move to their next class.



### Timetable

Classes start at 8:00 am every day. There are eight classes per day from Monday to Thursday and students are dismissed at 2:40 pm. On Fridays, there are seven classes, (no Marauder Excel Block on Fridays.) and students are dismissed at 1:40 pm. Classes are on a two-day rotation and students receive physical education every day and alternate their options.

### Lockers

Grade 7s are assigned half lockers outside of their homeroom class. Locks are given by the school and students are taught how to use them. Students are encouraged to store extra books, their jacket, phys. ed. clothes and their lunch in their locker. Students can access their lockers before school, at Nutrition Break, at lunch. Students can also go to their lockers during class with teacher permission.



Sports Academy students receive full options in the same blocks as other students. They attend Academy Tuesday through Thursday afternoons. Their physical education class takes place during Academy and their Health and Religion classes take place on Monday and Friday afternoons.

The number of Academy classes at each grade level is dependent on the number of students enrolled in Academy. There are currently two Academy classes at each grade level at VJM.



## Key Dates

Please take note of the following important dates from now to next September:

February 24th

### Parent Information Night

7 pm @ JJ Nearing Elementary School. All parents & guardians are welcome!

March 9th

### Registration Packages Available

Feeder schools will receive their registration packages. Packages will also be available online and at VJM.

March 11th

### School Option Visit

9:15 am- Students from all three feeder schools will tour VJM option classes.

March 12th

### Open House

7 pm- Students and families are invited to meet the staff and tour the school.

March 25th

### Registration Packages Due

April 21st

### Marauder Activity Challenge

4 pm- All grade 6s are invited to this special afternoon of games just for them.

May 22nd

### Wizard of Oz Matinee

Feeder schools are invited to watch a special matinee performance of our school play.

August 25th

### New Student Orientation

9:30-10:30 am- Students in grade 7 and students new to VJM receive their schedules and map out their classes in preparation for the first day.

August 31st

8 am- First Day of School

# Special features of Vincent J. Maloney Catholic Junior High School

**V**incent J. Maloney is an authorized IB World School running years 2, 3 and 4 of the Middle Years Program (MYP). We are committed to providing students with a rigorous academic program that will help each student to become a well-rounded, thoughtful member of our global community. This commitment is in keeping with our Greater St. Albert School Division and the International Baccalaureate Organization.



**At VJM**, all students are taught with an IB lens in their academic classes. For the school year, 2015/2016, students will choose between two program routes:

IB MYP Certification Route  
IB MYP Non-Certification Route

The International Baccalaureate Organization maintains strict standards with regard to certification in the IBMYP. Students must:

- Be enrolled in a second language
- Take a fine arts (drama, art, music)
- Complete a community project in year 4 (grade 9)

VJM offers a range of organized athletics including volleyball, basketball, track & field, Journal Games, cross country running, wrestling and badminton. Boys and girls are encouraged to try out for any and all sports. VJM fields both senior and junior teams for many sports.

GO MARAUDERS!!

Need more? You got it! We have lunchtime activities including class intramurals in the gym ranging from basketball to floor hockey. We have leadership, clubs, a seasonal movie room, a student "lounge" and MORE! If we don't have it, ask for it. This is your school!



You are invited to attend our Open House on Thursday, March 12th at 7 pm. Option classes will be on display and staff can answer any questions you have.

## **IBMYP Non-Certification**

**Route:** The aims and objective of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program are integrated throughout each of the subject areas taught at Vincent J. Maloney Junior High. Therefore, each student receives an enriched and exciting

educational program and is exposed to the content of the IBMYP program. Students who do not plan to pursue IBMYP certification route are not required to take a language or arts option, although they may do so if they wish. In addition, non-certificate students are not required to complete a community project.

## **Marauder Excel Homework/Support Block**

The Marauder Excel Block runs for twenty-eight minutes Monday to Thursday during block 7 in the school day and provides:

- More opportunities during the school day for students to seek extra small group help from teachers and support staff, complete projects/homework and prepare for tests in a supervised setting.
- Flexibility and choice for students to seek individual or small group support from staff, time to work with peers on projects or independent study time to complete work.

Please visit our webpage to read more about this block.

<http://www.vjm.gsacrd.ab.ca/about/hwk-support-block>

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**We asked our grade 7s what they were most concerned about before coming to VJM. The following were their responses as well as what they found once they started junior high.**

Q: With so many new students from different schools coming to VJM, am I going to make new friends?

A: People are so nice and everyone is excited to meet new people. It is easy to make new friends.

Q: What if I go to the wrong class or get lost in the halls?

A: Attending orientation and visiting my classes before the year started helped. Having a school map and so many staff and students to guide me made all the difference in learning my way around.

Q: I am nervous about being around the grade 8s and 9s. Will I be okay?

A: The older grades were once grade 7s. They remember what it was like and are very nice.

Q: If I have health problems will I be safe?

A: There are teachers and office staff who are trained and well informed that I can count on to help if I need it.

Q: Am I going to have problems with my locker?

A: Teachers are there to help. By the end of the first week I had the hang of it.

Q: Will I be able to get up and start school so early?

A: Yes, it takes no time at all to adjust to the new schedule, and we are done earlier too!

Q: Will there be too much homework?

A: The work is manageable. Teachers know a lot about the subjects they teach which makes it fun. Using my agenda helps me stay organized and complete my assignments. I also have Marauder Excel Block to finish my work and get help.

Q: Am I allowed to use my computer, tablet or phone?

A: Yes you are. Depending on the situation, teachers allow students to use their devices for research, notes and more. Phone calls, text messages and social media are not to be done during class time. Students are welcome to do these before school, at Nutrition Break, at lunchtime and after school.

Q: VJM is an IB World School. What does that mean?

A: The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme is a school-wide program that challenges students. IB encourages students to embrace and understand the connections between traditional subjects and the real world and helps students become critical and reflective thinkers.

Q: I am in Sports Academy. Do I get to take options?

A: YES! All students get a full compliment of options, only physical education, health and religion will look different to Academy students.

## Contact Us

Feel free to call or email us with any questions or concerns at 780-458-1113.

PRINCIPAL



GREG LAMER

VICE-PRINCIPAL



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IB COORDINATOR



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