



# WELCOME!!



VJM looks forward to your arrival

*Soon you will be part of the VJM community.*



## KEY DATES

**February 27th, 2014 - 7:00 pm**  
Transition Information night at Albert Lacombe

**March 3rd, 2014 - 9:15-11:15 am**  
School Visits. Students tour VJM option classes.

**March 6th, 2014 - 7:00 pm**  
Open House. Students & families are invited to meet the staff and tour the school.

**April 10th, 2014 - 4:00-5:30 pm**  
VJM Activity Challenge! All grade 6s are invited to this special afternoon just for them.

**August 26th, 2014 - 9:30-10:30 am**  
Orientation. Students receive schedules and map out classes.

**September 2nd, 2014 - 8:00 am**  
First day of classes.

**September TBD, 2014 - 7:00 pm**  
Meet the staff, parent/guardian information night.

## What changes will I see from elementary to junior high?

- School starts and ends earlier. The day runs from 8 am to 2:40 pm Monday to Thursday and 8 am to 1:40 pm on Fridays. Each day there is a short nutrition break mid-morning and a lunch break.
- There is a two-day rotation, (A & B). Currently there are 7 classes each day including all 4 main subjects and Physical Education. Students will have Health and Religion alternating every second day as well as option classes. (Core subjects, P.E., Health and Religion run all year) Sports Academy varies slightly.
- Students get to choose 2 options per semester for a total of 4 options each year (3 if French is taken.) Semester 1 runs from September to January and Semester 2 from February to June. Each option course takes place every second day.
- Students have home rooms and homeroom teachers to start each day but will have different teachers in different classes throughout the day. The school is easy to navigate and everyone is here to help.
- Parent/Teacher interviews are **not** done by appointment. On interview nights, students and parents come between 5 and 8 pm to see their teachers. Unlike elementary school, interviews will take place in the gym as well as some classrooms.

*Please see page 2 for Frequently asked Questions related to junior high*



## CLUBS & RECREATION

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!



## ORGANIZED SPORTS

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!!

## 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.

Q: Where do my friends and I go during break and lunch?

A: Lots of places! There is freedom to choose where you want to hang out and there is plenty of space for everyone.

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 complement 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



LORNE PEDERSEN

COUNSELLOR



KELLY LAJOIE

LEARNING SUPPORT  
FACILITATOR



CHARLOTTE KIRCHNER