

V I N C E N T J . M A L O N E Y  
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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*



**SPORTS  
ACADEMY**



**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 hallways, in open classrooms and

once the modernization is complete, our common area. 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.



### Timetable

Classes start at 8:00 am every day. There are seven classes per day on Tuesdays & Thursdays and eight with the addition of Marauder Excel on Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Students are dismissed at 2:40 pm Monday to Thursday and 1:37 on Fridays. Classes are on a two-day rotation and students receive physical education every day and alternate their options. Please note that revision to school schedules can occur from year to year.

### Switching Rooms for 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.

### 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 expected to store backpacks, 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 and after school. 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 at VJM.

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 grades 7 & 9 and one at grade 8 at VJM.



## Key Dates

Please take note of the following important 2018 dates from now to September:

### February 15th

#### Parent Information Night

7 pm @ VJM. All parents & guardians are welcome!

### February 23rd

#### Registration Packages Available

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

### February 28th

#### School Option Visit

10:15 am- Students from all three feeder schools will tour VJM option classes and get to take part in our Marauder Excel Block.

### March 22nd

#### Registration Packages Due

### April 17th

#### Marauder Activity Challenge

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

### April 18th

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

### May (Day TBD)

#### Seussical the Musical

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

### August 28th

#### 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.

### September 4th

8 am- First Day of School



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

**V**incent J. Maloney is an authorized International Baccalaureate World School running years 2, 3 and 4 of the Middle Years Program (MYP). The MYP serves our students by promoting global views and understandings, encouraging inquiry and collaboration, and engaging in reflection and service while teaching the Alberta Education Curriculum.



At VJM, all students are taught with an IB lens in their academic classes. Students choose between two program routes:

IB MYP Advanced Certificate Route

IB MYP Regular Certificate Route

For students to qualify for either IB Certificate at the end of their grade 9 year, they must create and maintain an IB Portfolio, which is a collection or showcase of the IB projects they complete while at VJM. Students must also complete a Community Project in grade 9 to qualify for either certificate.



You are invited to attend our Open House on Wednesday, April 18th at 7 pm. Option classes will be on display, our modernized areas will be open and staff can answer any questions you have.

The Community Project is an opportunity for students to work individually or in small groups to engage in a passion of theirs and work to raise awareness, better their community, advocate, or educate on their chosen topic. Students are also required to complete their core classes (Math, Science, LA, SS, Phys. Ed).

To receive an Advanced Certificate, students must meet the afore mentioned qualifications as well as take a second language, design option course, and fine arts option course in each grade. To receive a Regular Certificate, students must meet the above qualifications as well as take a design option course and a fine arts option course in each grade.

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 dodgeball. We have Student Council, Library activities, video game competitions and MORE! If we don't have it, ask for it. This is your school!

## Marauder Excel Homework/Support Block

Currently, Marauder Excel Block runs for thirty-one minutes Monday & Wednesday and 37 minutes on Friday prior to lunch and provides:

- More opportunities during the school week 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 select sessions of interest both curricular and co-curricular.
- Opportunities for guest speakers and special presentations.

Please visit our webpage to read more about this block.

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



## 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	VICE-PRINCIPAL	COUNSELLOR	IB COORDINATOR	LEARNING SUPPORT FACILITATOR
SCOTT JOHNSTON	LORNE PEDERSEN	JANELLE HOBBS	BECCI SCOBIE	CHARLOTTE KIRCHNER