

James Fowler High School News Winter 2010

Hi Neighbors,

As Principal of James Fowler High School, one of our commitments to the communities that surround our school is that we become better neighbors. Building community together involves sharing our collective accomplishments.

The school was built in 1962 and is situated on 13.34 acres. The school has 78 classrooms, a library research centre, cosmetology room, music room, art room, drama room, dance room, theater, 3 gymnasiums, 6 science labs, 6 computer labs, 2 automotive shops, 1 autobody shop, 1 building construction shop, 1 welding shop, 1 communication technology shop, 1 aviation shop and 1 electro tech shop.

The school was named in memory of a well-known and outstanding Alberta educator - Dr. James Fowler. Dr. Fowler built his life around education. His first teaching position in Calgary was as a high school teacher at Crescent Heights High School. (housed at the building now known as Balmoral Junior High School). He retired as Principal of the Southern Institute of Technology and Art in 1952.

James Fowler is a composite high school with approximately 1500 students and 110 staff. Our students come from approximately 38 birth countries and our language base draws from approximately 43 diverse languages. Many of our students are bused in from communities in the northeast such as Castleridge, Falconridge, Martindale, Monterey Park and Taradale. Daily, we have twelve Calgary Transit buses arriving with our students at 8:45 in the morning and leaving with our students at 3:50 in the afternoon.

The school offers an extensive range of courses including a full array of academic courses for those who plan to continue their studies at the post-secondary level. We offer Career and Technology Studies courses that include Autobody, Automotives, Building Construction, Welding, Aviation Technology, Cosmetology, Foods and Fashion and Computer Technologies. James Fowler also offers an extensive arts program including Art, Dance, Music and Drama. In addition, we offer an Arts-Centred Learning program focusing on teaching core academic courses through the arts. Our "English as a Second Language" Centre offers a complete program for our ESL students. Special Education students are provided excellent education through personalized programs and services.

We offer students many opportunities to be involved in the culture of JFHS by offering a wide range of athletic activities with teams in basketball, volleyball, rugby, badminton, football, soccer, track and field, running and swimming. Some of our clubs and extra curricular activities that we offer include Social Justice, Volunteer and Destination Conservation. Through involvement in these activities, our students are focusing on developing a sense of community and are finding ways to be excellent citizens.

As an administrative team, we have been focusing on reducing incidents of student violence and have actively maintained a "zero" tolerance policy in dealing with incidents.

We have recently been assigned a new School Resource Officer, Constable Paczulla, who works with our students and staff to create a safe and caring environment.

At James Fowler High School we are committed to preparing our students for life-long learning and for being productive and contributing members of their community. It is my hope that each of you will contribute your ideas for a sense of community that is positive and collaborative.

Please know that our administrative team is working hard to communicate to our students and their parents about James Fowler being their community and that they need to be productive and caring members of their community. I welcome your comments and concerns and would invite any member of the community to come and tour our school and meet with our administrative team. We would welcome any opportunity to work more effectively with our neighbors.

We also invite you to contact our school if you would like to take advantage of the full services that are provided in our programs such as Cosmetology, Automotives and Autobody.

As the principal of James Fowler High School, I am very proud to serve our students, staff and community. If I can be of any service to the community, please feel free to contact me at the school (403-230-4743).

Sincerely,

Keith Johnson, Principal